



Bright from the Start Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning
2 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive SE, 670 East Tower
Atlanta, GA 30334
Phone: (404) 657-5562 WWW.DECAL.GA.GOV

Date: 9/25/2024 **VisitType:** Monitoring Visit

Arrival: 9:15 AM **Departure:** 2:30 PM

CCLC-2211

Towne Square Academy

480 Racetrack Rd. McDonough, GA 30252 Henry County
(770) 914-0093 linda@townesqacademy.com

Regional Consultant

April Brown

Phone: (770) 357-5101

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april.brown@decal.ga.gov

Mailing Address

Same

Quality Rated: ★ ★

Compliance Zone Designation			Compliance Zone Designation - A summary measure of a program's 12 month monitoring history, as it pertains to child care health and safety rules. The three compliance zones are good standing, support, and deficient. Good Standing - Program is demonstrating an acceptable level of performance in meeting the rules. Support - Program performance is demonstrating a need for improvement in meeting rules. Deficient - Program is not demonstrating an acceptable level of performance in meeting the rules.
09/25/2024	Monitoring Visit	Good Standing	
04/01/2024	Licensing Study	Good Standing	
10/25/2023	Monitoring Visit	Good Standing	

Ratios/License Capacity

Building	Room	Age Group	Staff	Children	NC/C	Max 35 SF.	35 SF. Comp.	Max 25 SF.	25 SF. Comp.	Notes
Main	A/1	Infants	1	2	C	13	C	NA	NA	Floor Play
Main	B/2		0	0	C	14	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
Main	C/3	One Year Olds	2	10	C	16	C	NA	NA	Outside
Main	D/4		0	0	C	21	C	29	C	Not In Use
Main	E/5	Four Year Olds	2	15	C	20	C	NA	NA	Circle Time
Main	F/6	GA PreK	2	18	C	22	C	NA	NA	Outside
Main	G/7		0	0	C	14	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
Main	H/8	Three Year Olds	1	13	C	16	C	NA	NA	Transitioning
Main	I/9	Two Year Olds	2	12	C	19	C	NA	NA	Outside
Main	J/10	Three Year Olds	2	12	C	17	C	NA	NA	Outside
Main	K/School Age		0	0	C	20	C	28	C	Not In Use
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 192					Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 192					
Total # Children this Date: 82					Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 192					
					Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 192					

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	Infant/Toddler Playground	13	C
Main	Left back playground	59	C
Main	Rear Left Playground	17	C
Main	Rear Playground	59	C

Enrolled Children						
Under 1 years	1 years	2 years	3 years	4 years	5 years (Prekonly)	5 years and older
4	12	14	29	36	0	53

Comments

A monitoring visit was completed on this date.

Plan of Improvement: Developed This Date 09/25/2024

Any rule violation which subjects a child to injury or life-threatening situation or any rule violations previously cited but not corrected, may result in the imposition of an adverse enforcement action. Serious or continued noncompliance may also jeopardize participation in one or more DECAL program(s).



Please refer to the website, <http://www.dec.al.ga.gov/CCS/RulesAndRegulations.aspx>, for information regarding October 1, 2018 rule changes about Criminal Records Checks that may affect your facility. In summary,

- New records checks will be required to be completed if a staff member experiences a six month break in service from the child care industry
- New clearance is required at least once every five years
- Any staff member solely responsible for supervising children will be required to have completed a comprehensive background clearance
- All staff members are required to have completed at least a national fingerprint based clearance check
- Any staff member with only the national fingerprint based clearance, must be under constant and direct supervision of a staff member with a satisfactory comprehensive records check clearance
- Facilities are required to use DECAL KOALA for Criminal Records Checks, including to verify portability of an employee

O.C.G.A. Section 42.1.12(i)(2) requires Bright from the Start: Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning to notify licensed child care programs on accessing and retrieving from the Georgia Bureau of Investigation's (GBI) website a list of the names and addresses of all registered sexual offenders. Please see GBI's website located at <http://gbi.georgia.gov> to access the Georgia Sex Offender Registry.

Refutation Process:

You have the right to refute any of the citations noted in this report with which you disagree. To refute a citation(s), do the following:

- 1) Log into DECAL KOALA www.decalkoala.com with the userid for your program
- 2) On the home page scroll down to the Inspection Reports and select 'Refute Citation' for the visit report in dispute
- 3) Select the specific rule number(s) that you are refuting, add the reason for disagreement regarding the rule citation, and upload supporting documentation
- 4) Submit the refutation in DECAL KOALA to Child Care Services (CCS) within 10 business days of the completion date.

Your refutation will be forwarded to the appropriate CCS manager, who will follow up with you about your concerns. If you have any questions about this process, contact our office at 404-657-5562.

Bright from the Start recommends that all licensed child care providers carry liability insurance coverage sufficient to protect its clients. If you do not have this liability insurance, you are required to post a notice with ½ inch letters in a conspicuous location in the program, notify the parent or guardian of each child in care in writing, obtain their signature to acknowledge receipt and maintain this written acknowledgment on file at the program at all times while the child attends the program and for 12 months after the child's last date of attendance. (O.C.G.A. Section 20-1A-4)



Important Quality Rated/CAPS Update:

As January 1, 2022, child care providers must be Quality Rated to receive Childcare and Parent Services (CAPS). Newly licensed, or new to CAPS providers may be eligible for the new CAPS/QR Provisional Status, allowing for scholarships while working toward a star rating.

Contact the Quality Rated help desk at 855-800-7747 or qualityrated@dec.al.ga.gov for more information. Free technical assistance is available!



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(Findings Report)

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The following information is associated with a Monitoring Visit:

Activities and Equipment

591-1-1-.12 Equipment & Toys(CR)

Met

Comment

Equipment and furniture observed to be properly secured, as applicable on this date.

591-1-1-.35 Swimming Pools & Water-related Activities(CR)

Met

Comment

Center does not provide swimming activities.

Facility

591-1-1-.06 Bathrooms

Met

Correction Deadline: 4/1/2024

Corrected on 9/25/2024

Correction of citation in that the bathrooms were observed to be cleaned as required.

591-1-1-.19 License Capacity(CR)

Met

Comment

Licensed capacity observed to be met by the center on this date.

591-1-1-.25 Physical Plant - Safe Environment(CR)

Technical Assistance

Technical Assistance

Please ensure that potentially hazardous equipment, materials and supplies be stored in a locked area inaccessible to children as required.

Correction Deadline: 9/25/2024

Technical Assistance

Please ensure the Center and surrounding premises to be kept clean, free of debris and in good repair. Consultant discussed with the director to ensure the toilet in the GA Pre-K classroom is in working order as required. The director reported the work order was placed into the system.

Correction Deadline: 9/25/2024

Finding

591-1-1-.26(4) requires that playgrounds be protected from traffic or other hazards by a (4) four foot high fence or other barrier approved by this Department. Fencing material shall not present a hazard to children and shall be maintained so as to prevent children from leaving the playground area by any means other than through an approved access route. Fence gates shall be kept closed except when persons are entering or exiting the area. It was determined based on observation that metal fencing throughout in areas measured two and half feet to three and a half feet on the Rear Left playground facing the road. It was further determined, that in the back left corner of the Rear Playground a gap approximately six inches was present posing an entrapment hazard. In addition, the gate on the Left Side playground had a gap approximately four inches that posed an entrapment hazard. Additionally, there was a 3 3/4 inch gap through the metal fence that surrounds the pool on the Rear Playground.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will routinely check the fence to determine if it is in good repair and remains at least 4 feet high, and will repair any hazards. The Center will train Staff to identify and report any fence hazards and to keep the fence gates closed when not in use.

Correction Deadline: 10/7/2024

Recited on 9/25/2024

Technical Assistance

Please ensure that playground equipment provides an opportunity for the children to engage in a variety of experiences and shall be age-appropriate. For example, toddlers shall not be permitted to swing in swings designed for School-age Children. The outdoor equipment shall be free of lead-based paint, sharp corners and shall be regularly maintained in such a way as to be free of rust and splinters that could pose significant safety hazard to the children. All equipment shall be arranged so as not to obstruct supervision of children. Consultant discussed with the director to ensure the blue bench was repainted on the Rear playground.

Correction Deadline: 10/5/2024

Technical Assistance

Please ensure the playgrounds are kept clean, free from litter and free of hazards, such as but not limited to rocks, exposed tree roots and exposed sharp edges of concrete. Consultant discussed with the director to ensure the ground is level surrounding the wooden stage on the Left Back playground area so that it would not pose as a tripping hazard. There were no children on the playground in this area on this date.

Correction Deadline: 9/25/2024

Health and Hygiene

591-1-1-.10 Diapering Areas & Practices(CR)	Met
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Comment

Staff stated proper knowledge of diapering procedures on this date.

591-1-1-.17 Hygiene(CR)	Met
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Comment

Staff were observed to remind children to wash hands.

591-1-1-.20 Medications(CR)	N/A
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Comment

The center currently does not dispense or administer medication at this time.

Safety

591-1-1-.11 Discipline(CR)	Met
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Comment

Age-appropriate discussion and/or redirection observed on this date.

Comment

A current and completed inspection was observed for all vehicles used in transporting children on this date. Vehicle with tag number ending with tag number J2032 was completed on February 19, 2024. Vehicle with tag number ending in X4469, W0654 and X5854 was completed on July 29, 2024. Vehicle with tag number ending in N5628 was completed on September 28, 2023.

Comment

The vehicle had an approved fire extinguisher and first aid kit on this date.

Correction Deadline: 4/1/2024

Corrected on 9/25/2024

Correction of citation in that all children had emergency medical forms completed as required.

Correction Deadline: 4/2/2024

Corrected on 9/25/2024

Correction of citation in that the driver or other designated person immediately documented in writing, with a check or other mark/symbol to account for each child listed on the passenger transportation checklist each time a child entered and exited the vehicle as required.

Finding

591-1-1-.36(7)(d)2. requires that the second designated Staff person conduct a check of the vehicle immediately upon the completion of the first check of the vehicle. The responsible person shall physically walk through the entire vehicle; visually inspect all seat surfaces, under all seats and in all compartments or recesses in the vehicle's interior; and sign the passenger transportation checklist(s), indicating all of the children have exited the vehicle. There shall be continuous watchful oversight of the vehicle between the first check and second check. It was determined based on a review of records the second designated person did not conduct a second check of the vehicle immediately upon the completion of the first check of the vehicle during routine morning transportation to Tussahaw Elementary School on September 25, 2024.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will train Staff who are or may be involved in transporting children in how to thoroughly inspect a vehicle and properly complete transportation documentation. The Center will review and monitor.

Correction Deadline: 9/25/2024

Sleeping & Resting Equipment

591-1-1-.30 Safe Sleeping and Resting Requirements(CR)

Met

Comment

Discussed SIDS and infant sleeping position with the director and infant staff on this date.

Comment

The correct number of mats, sheets and blankets were observed on this date. Cleaning and disinfecting of crib mattresses were discussed with the director. New crib mattresses will arrive at the center per the director on October 1, 2024.

Staff Records

591-1-1-.09 Criminal Records and Comprehensive Background Checks(CR)

Met

Comment

Criminal record checks were observed to be complete on this date.

591-1-1-.31 Staff(CR)

Met

Comment

Staff observed to be compliant with applicable laws and regulations on this date.

Staffing and Supervision

Comment

Center observed to maintain appropriate staff:child ratios on this date.

591-1-1-.32 Supervision(CR)**Technical Assistance****Technical Assistance**

Please ensure that children be supervised at all times appropriate to the individual age, needs and capabilities of each child. Such supervision must include, but not be limited to, indoor and outdoor activities, mealtimes, naptime, transportation, field trips, and transitions between activities. "Supervision" means that the appropriate number of Staff members are physically present in the area where children are being cared for and are providing watchful oversight to the children, volunteers and Students-in-Training. The persons supervising in the child care area must be alert, positioned to maximize their ability to hear and see the children at all times, and able to respond promptly to the needs and actions of the children being supervised, as well as the actions of the volunteers and Students-in-Training, and provide timely attention to the children's actions and needs. Staff shall be attentive and participating with all children during mealtimes and shall be seated within an arm's length away from children thirty-six (36) months of age and younger. Staff members throughout the center signed the supervision acknowledgment form and the director reported a staff meeting was scheduled for the night of September 25, 2024 to discuss licensing rules.

Correction Deadline: 9/25/2024