



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: 2/8/2024 **VisitType:** Complaint Investigation & Licensing Study **Arrival:** 9:30 AM **Departure:** 12:30 PM

CCLC-3080

First United Methodist Church Early Childhood Academy

353 Main Street Thomson, GA 30824 McDuffie County
(706) 595-0403 Kendyl@thomsonfumc.org

Regional Consultant

Rebekah Mullinax

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rebekah.mullinax@decal.ga.gov

Joint with: Ashley Richards

Mailing Address

323 Church Street
Thomson, GA 30824

Quality Rated: No

<u>Compliance Zone Designation</u>			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.
02/08/2024	Complaint Closure	Good Standing	
02/08/2024	Complaint Investigation & Licensing Study	Good Standing	
07/17/2023	Complaint Closure	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	Room A 1st R Hall 1st R Room	Two Year Olds	2	13	C	17	C	NA	NA	Music
Main	Room B 1st R Hall 2nd R Room	Two Year Olds	1	8	C	17	C	NA	NA	Music
Main	Room C 1st R Hall 3rd R Room	Infants and One Year Olds	1	3	C	16	C	NA	NA	Free Play
Main	Room D 1st R Hall 4th R Room	Four Year Olds and Five Year Olds	2	11	C	18	C	NA	NA	Circle Time
Main	Room E Back Hall Right		0	0	C	15	C	NA	NA	
Main	Room F Back Hall Left	One Year Olds	1	8	C	15	C	NA	NA	Free Play
Main	Room G 2nd R Hall 4th L Room	One Year Olds	2	11	C	18	C	NA	NA	Free Play
Main	Room H 2nd R Hall 3rd L Room	Infants	2	9	C	17	C	NA	NA	Feeding, Nap, Flo or Play
Main	Room I 2nd R Hall 2nd L Room	Three Year Olds	1	10	C	17	C	NA	NA	Story
Main	Room J 2nd R Hall 1st L Room	Three Year Olds	2	10	C	17	C	NA	NA	Transitioning

Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 167

Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0

Building @35 capacity limited by Centers Request

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	1 Preschool (left)	52	C
Main	2 Toddler (middle)	15	C
Main	3 Infants/Ones/Twos (Right)	12	C

Comments

The consultant conducted a joint Licensing Study and Complaint Investigation. Investigative findings were concluded on February 8, 2024. Director provided ten files for employees hired since last visit.

Plan of Improvement: No Plan Developed

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!

Kendyl May, Program Official

Date

Rebekah Mullinax, Regional Consultant

Date

Ashley Richards, Regional Consultant

Date



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(Findings Report)

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The following information is associated with a Licensing Study Visit:

Activities and Equipment

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

Comment

A variety of equipment and toys were observed throughout the center.

591-1-1-.35 Swimming Pools & Water-related Activities(CR) **N/A**

Comment

Center does not provide swimming activities.

Facility

591-1-1-.06 Bathrooms **Met**

Comment

Bathrooms observed to be clean and well maintained.

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

Comment

Licensed capacity observed to be routinely met by center.

591-1-1-.26 Playgrounds(CR) **Met**

Comment

Discussed maintenance of resilient surface. Please fluff and redistribute.

Food Service

591-1-1-.18 Kitchen Operations **Met**

Comment

Kitchen appears clean and well organized.

Health and Hygiene

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

Comment

Staff state proper knowledge of diapering procedures.

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

Comment

Proper hand washing observed throughout the center.

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

Comment

The Provider currently does not dispense/administer medication.

Policies and Procedures

591-1-1-.21 Operational Policies & Procedures Met

Comment

Program observed complete emergency drills as of January 3, 2024.

591-1-1-.27 Posted Notices Met

Comment

Observed all required posted notices.

591-1-1-.29 Required Reporting Met

Comment

Thank you for reporting as required.

Safety

591-1-1-.05 Animals N/A

Comment

Center does not keep animals on premises.

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

Comment

Staff were observed to maintain a positive learning environment on this date.

591-1-1-.13 Field Trips(CR) Met

Comment

Center does not participate in field trips at this time.

591-1-1-.36 Transportation(CR) N/A

Comment

Center does not provide routine transportation.

Sleeping & Resting Equipment

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

Discussed SIDS and infant sleeping position.

Comment

The correct number of mats, sheets and blankets were observed on this date. Cleaning and disinfecting of mats was discussed with the director on this date.

Comment

591-1-1-.30(4) - 591-1-1-.30(4) - requires that if cots and mats are stored in the children's activity room or area, they shall be stored to prevent children's access to them and to allow maximum use of play space. When storage is available and used for the storage of cots and mats that allows the cots, mats and any bedding to be stored without touching any other cots, mats or bedding, the bedding may be left on the cot or mat. When such storage is not available for the cots and mats, each child's bedding shall be kept separate from other children's bedding and stored in containers marked for individual use, such as, but not limited to, bins, cubbies, or bags. Please ensure that all cots and mats are inaccessible to children as required.

Correction Deadline: 2/8/2024

Staff Records

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

Criminal record checks were observed to be complete.

Comment

Director provided ten files for employees hired since last visit.

591-1-1-.31 Staff(CR)**Met****Comment**

Staff observed to be compliant with applicable laws and regulations.

Staffing and Supervision

591-1-1-.32 Staff:Child Ratios and Group Size(CR)**Met****Comment**

Center observed to maintain appropriate staff:child ratios.

591-1-1-.32 Supervision(CR)**Met****Comment**

Staff observed to provide direct supervision and be attentive to children's needs.

The following information is associated with a Complaint Investigation Visit:

Facility

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

Correction Deadline: 7/17/2023

Corrected on 2/8/2024

.25(13) - Previous citation corrected in that the cleaning staff clean each classroom and each tall shelf nightly as required.