



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: 7/18/2024 **VisitType:** Monitoring Visit

Arrival: 10:00 AM **Departure:** 12:30 PM

CCLC-58023

Children's First Learning Academy

146 Davis Rd Augusta, GA 30907 Richmond County
(706) 723-5417 childrensfirstla@gmail.com

Regional Consultant

Christina Jennings

Phone: (404) 463-0970

Fax: (770) 342-3177

christina.jennings@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.
07/18/2024	Monitoring Visit	Good Standing	
04/03/2024	Licensing Study	Good Standing	
12/13/2023	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	A: Preschool (Left)	Four Year Olds and Six Year Olds and Over	2	22	C	24	C	NA	NA	Outside
Main	B: Infants (Front Right)	Infants and One Year Olds	2	10	C	13	C	NA	NA	Floor Play, Diapering
Main	C: Toddlers (Back Right)	Two Year Olds and Three Year Olds	1	9	C	10	C	NA	NA	Centers
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 47					Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0					
Total # Children this Date: 41					Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0					

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	PG	28	C

Comments

The purpose of this visit was to conduct a Monitoring Visit.

Plan of Improvement: Developed This Date 07/18/2024

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.state.ga.us/CCS/Regulations.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 user id 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.state.ga.us 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)

Technical Assistance

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.12(2) - The Consultant and Provider discussed ensuring that all equipment and furniture is in good repair in order to be properly cleaned and sanitized such as but not limited to children's vinyl chairs with exposed foam.

Correction Deadline: 7/18/2024

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

N/A

Comment

Center does not provide swimming activities.

Facility

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

Met

Correction Deadline: 4/3/2024

Corrected on 7/18/2024

.19(1) - Previous citation observed to be corrected in that the Consultant observed the Center's License capacity to be met on this date.

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

Not Met

Comment

Please be mindful to keep items that pose a hazard inaccessible to children.

Finding

591-1-1-.25(11) requires that floor coverings be tight, smooth, free of odors and washable or cleanable. It was determined based upon observation that there was a large piece of tile missing at the entrance of the children's bathroom causing the flooring to not be tight, smooth and properly cleaned.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

Floors will be maintained to be safe and sanitary.

Correction Deadline: 7/31/2024

Finding

591-1-1-.25(3) requires the Center and surrounding premises to be kept clean, free of debris and in good repair. Hygienic measures such as, but not limited to, screened windows and proper waste disposal procedures shall be utilized to minimize the presence of rodents, flies, roaches and other vermin at the Center. It was determined based upon observation that the wooden piece on the back of the white half door was not secured properly causing a potential pinching hazard in Classroom A. It was further determined that there was a seven inch gap in the wall under two out of three sinks in the children's bathroom causing the piping behind the wall to be exposed.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will have the Center and surrounding areas cleaned, make repairs where needed, and remove all debris is removed. The Center will implement a plan to keep areas clean and in good repair that includes regular monitoring.

Correction Deadline: 7/31/2024

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

Discussed maintenance of resilient surface. Please fluff and redistribute.

Health and Hygiene

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

Hand washing requirements for diapering were discussed with the director on this date.

591-1-1-.17 Hygiene(CR)**Not Met****Finding**

591-1-1-17(7) requires that children wash their hands with liquid soap and warm running water upon arrival for care, when moving from one child care group to another, upon re-entering the child care area after outside play, before and after eating meals and snacks, handling or touching food, playing in water; after toileting and diapering, playing in sand, touching animals or pets, and contact with bodily fluids and after contamination by any other means. It was determined based upon observation that an infant's hands were not washed with liquid soap and warm running water immediately after diapering as required in Classroom B.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will train Staff on required handwashing for children and Staff will ensure children's hands are washed when required. The Director will monitor for compliance.

Correction Deadline: 7/18/2024

Finding

591-1-1-.17(8) requires staff to wash their hands with liquid soap and warm running water upon arrival for the day, when moving from one child care group to another, upon re-entering the child care area after outside play, before and after diapering each child, dispensing medication, applying topical medications, handling and preparing food, eating, drinking, preparing bottles, feeding each child, assisting children with eating and drinking, after toileting or assisting children with toileting, using tobacco products, handling garbage and organic waste, touching animals or pets, handling bodily fluids and after contamination by any means. It was determined based upon observation that a staff member failed to wash their hands with liquid soap and warm running water immediately after changing an infant's diaper in Classroom B.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will ensure liquid soap and warm running water are available for handwashing, train Staff on the handwashing requirements, review the requirements with Staff periodically, and monitor handwashing.

Correction Deadline: 7/18/2024

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

The Provider currently does not dispense/administer medication.

Policies and Procedures

Finding

591-1-1-.29(4) requires that within twenty-four (24) hours or on the next work day that the Center knows or reasonably should know that there has been an arrest or change in the Comprehensive Records Check Determination of any Director or Employee or the Fingerprint Records Check Determination for any Provisional Employee, the Director or designated person -in-charge shall report or cause to be reported to the Department the incident and the name of any such Director, Employee or Provisional Employee. It was determined based upon Staff statements that the Center did not report to the Department within twenty-four (24) hours that an employee had been arrested as required.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will report to the Department any arrest or change in a Director or Employee's Comprehensive Records Check Determination or the Fingerprint Records Check Determination of any Provisional Employee. Such report should be made within 24 hours or on the next work day and should include the incident and name of the person involved.

Correction Deadline: 7/18/2024

Safety**591-1-1-.11 Discipline(CR)**

Met

Comment

Please be mindful of voice tone in redirecting children.

591-1-1-.36 Transportation(CR)

Met

Comment

Complete documentation of transportation observed.

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

Met

Comment

Discussed SIDS and infant sleeping position.

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

Not Met

Correction Deadline: 4/3/2024

Corrected on 7/18/2024

.09(1)(j) - Previous citation observed to be corrected in that the Consultant observed a current and valid satisfactory Comprehensive Records Check Determination letter on file for Center Staff on this date.

Finding

591-1-1-.09(1)(i)1. requires the Center to immediately require a new Comprehensive Records Check Determination for a Director, Employee or Provisional Employee if the Center knows or reasonably should know that the individual has been arrested or charged for any covered Crime. It was determined based upon Staff statements that an employee had been arrested and the Center did not immediately require a new Comprehensive Records Check Determination as required. Center Staff stated that after learning that the employee had been arrested, the employee was terminated and was no longer employed at the Center.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

IMMEDIATE CORRECTION - The Center will watch the videos and immediately require a new Comprehensive Records Check Determination for Directors, Employees or Provisional Employees when the Center knows or should know that the individual has been arrested or charged for any covered Crime. The program's owner or an officer/member of the corporation must view the A to Z Background Check video units pertaining to this records check rule and return the signed affidavit within one week from this visit date. The Center will watch the videos to ensure CRC rules are maintained.

Correction Deadline: 7/18/2024

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

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

591-1-1-.32 Supervision(CR)

Met

Comment

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