



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: 4/4/2022

VisitType: Incident Investigation
Closure from visit on
02/17/2022

Arrival: 10:00 AM

Departure: 1:45 PM

CCLC-53471

Easter Seals North Georgia - Lawrenceville

3549 Lawrenceville Highway Tucker, GA 30084 DeKalb County
(470) 275-4649 fthomas@esng.org

Regional Consultant

Monique Chambers

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monique.chambers@decal.ga.gov

Mailing Address
Same

Quality Rated: No

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.
04/04/2022	Incident Investigation Closure	Good Standing	
02/17/2022	Incident Investigation & Follow Up	Good Standing	
10/19/2021	Initial Licensing Study	Good Standing	

Comments

February 17, 2022: The investigation remains open pending additional information. Once completed, the findings will be reviewed with the person in charge and a final copy of the report will be sent to the center.

April 4, 2022: Investigative findings were concluded on this date and there were two rule violations found associated. A copy of the report was sent to the center.

Advisement of Potential for Repeated Rule Violations during Pending Investigations

This report shall serve as official notice of potential rule violations. These potential rule violations have been detailed in this report and discussed with you by the consultant. The department shall conduct a thorough investigation to determine if in fact the alleged rule violation(s) should or should not be substantiated. Please be aware that the investigation may take some time to be finalized to ensure fairness and accuracy. During this investigation period, any violations of an identical rule or rules will require the department to treat any and all substantiated rule violations identified in the investigation as repeated rule violation(s).

Further, from time to time the department discovers additional rule violations during the course of an investigation. If there are new rule violation(s), your consultant shall inform you of the violation(s) as soon as possible. However, as stated above, any violations of identical rule(s) will require the department to treat any and all additional rule violations identified in the investigation as repeated rule violations.

All rule violations found in relation to a complaint or incident investigation will be associated with the date the investigation was closed.



Please refer to the website, <http://www.decal.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

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), e-mail the following information to CCSRefutations@dec.al.ga.gov.

- 1) Facility name, license number and visit date
- 2) Your name, title/relationship to the facility, e-mail address & up to two phone number(s) where you can be reached
- 3) Specific rule number(s) that you are refuting, along with your concerns or questions regarding the rule citation

Refutations must be submitted to Child Care Services (CCS) within 10 business days of the completion date.

A sample form for submitting a refutation can be found at: <http://dec.al.ga.gov/ChildCareServices/RefutationInformation.aspx>

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)

I have read and understand the Rules and Regulations for Child Care Learning Centers, 591-1-1. I acknowledge that the items noted in this report have been discussed with me and I have agreed to a Plan of Improvement (POI) as indicated in this report. I understand that correction of these deficiencies, while required, will not necessarily prevent DECAL from taking adverse action against this facility. I understand that if I disagree with any of the deficiencies cited, I have the right to refute them on this report or any other form that I choose to send to Child Care Services.

Fawn Thomas, Program Official

Date

Monique Chambers , Consultant

Date



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Summary Report

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The following information is associated with a Incident Investigation Closure:

Children's Records

591-1-1-.08 Children's Records**Not Met****Finding Associated with Complaint**

591-1-1-.08(7) requires the Center to ensure that children are only released to authorized person(s), and that Center Staff take necessary steps to determine that any such person(s) presenting to pick up a child in care is authorized by the Parent(s) of the child and that person matches the identifying information provided by the Parent. It was determined during an investigation, that on February 7, 2022, a four-year-old child was released to an unauthorized person. Center staff released a child with the same first name to the new pickup person, but failed to check the last name and ensure that the correct child was released. The pickup person had never met the child and was also unaware that they had the wrong child. The child was in the care of the unauthorized person for approximately twenty to thirty minutes. No injuries were sustained.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will develop/maintain procedures for releasing children and will train Staff.

Correction Deadline: 4/5/2022

Policies and Procedures

Finding Associated with Complaint

591-1-1-.29(3) requires the Director or designated person-in-charge to report or cause to be reported to the Department within twenty-four (24) hours or the next work day: any death of a child while in the care of the Center; any serious illness or injury requiring hospitalization or professional medical attention other than first aid of a child while in the care of the Center; any situation when a child in care becomes missing, such as, but not limited to, a child who is left on a vehicle, a child who leaves the building, playground, or property, or a child who is left behind on any trip; any fire; any structural disaster; any emergency situation that requires temporarily relocating children; and any time the program's operating status changes (i.e., open to closed or temporarily closed and temporarily closed to open). It was determined during an investigation, that the Director failed to report to the Department within 24 hours when a four-year-old child was missing for approximately twenty to thirty minutes. On February 7, 2022, the child was released to an unauthorized pickup person and staff were unaware until the parent arrived to pick the child up and the child was not present. The incident was not reported until February 10, 2022.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will develop a procedure so everyone knows how and when to report these incidents to the Department and will follow-up to make sure they are reported as required.

Correction Deadline: 4/4/2022