



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: 11/14/2023 **VisitType:** Complaint Investigation & Licensing Study **Arrival:** 9:50 AM **Departure:** 1:30 PM

CCLC-18199

AppleGate Academy & Preschool

3050 Mt. Zion Rd. Stockbridge, GA 30281 Clayton County
 (678) 565-7311 applegateacademy@comcast.net

Regional Consultant

Nadia Bernard

Phone: (404) 670-9398

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nadia.bernard@dec.al.ga.gov

Mailing Address
 Same

Quality Rated: ★

<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.
11/14/2023	Complaint Investigation & Licensing Study	Good Standing	
06/13/2023	Complaint Investigation & Monitoring Visit	Good Standing	
06/13/2023	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- Front L	Infants and One Year Olds	2	8	C	10	C	NA	NA	Feeding, Floor Play, Diapering
Main	B- 2L		0	0	C	8	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
Main	C- 3L		0	0	C	8	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
Main	D- 4L		0	0	C	9	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
Main	E- 5L		0	0	C	10	C	NA	NA	
Main	F- 6L	Two Year Olds	1	10	C	10	C	NA	NA	Centers
Main	G- Back R	GA PreK	2	16	C	30	C	NA	NA	Centers
Main	H- 2R		0	0	C	20	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
Main	I- 1R	Three Year Olds	1	12	C	20	C	NA	NA	Centers
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 125					Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0					
Total # Children this Date: 46					Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0					

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	PG- Left	38	C
Main	PG- Right	47	C

Comments

Plan developed on this date.

Plan of Improvement: Developed This Date 11/14/2023

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.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.ga.gov for more information. Free technical assistance is available!

Tanisha Barker, Program Official

Date

Nadia Bernard, 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)

Not Met

Comment

Discussed rotating toys to support the procedures of daily disinfecting.

Comment

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

Finding

591-1-1-.12(2) requires that all equipment and furniture be free from hazardous conditions such as, but not limited to, sharp rough edges or toxic paint; and be kept clean. It was determined based on the consultant's observation that the following hazards were observed:

Room F: Paper blocks torn in multiple places, Blue Plastic Sofa had tears on the top right and left corners.

Room G: Rusted tissue holder

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will ensure that equipment and furniture are used by the age-appropriate group of children.

Correction Deadline: 11/30/2023

Recited on 11/14/2023

Finding

591-1-1-.12(5) requires Center Staff to provide table space for each child who is able to sit at a table unassisted and an appropriately sized chair or bench for each child who is not an infant and who is able to use a chair or bench. It was determined based on observation that in Room A- Front L there was no table space provided for children who are able to sit unassisted

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will provide required equipment as noted. Please provide appropriately sized tables, chair and or bench for each child who is able to use a chair or bench.

Correction Deadline: 12/14/2023

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

Center does not provide swimming activities.

Children's Records

591-1-1-.08 Children's Records**Met****Comment**

Records were observed to be complete and well organized.

Facility

591-1-1-.06 Bathrooms**Not Met****Comment**

Bathrooms observed to be clean and well maintained.

Finding

591-1-1-.06(4) requires a Center first licensed after March 1, 1991, and Centers that remodel or add to existing plumbing facilities, to have the bathroom area fully enclosed and ventilated to the outside of the building with either an open screened window or functioning exhaust fan and duct system and requires Centers without fully enclosed bathrooms to ensure there is adequate ventilation to control odors and adequate sanitation measures to prevent the spread of contagious diseases. It was determined based on observation that in Room F-6L the bathroom did not have working ventilation in the bathroom.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will fully enclose and ventilate bathroom areas, as required, and will provide adequate ventilation and sanitation in bathrooms that are not fully enclosed.

Correction Deadline: 12/14/2023

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

Licensed capacity observed to be routinely met by center.

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

Center appears clean and well maintained.

Correction Deadline: 6/13/2023

Corrected on 11/14/2023

.25(13) Citation observed to be corrected. All hazardous items were inaccessible on this date.

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

Correction Deadline: 6/20/2023

Corrected on 11/14/2023

.26(6) - Citation observed to be corrected on this date. Consultant observed playground equipment to be in good repair.

Correction Deadline: 6/23/2023

Corrected on 11/14/2023

.26(8) - Citation observed to be corrected on this date. Consultant observed adequate resilient surface. Consultant discussed with the director to fluff and redistribute resilient surface.

Food Service

591-1-1-.15 Food Service & Nutrition**Met****Comment**

CACFP Meal Pattern Requirements effective October 1, 2017 will be implemented October 1, 2018: 3 Components for breakfast: Grains, Vegetables, Fruits or both, Milk
5 Components for lunch – Grains, Meat/Meat alternates, Fruits, Vegetable, and Milk OR Grains, Meat/Meat alternates, 2 different types of vegetables, and Milk
2 of 5 Components for snack

Provided Updated CACFP Infant Meal pattern and Child/Adult Meal pattern flyers.

The Crediting Handbook for the CACFP can be located on DECAL and USDA's website:

DECAL

<http://decalfga.gov/CACFP/Handbook.aspx>

USDA

<http://www.fns.usda.gov/cacfp/cacfp-handbooks>

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

Discussed proper steps for dishwashing.

Comment

Kitchen appears clean and well organized.

Health and Hygiene

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

Proper diapering procedures observed.

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

Proper hand washing observed throughout the center.

591-1-1-.20 Medications(CR)**Met****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

591-1-1-.27 Posted Notices**Technical Assistance**

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.27 - Consultant discussed with the director that it is required requires each Center to post in a designated area for public viewing near the front entrance the following: the Center's current License or Permit; a copy of these rules; a copy of the current communicable disease chart; a statement allowing Parent(s) access to all child care areas upon notifying any staff member of his or her presence; names of persons responsible for the administration of the Center in the administrator's absence; the dated current week's menu for meals and snacks; emergency plans for severe weather, fire, and other emergency situations; a statement requiring visitors to check in with Staff when entering the Center; no smoking signs; and a notice provided by the Department which advises Parents of their right to review a copy of the Center's most recent licensure evaluation report upon request to the Center Director. The Center shall provide any Parent with a copy of this evaluation report upon request.

Correction Deadline: 11/14/2023

Safety

591-1-1-.05 Animals

Met

Comment

Animals maintained clean and appropriately caged.

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)

Not Met

Finding

591-1-1-.36(7)(c)3. requires that the driver or other designated person document in writing the date and time of arrival and departure each time the vehicle departs from the Center, is loaded or unloaded at each school and when the vehicle returns to the Center; each time the vehicle departs from the Center, arrives at the location where any child is picked up or dropped off and when the vehicle returns to the Center; each time the vehicle leaves the Center, arrives at a field trip destination, leaves a field trip destination, and returns to the Center. It was determined based on a review of records that the required daily dates were missing for children transported on November 6, 2023 through November 10, 2023.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will ensure that each date and time of arrival and departure is documented by the driver or designated person with training, review and monitoring.

Correction Deadline: 11/15/2023

Finding

591-1-1-.36(7)(d)1. requires that the first check be conducted immediately upon unloading the last child at any location including, but not limited to, a field trip destination, arrival at the Center, and the last stop during transportation to home or school. The responsible person on the vehicle 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; sign the passenger transportation checklist (s), indicating all of the children have exited the vehicle; and give the passenger transportation checklist(s) to the second designated Staff person. It was determined based on a review of records that the first check was not completed for November 10, 2023 for children transported from Mt. Zion Elementary, Mt. Zion Primary, and Applegate South

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: 11/15/2023

Sleeping & Resting Equipment

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

Met

Comment

Discussed SIDS and infant sleeping position.

Comment

Pleasant naptime environment observed.

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.

Staff Records

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

Met

Comment

Criminal record checks were observed to be complete.

591-1-1-.09 Criminal Records Check(CR)

Met

Comment

Consultant requested to view all Criminal Record checks for employees hired after last visit. Director stated that there have been no new hires since last visit

591-1-1-.14 First Aid & CPR

Met

Comment

Complete first aid kits observed in center and on vehicles.

591-1-1-.33 Staff Training

Met

Comment

Documentation observed of required staff training.

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

Center observed to maintain appropriate staff:child ratios.