



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: 12/13/2023 **VisitType:** Licensing Study

Arrival: 10:30 AM

Departure: 3:00 PM

CCLC-2636

Oma's Learning Center and Daycare

1345 West Hill Ave. Valdosta, GA 31601 Lowndes County
 (229) 247-2313 omaslearningctr@yahoo.com

Regional Consultant

Rena Keene

Phone: (912) 544-9930

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rena.keene@dec.al.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.
12/13/2023	Licensing Study	Good Standing	
11/17/2023	TA Follow Up	N/A	
10/31/2023	Initial-TA	N/A	

Ratios/License Capacity

Building	Room	Age Group	Staff	Children	NC/C	Max 35 SF.	35 SF. Comp.	Max 25 SF.	25 SF. Comp.	Notes
bld2-rm H	Pre-K/ school age	GA PreK	2	18	C	40	C	56	C	Art
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 40					Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 203					
Main	Cafeteria		0	0	C	16	C	23	C	
Main	Room A - 2 1/2 yrs (right side of Bldg.)	Two Year Olds	2	12	C	18	C	NA	NA	Story,Circle Time
Main	Room B - 3 yrs (right side Bldg.)	Three Year Olds	2	19	C	30	C	42	C	Centers
Main	Room C - 1 yrs (left side of building)	Two Year Olds	1	7	C	13	C	NA	NA	Music
Main	Room D - Infants (left side of Bldg.)	Infants	3	10	C	12	C	NA	NA	Feeding,Music, Nap,Story,Diapering
Main	Room E - 18 mth - 2 yrs (left side bldg)	One Year Olds	2	11	C	13	C	NA	NA	Story
Main	Room F - 2 year olds (left side of building)	Two Year Olds	1	8	C	13	C	NA	NA	Transitioning,Outside
Main	Room G - 1 yrs (left side end of hallway)	One Year Olds	1	8	C	13	C	NA	NA	Circle Time,Centers
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 128					Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 203					
Total # Children this Date: 93					Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 203					
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 168										

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	playground	67	C

Comments

The purposed of today's visit was to conduct a Licensing Study.

Plan of Improvement: Developed This Date 12/13/2023

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.state.ga.us/CCS/RuleAndRegulations.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!

Kira Plumly, Program Official

Date

Rena Keene, Regional Consultant

Date



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(Findings Report)

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The following information is associated with a Licensing Study:

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)

Met

Comment

Center does not provide swimming activities.

Children's Records

Records Reviewed: 6

Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 3

Child # 3

Not Met

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.08(1)(a)-Work Address Missing,.08(3)-Address of Release Person Missing

Child # 5

Not Met

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.08(1)(a)-Work Address Missing,.08(3)-Address of Release Person Missing

Child # 6

Not Met

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.08(1)(a)-Work Address Missing

Finding

591-1-1-.08(1) requires the Center Staff to maintain a file for each child while such child is in care and for one year after that child is no longer enrolled. In order for the file to be complete, the file shall contain the following: child's name, birth date, sex, address, living arrangement, name of school if applicable; names of both Parents, home and work addresses, and home and work telephone numbers; name(s) and addresses of the person(s) to whom the child may be released including address, telephone numbers, relationship to child and to Parent(s), and other identifying information; name(s) and telephone number(s) of person(s) to contact in emergencies when the Parent cannot be reached; name and telephone number of the child's primary source of health care; and a statement regarding known allergies, physical problems, mental health disorders, intellectual disabilities or developmental disabilities which limit the child's participation in the program. It was determined based on a review of six children's records that two of the six records reviewed did not include complete addresses for the persons to whom each child could be released. This information was incomplete for Child No 3 and Child No. 5. The record for Child No. 6 did not include the work addresses for both parents listed.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

Center staff will develop a plan that includes how to obtain all required information for currently enrolled children and how to ensure this is done for future enrollees as well. The plan will also include how and where to maintain files for the required amount of time. The plan will be implemented and followed.

Correction Deadline: 12/13/2023

	Facility
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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-.25 Physical Plant - Safe Environment(CR)**Not Met****Comment**

Center appears clean and well maintained.

Finding

591-1-1-.25(15) requires that any outside storage or equipment area be locked, separated from the children by a barrier or enclosure, and shall not be accessible to the children. It was determined based on Consultant's observation and staff statements that the storage building on the Pre-K/School- Age playground was not locked to prevent children's access to the building. Unused equipment, a fire extinguisher, and a cooler was observed inside the building.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

Center Staff will routinely check outside storage or equipment areas to ensure they are locked or otherwise inaccessible to children.

Correction Deadline: 12/13/2023**591-1-1-.26 Playgrounds(CR)****Technical Assistance****Comment**

Discussed maintenance of resilient surface. Please fluff and redistribute mulch and other resilient material beneath and in the fall zones of swings and climbing equipment to ensure that the recommended depth of six inches is maintained for equipment over five feet in height.

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.26(9) requires the playground to be 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. Please install a means for the tricycle track to drain after rains so that the north end of the track does not hold standing water. Additionally, please monitor anchoring bolts to equipment to ensure that they are maintained flush with the ground so that they do not pose a hazard to the children.

Correction Deadline: 12/13/2023

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

Center menu meets USDA guidelines. Lunch served during the visit included Shepherd's Pie, Steamed Broccoli, Pineapple and milk appropriate to each child's age.

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://dec.al.ga.gov/CACFP/Handbook.aspx>

USDA

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

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

Kitchen appears clean and well organized.

Comment

Please ensure that all food items are stored in airtight containers.

Health and Hygiene**591-1-1-.10 Diapering Areas & Practices(CR)****Met**

Correction Deadline: 5/10/2023

Corrected on 12/13/2023

.10(4) - Consultant observed that staff were using proper diapering procedures.

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

Staff were observed to remind children to wash hands.

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

Correction Deadline: 5/10/2023

Corrected on 12/13/2023

.20(2) - Staff stated that medications are not being administered at this time.

Correction Deadline: 5/10/2023

Corrected on 12/13/2023

.20(3) - Staff stated that medications are not being administered at this time.

Policies and Procedures

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

Not Met

Finding

591-1-1-.21(3) requires that the Center conduct drills for fire, tornado and other emergency situations. The fire drills will be conducted monthly and tornado and other emergency situation drills will be conducted every six months. The Center shall maintain documentation of the dates and times of these drills for two years. It was determined based on a review of the center's emergency logs and staff statements that tornado drills have not been completed every six months.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will hold the drills as required and keep the documentation of the drills on file for two years.

Correction Deadline: 12/18/2023

591-1-1-.27 Posted Notices

Met

Comment

Observed all required posted notices.

Safety

591-1-1-.05 Animals

Met

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

Field trip documentation observed to be complete.

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.

Comment

Pleasant naptime environment observed.

Staff Records

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

Director provided seven (7) files for employees hired since last visit.

Correction Deadline: 5/10/2023**Corrected on 12/13/2023**

.09(1)(g) - All staff were observed to have completed satisfactory background checks through the fingerprinting process. Staff stated that the owner is no longer present on the premises.

591-1-1-.09 Criminal Records Check(CR)**Met****Comment**

Criminal records checks were observed to be complete.

591-1-1-.14 First Aid & CPR**Not Met****Finding**

591-1-1-.14(2) requires a Staff member who is trained in CPR and first aid to be on the premises and on any field trip whenever any child is present. In addition, Staff who provide direct care to children must satisfactorily obtain certification in first aid and CPR by December 29, 2016 if employed prior to September 30, 2016 and within 90 days of their hire date if employed after September 30, 2016. It was determined based on a review of staff records that three staff hired during the current calendar year did not obtain CPR and First Aid Training during their first ninety days of employments. The staff who did not receive the required training were Employee No. 6 who was hired on March 20, 2023, Employee No. 20 who was hired on May 3, 2023, and Employee No. 27 who was hired on August 4, 2023.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will develop a schedule to ensure there is always a staff person with current first aid and CPR training present and will develop and implement a plan to ensure all staff members have satisfactorily completed first aid and CPR training by the specified date.

Correction Deadline: 1/12/2024

591-1-1-.24 Personnel Records**Technical Assistance****Technical Assistance**

591-1-1-.24(1) requires the center to maintain a personnel file on the Director, all Employees, Provisional Employees, Personnel, Staff, Students-in-Training, Volunteers, Clerical, Housekeeping, Maintenance, and other Support Staff for the duration of the term of employment plus one calendar year, and it shall contain the following: identifying information to include: name, date of birth, social security number, current address and current telephone number; employment history; as applicable to the position held: evidence of education and qualifying work experience; evidence of all training required by these rules which shall include: title of training, date of training, trainer's signature, location of training and number of clock hours obtained; a statement completed by the staff member that the information provided is true and accurate; any other records required by these rules; and as applicable to the position held, evidence of required orientation including date and signature of person providing the orientation; Please ensure that all staff records includes ten-year work history when appropriate based on their age.

Correction Deadline: 12/18/2023

591-1-1-.33 Staff Training**Not Met****Finding**

591-1-1-.33(1) requires all Employees and Provisional Employees to receive Initial Center orientation prior to assignment to children or task. It was determined based on a review of staff records that nine of the current staff did not have verification in their records that they obtained the required orientation before they were assigned duties with children.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will develop and provide orientation for all new Staff prior to their staff's assignment to children or task.

Correction Deadline: 12/13/2023

Finding

591-1-1-.33(3) requires each Staff member with direct care responsibilities to complete health and safety orientation training within the first 90 days of employment. The state-approved training hours obtained will count toward required first year training hours. The training must address the following health and safety topics: prevention and control of infectious diseases (including immunizations); prevention of sudden infant death syndrome and use of safe sleeping practices; administration of medication, consistent with standards for parental consent; prevention of and response to emergencies due to food and allergic reactions; building and physical premises safety, including identification of and protection from hazards that can cause bodily injury such as electrical hazards, bodies of water, and vehicular traffic; prevention of shaken baby syndrome, abusive head trauma and child maltreatment; emergency preparedness and response planning for emergencies resulting from a natural disaster or a human-caused event (such as violence at a child care facility); handling and storage of hazardous materials and the appropriate disposal of bio contaminants; precautions in transporting children; recognition and reporting of child abuse and neglect; and child development. It was determined based on a review of staff records that two employees hired during the current calendar year did not obtain the required ten hours of Health and Safety Training within the first ninety days of employment. Those staff who lacked the required training were Employee No. 6 who was hired on March 20, 2023, and Employee No. 20 who was hired on May 3, 2023.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will develop and implement a plan to schedule and track this training for all employees based on their hire dates and will ensure that the training includes all required components as required.

Correction Deadline: 1/12/2024

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

Not Met

Comment

Staff observed to be compliant with applicable laws and regulations.

Finding

591-1-1-.31(2)(b)2. requires teachers and lead caregivers to meet minimum academic requirements and qualifying experience at the time of employment. It was determined based on a review of staff records that three of eight staff serving as lead teachers do not possess one of the required credentials.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

A teacher/lead caregiver will be hired that meets the minimum academic requirements and qualifying work experience. If a newly hired teacher agrees to obtain one of the required credentials, then a Professional Development Plan should be placed in the file that shows how they plan to meet this requirement and the record should also contain documentation of progress made toward the plan.

Correction Deadline: 12/13/2023

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.