



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: 9/16/2024 **VisitType:** Monitoring Visit

Arrival: 8:40 AM **Departure:** 11:20 AM

CCLC-53213

Emerging Leaders Learning Center

3408 Peach Orchard Road Augusta, GA 30906 Richmond County
(706) 432-9705 emergingleaderslearningcenter@gmail.com

Regional Consultant

Ashley Richards

Phone: (229) 584-1482

Fax:

ashley.richards@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.
09/16/2024	Monitoring Visit	Good Standing	
03/12/2024	Licensing Study	Good Standing	
10/02/2023	Complaint Investigation by Phone	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
Building 2	D- Preschool		0	0	C	12	C	NA	NA	
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 12			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0							
Main	A- (1R) 1's & 2's	One Year Olds	1	7	C	10	C	NA	NA	Circle Time
Main	B - (2R) 3-12 yrs	Three Year Olds	1	8	C	14	C	NA	NA	Circle Time, Transitioning
Main	C- (1L) Infants	Infants	1	3	C	3	C	NA	NA	Floor Play, Feeding
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 27			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0							
Total # Children this Date: 18			Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 39			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0				

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	Playground - 1 - 12 years	11	C

Enrolled Children						
Under 1 years	1 years	2 years	3 years	4 years	5 years (Prekonly)	5 years and older
3	7	0	8	0	0	0

Comments

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

Plan of Improvement: Developed This Date 09/16/2024

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.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!



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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)

Met

Correction Deadline: 3/12/2024

Corrected on 9/16/2024

.12(2) - Correction of previous citation in that equipment and furniture observed were clean and free from hazards on this date.

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

N/A

Comment

Center does not provide swimming activities.

Children's Records

591-1-1-.08 Children's Records

Met

Correction Deadline: 3/12/2024

Corrected on 9/16/2024

.08(1) - Correction of previous citation in that children's records were completed in their entirety on this date.

Facility

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

Met

Correction Deadline: 3/12/2024

Corrected on 9/16/2024

.19(1) - Correction of previous citation in that the licensed capacities observed within each classroom were met on this date.

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

Not Met

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.25(11) - The Consultant discussed ensuring that the small piece of flooring located between the children's hallway bathrooms was smooth and free from tripping hazards on this date.

Correction Deadline: 10/16/2024

Finding

591-1-1-.25(13) requires that potentially hazardous equipment, materials and supplies be stored in a locked area inaccessible to children. It was determined based on observation that the cabinet underneath the hand washing sink in classroom Main C - (1L) was unsecured with plastic bags accessible to children which caused potential suffocation hazards. It was further determined that a broom and dust pan were located inside the children's bathroom to the left of the toilet in classroom Main A - (1R) on this date.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will identify all hazardous items and keep them in a locked area inaccessible to children. The Center will inform all Staff about hazardous items and the safe storage of those items.

Correction Deadline: 9/16/2024

Recited on 9/16/2024

Correction Deadline: 8/2/2023

Corrected on 9/16/2024

.25(17) Correction of previous citation in that there were no poisonous or hazardous plants observed on the playground on this date.

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 on observation that the following was observed on this date:

Main A – (1R) 1's & 2's

- There were two rusty vents located on the front right flooring and middle front flooring of the classroom.

Main B – (2R) 3 – 12 yrs

- There were two rusty vents located on the back right flooring and front right middle flooring of the classroom.

Hallway Bathroom (Second Right)

- There was a protruding bolt which measured over two threads located on the right the side of the toilet.

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: 10/31/2024

Correction Deadline: 3/12/2024

Corrected on 9/16/2024

.25(8) - Correction of previous citation in that all electrical outlets had protective safety caps on this date.

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

Not Met

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.26(3) - The Consultant discussed ensuring that the dirt walkway located from the back of the building to the fenced playground was free of tripping hazards on this date.

Correction Deadline: 10/16/2024

Finding

591-1-1-.26(4) requires that playgrounds be protected from traffic or other hazards by a (4) four foot high fence or other barrier approved by this Department. Fencing material shall not present a hazard to children and shall be maintained so as to prevent children from leaving the playground area by any means other than through an approved access route. Fence gates shall be kept closed except when persons are entering or exiting the area. It was determined based on observation that the front playground gates had four protruding bolts located on the inside of the playground area. It was further determined that the bottom of the chain link fencing on the front left side of the playground had an exposed screw that caused a potential scratching hazard on this date.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will routinely check the fence to determine if it is in good repair and remains at least 4 feet high, and will repair any hazards. The Center will train Staff to identify and report any fence hazards and to keep the fence gates closed when not in use.

Correction Deadline: 10/31/2024

Recited on 9/16/2024

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.26(6) - The Consultant discussed removing the mini broken kitchen play set off the playground on this date.

Correction Deadline: 9/26/2024

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.26(8) - The Consultant discussed ensuring that resilient surfacing under climbing equipment was fluffed and redistributed as needed on this date.

Correction Deadline: 9/26/2024

Correction Deadline: 3/31/2024

Corrected on 9/16/2024

.26(9) - Correction of previous citation in that there were no playground hazards observed on this date.

Food Service

591-1-1-.15 Food Service & Nutrition

Technical Assistance

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.15(3) - The Consultant discussed that an infant's formula must be prepared by the parent. The Consultant also discussed that if formula is provided by the Center, only commercially prepared, ready-to-feed formula shall be used on this date.

Correction Deadline: 9/16/2024

Health and Hygiene

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

Met

Comment

Proper diapering procedures observed.

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

Technical Assistance

Comment

Staff were observed to remind children to wash hands.

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.17(2) - The Consultant discussed ensuring that children in classroom Main A - (1R) keep their shoes on their feet in order to prevent foot injuries on this date.

Correction Deadline: 9/16/2024

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.17(7) - The Consultant discussed ensuring that children in classroom Main A - (1R) wash their hands with warm running water and liquid hand soap after each diaper change on this date.

Correction Deadline: 9/16/2024

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

N/A

Comment

The Provider currently does not dispense/administer medication.

Safety

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

Age-appropriate discussion and/or redirection observed.

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)**Technical Assistance****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.

Correction Deadline: 3/12/2024

Corrected on 9/16/2024

.30(1)(a)1 - Correction of previous citation in that all cribs observed were in good repair on this date.

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.30(4) - The Consultant discussed ensuring that the cots in classroom Main C - (2R) are stacked on all four leg bases in order to prevent falling or tipping hazards on this date.

Correction Deadline: 9/16/2024

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-.33 Staff Training**Not Met****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 records that Staff # 4 did not have their Health and Safety Orientation training complete within 90 days of their hire date.

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: 10/4/2024

Recited on 9/16/2024

Defer

591-1-1-.33(5) - Deferred until next regulatory visit. The Consultant discussed ensuring that all training is kept on file and/or uploaded onto GA PDS on this date.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will plan and schedule the required 10 hours of annual training each year and follow up to ensure the training is completed.

Correction Deadline: 4/11/2024

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**

Correction Deadline: 8/2/2023

Corrected on 9/16/2024

.32(1) - Correction of previous citation in that Staff:Child ratios observed to be met this date.

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

Adequate supervision observed on this date.