



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: 12/5/2023 **VisitType:** Licensing Study **Arrival:** 9:45 AM **Departure:** 3:30 PM

CCLC-37121

Best Buddies at Oakland

129 Oakland Parkway Leesburg, GA 31763 Lee County
 (229) 903-9191 bestbuddies1004@att.net

Regional Consultant

Angela Williams-Jackson

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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.
12/05/2023	Licensing Study	Good Standing	
07/11/2023	Complaint Closure	Good Standing	
07/06/2023	Complaint Investigation Follow Up	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	Room 10-J (4 Yrs)	Three Year Olds	2	11	C	20	C	NA	NA	Art
Main	Room 11-K (School Age)	Two Year Olds	1	7	C	12	C	NA	NA	Free Play
Main	Room 12- L (School Age)	Two Year Olds	1	10	C	13	C	NA	NA	Free Play
Main	Room 13-M (School Age)		0	0	C	14	C	NA	NA	
Main	Room 1-A (6 wks-12 Mos)	Infants	1	5	C	11	C	NA	NA	Floor Play
Main	Room 2-B (6 wks-12 Mos)	Infants	2	7	C	11	C	NA	NA	Floor Play
Main	Room 3-C (1 Yrs.)	One Year Olds	2	8	C	12	C	NA	NA	Free Play
Main	Room 4-D (2 Yrs)	One Year Olds	2	9	C	13	C	NA	NA	Free Play
Main	Room 5-E (3 Yrs)	Two Year Olds	2	15	C	20	C	NA	NA	Art
Main	Room 6-F (3 Yrs)	Three Year Olds	2	17	C	22	C	31	C	Transitioning
Main	Room 7-G (3-4 Yrs)	Two Year Olds and Three Year Olds	1	10	C	12	C	NA	NA	Art
Main	Room 8-H (3-4 Yrs)	Two Year Olds	1	98	C	14	NC	NA	NA	Free Play
Main	Room 9-I (4 Yrs-PreK)	Four Year Olds	2	12	C	20	C	NA	NA	Music
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.:			194			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.:			248	
Total # Children this Date: 209			Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.:			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.:			248	

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	Playground A (6 Wks-4 Yrs)	92	C
Main	Playground B (3 Yrs & Up)	197	C

Comments

The purpose of this visit was to conduct a licensing study.

Plan of Improvement: Developed This Date 12/05/2023

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

Kylie Layton, Program Official

Date

Angela Williams-Jackson, 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.

Comment

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

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

Comment

Records were observed to be complete and well organized.

Facility

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 met by the center.

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 following hazards were accessible to children:

- In classroom 11-K: The changing table had an unlocked storage door with Aquaphor cream and two disinfectant spray cans.
- In classroom 11-K: There was a red and black broom and dust pan in the bathroom.
- In classroom 6-F: There were grocery bags hanging from the bathroom stall.
- In classroom 9-I: The wall in circle area had chipped paint and drywall.
- A grocery bag in the cubby between classroom 10-J and 11-K.

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: 12/5/2023

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

Not Met

Finding

591-1-1-.26(6) requires that playground equipment provide an opportunity for the children to engage in a variety of experiences and shall be age-appropriate. For example, toddlers shall not be permitted to swing in swings designed for School-age Children. The outdoor equipment shall be free of lead-based paint, sharp corners and shall be regularly maintained in such a way as to be free of rust and splinters that could pose significant safety hazard to the children. All equipment shall be arranged so as not to obstruct supervision of children. It was determined based on observation that the following playground equipment had hazards accessible to children:

- Chipped paint on the yellow bumble bee rocker, blue train, yellow school bus, and red tricycle merry-go-round.
- Rust on the chains of four swings.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will provide a variety of age-appropriate equipment that is arranged so as not to obstruct supervision of children. Staff will check the equipment daily to ensure that the equipment is free of hazards, rust and splinters.

Correction Deadline: 12/15/2023

Finding

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. It was determined based on observation that the playground had exposed tree roots near the swings on playground A and throughout playground B. On playground B there was a tree close to the yellow house with a cracked limb and dead leaves. Additionally, there was black tarp exposed on playground A near the swings and near the octagon play equipment.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will remove any litter and fix or remove hazards from the playground and will routinely monitor the playground and remove litter and hazards.

Correction Deadline: 12/5/2023

Food Service

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>

Finding

591-1-1-.15(2) requires that a signed written feeding plan for children less than one (1) year of age shall be obtained from Parent(s) and that instructions from the Parent(s) shall be updated regularly as new foods are added or other dietary changes are made. The feeding plan shall be posted in the child's assigned room and must include the child's feeding schedule, the amount of formula or breast milk to be given, instructions for the introduction of solid foods, the amount of food to be given and notation of any type(s) of commercially premixed formula which may not be used in an emergency because of food allergies. It was determined based on observation that classroom did not have evidence of a written feeding plan for three out of five children.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center Director will develop and implement a plan to obtain and post the completed feeding plan as part of the enrollment process and to have parents update the plans on a regular basis that will include center staff involved with enrollment and those working in the infant classrooms.

Correction Deadline: 12/5/2023

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

Kitchen appears clean and well organized.

Health and Hygiene

591-1-1-.10 Diapering Areas & Practices(CR)**Not Met****Comment**

Staff stated proper knowledge of diapering procedures.

Finding

591-1-1-.10(4) requires that if diapers are changed on a diaper changing surface, the surface shall be smooth, nonporous, and equipped with a guard or rails to prevent falls. Between each diaper change, the diaper changing surface shall be cleaned with a disinfectant and dried with a single-use disposable towel. It was determined on observation that classroom 7-G and classroom 8-H had tears in the diaper changing surface.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will ensure there is a smooth, nonporous changing surface that has a guard or rails for safety in each classroom that houses children wearing diapers. Center Staff will be trained and have adequate supplies to properly clean the diaper changing surface between each diaper change.

Correction Deadline: 12/5/2023

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 on observation that a teacher in classroom 2-B cleaned an infant's mouth after the infant vomited and did not clean the infant's hands.

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: 12/5/2023

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

The Provider currently does not dispense or administer medication 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 observation that the center did not have evidence that a lockdown drill and emergency plans procedures were conducted for 2023.

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: 12/10/2023

Safety

591-1-1-.05 Animals**Met****Comment**

Center does not keep animals on premises.

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

Age-appropriate discussion and/or redirection observed.

591-1-1-.13 Field Trips(CR)**N/A****Comment**

Center does not participate in field trips at this time.

591-1-1-.36 Transportation(CR)**Technical Assistance****Comment**

A current and completed inspection was observed for the vehicle (license plate number PVD1090) used in transporting children this date.

Comment

The vehicle (license plate number PVD1090) had an approved fire extinguisher and first aid kit on this date.

Comment

Transportation was observed on this date.

Technical Assistance

The consultant discussed with the director to ensure that the current transportation checklist dated October 1, 2023 is utilized.

Correction Deadline: 12/6/2023

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

The consultant discussed with the director to ensure that all cribs have a tight-fitting sheets.

Correction Deadline: 12/5/2023

Technical Assistance

The consultant discussed with the director to ensure sleeping mats are in good repair.

Correction Deadline: 12/5/2023

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

Director provided one file for employees hired since last visit.

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 records that staff number four and 11 did not have evidence that CPR and first aid were completed within 90 days of their hire date as required.

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: 1/4/2024

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 number four did not have evidence that the health and safety orientation training was completed within the first 90 days of employment as required.

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: 1/4/2024

Correction Deadline: 4/13/2023

Corrected on 12/5/2023

The citation was observed to be corrected on this date.

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

Technical Assistance

Technical Assistance

The consultant discussed with the director to ensure that there is a designated teacher/lead caregiver for each group of children.

Correction Deadline: 12/5/2023

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

Adequate supervision observed on this date.