



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: 11/7/2023 **VisitType:** Complaint Investigation Follow Up **Arrival:** 1:45 PM **Departure:** 3:15 PM

CCLC-39324

First Step Learning Academy, Inc.

750 Haskell Ward Drive Griffin, GA 30223 Spalding County
(678) 572-4440 Firststeplearningacademy@yahoo.com

Special Investigations Unit Sr. Specialist
Beverly Pollard
Phone: (770) 357-7002
Fax: (770) 357-7001
beverly.pollard@decal.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.
11/07/2023	Complaint Investigation Follow Up	Good Standing	
09/27/2023	Licensing Study	Good Standing	
04/25/2023	Licensing Study	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 Main	Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds	1	10	C	18	C	NA	NA	Nap
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 18					Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0					
Total # Children this Date: 10		Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 18			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0					

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	Playground	55	C

Comments

The purpose of this visit was to follow up to the previous visit conducted on September 27, 2023.

Plan of Improvement: No Plan Developed

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.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

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@decal.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 Complaint Investigation Follow Up:

Facility

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

Correction Deadline: 10/4/2023

Corrected on 11/7/2023

.26(8) - Corrected in visit conducted since November 7, 2023.

Correction Deadline: 10/4/2023

Corrected on 11/7/2023

.26(9) - Corrected in visit conducted since November 7, 2023.

Food Service

591-1-1-.18 Kitchen Operations Met

Correction Deadline: 10/7/2023

Corrected on 11/7/2023

.18(4) - Corrected in visit conducted since November 7, 2023.

Policies and Procedures

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

Correction Deadline: 9/29/2023

Corrected on 11/7/2023

.21(3) - Corrected in visit conducted since November 7, 2023.

Staff Records

591-1-1-.33 Staff Training Met

Correction Deadline: 10/27/2023

Corrected on 11/7/2023

.33(3) - Corrected in visit conducted since November 7, 2023.

Correction Deadline: 4/25/2023

Corrected on 11/7/2023

.33(5) - Corrected in visit conducted since November 7, 2023.