



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: 2/29/2024 **VisitType:** Complaint Investigation & Licensing Study **Arrival:** 9:50 AM **Departure:** 4:15 PM

CCLC-3329

The Preschool Academy

2800 Atlanta Highway Athens, GA 30606 Clarke County
(706) 353-8183 the.preschool.acad@gmail.com

CCS Coordinator

Margarita Collier

Phone: (770) 342-7934

Fax: (678) 891-5989

margarita.collier@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.
02/29/2024	Complaint Investigation & Licensing Study	Good Standing	
01/03/2024	Complaint Closure	Good Standing	
09/20/2023	TA Follow Up	NA	

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	1R	Infants	1	3	C	25	C	NA	NA	Free Play,Floor Play
Main	2R	One Year Olds	2	11	C	24	C	NA	NA	Circle Time,Centers
Main	3R Back	Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds and Five Year Olds	2	12	C	18	C	NA	NA	Centers
Main	3R front	Two Year Olds	2	9	C	32	C	NA	NA	Transitioning
Main	4R Back		0	0	C	13	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
Main	4R Front	Three Year Olds	2	11	C	35	C	NA	NA	Circle Time,Music
Main	5R left side		0	0	C	23	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
Main	5R right side		0	0	C	18	C	NA	NA	Not In Use

Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 188

Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0

Total # Children this Date: 46

Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 188

Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	Playground - A	44	C
Main	Playground - B	152	C
Main	Playground - C	8	C

Comments

The purpose of the visit was to conduct a licensing study visit and to follow up on the previous visit conducted on September 5, 2023.

Plan of Improvement: To Be Submitted 03/14/2024

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)

Date: 2/29/2024 **VisitType:** Complaint Investigation & Licensing **Arrival:** 9:50 AM **Departure:** 4:15 PM
Study

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The following information is associated with a Licensing Study Visit:

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

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

Met

Comment

Parent authorizations obtained/completed.

Comment

Records were observed to be complete and well organized.

Facility

591-1-1-.06 Bathrooms

Technical Assistance

Technical Assistance

Please monitor bathrooms for necessary supplies (i.e., paper towels).

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

Please be mindful to keep items that pose a hazard inaccessible to children.

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 chipped paint was observed throughout the walls and the green, orange, and yellow bookshelves located in classroom 3R Front. A ceiling tile located in classroom 5R Right side was not secured to the ceiling and drooping down. The mirror hanging above the first-left sink located in classroom 4R Front was observed to contain chipped paint at the base of the mirror. Protruding screws were further observed on the sides of the toilets located in classroom 4R Front. It was further observed that the walls on the right side of the building at the exit doors of classroom 4R Front and classroom 5R Right Side leading to playground B contained chipped paint.

Correction Deadline: 2/29/2024

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

Not Met

Comment

Playground B was temporarily closed due to the playground area being damaged due to a tree falling on the playground on Wednesday, February 28, 2024. Repairs to the Playground B's fence were being completed during the visit. No children and/or staff were observed to be present on the playground while the repairs were being completed.

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 a four and a half inch gap was observed underneath the front-left entrance of the fence located on playground A. It was further observed that the playground exits for classroom 4R Right and classroom 5R Right Side was not fully enclosed and accessible to the back of the building and around towards the center's parking lot area. Creating the potential for a child to exit the center premises,

Correction Deadline: 2/29/2024

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 two white riding horses contained chipped paint located on the back-right side of playground A and the second blue swing chain was observed to be peeling on the front-left side of playground B.

Correction Deadline: 3/10/2024

Finding

591-1-1-.26(8) requires climbing and swinging equipment to have a resilient surface beneath the equipment and the fall zone from such equipment must be adequately maintained by the Center to assure continuing resiliency. It was determined based on observation that the brown, red, and green slides did not have any resilient surface surrounding the fall zones of both slides located on playground C. Both slides were approximately four feet in height and required approximately three inches of resilient surface. The consultant further observed loose green turf throughout the grounds of playground C.

Correction Deadline: 3/10/2024

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 low hanging tree branches were observed behind the blue and red swings located on the front-right side and a protruding stick and exposed tree roots were observed on the front-left entrance of playground A creating a potential tripping hazard.

Correction Deadline: 3/14/2024

Recited on 2/29/2024

Food Service

Comment

Center menu meets USDA guidelines.

Technical Assistance

Please ensure that bottles are covered and fully labeled with child's full name.

591-1-1-.18 Kitchen Operations**Not Met****Finding**

591-1-1-.18(7) requires each Center to have a designated space for storage of food and kitchen items and that the area be kept clean and free of accumulation of dust, dirt, food particles and grease deposits. It was determined based on observation that several dead roaches were observed in the first front-right cabinet containing empty storage containers and in the second front-right cabinet containing cooking equipment in the kitchen.

Correction Deadline: 2/29/2024

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

Staff state proper knowledge of diapering procedures.

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

Proper hand washing observed throughout the center.

Comment

Staff were observed to remind children to wash hands.

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

Documentation for medication dispensing observed complete.

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**

Please make sure that all required signs are posted and up to date.

591-1-1-.29 Required Reporting**Met****Comment**

Thank you for reporting as required.

Safety

591-1-1-.05 Animals	Met
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Comment

Center does not keep animals on premises.

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

Age-appropriate discussion and/or redirection observed.

Comment

Staff were observed to maintain a positive learning environment on this date.

591-1-1-.13 Field Trips(CR)	Met
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Comment

Center does not participate in field trips at this time.

591-1-1-.36 Transportation(CR)	Met
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Comment

Center does not provide routine transportation.

Sleeping & Resting Equipment

591-1-1-.30 Safe Sleeping and Resting Requirements(CR)	Met
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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)	Technical Assistance
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Comment

The director provided six files for staff members hired since the previous visit was conducted on September 5, 2023. The consultant observed six of six newly hired staff members to have evidence of a current satisfactory comprehensive determination letter on file.

Technical Assistance

The consultant discussed the following criminal record check reminders with the provider:

New records checks will be required to be completed if a staff member experiences a six month break in service from the childcare 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. A re-check maybe needed under the following circumstances:
- When the family childcare learning home knows or reasonably should know that a provider, Employee or Provisional Employee, Resident has been arrested or charged for any covered crime.
- When there is a lapse of employment from the childcare industry that lasted for 180 calendar days (6 months) or longer.
- When the Department so requests.

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

Evidence observed of 100% of center staff certified in First Aid and CPR.

Comment

Please replace the antibacterial ointment and add a pair of tweezers in the center's first aid kit.

Finding

91-1-1-.33(5) requires that every calendar year after the first year of employment, all supervisory and caregiver Personnel, except independent contractors, Students-in-Training and volunteers shall attend ten (10) clock hours of diverse training which is task-focused in on-going health, safety and early childhood or child development related topics and which is offered by an accredited college, university or vocational program or other Department-approved source. The annual ten (10) clock hours of training shall be chosen from the following fields: child development, including discipline, guidance, nutrition, injury control and safety; health, including sanitation, disease control, cleanliness, detection and disposition of illness; child abuse and neglect, including identification and reporting, and meeting the needs of abused and/or neglected children; and business related topics, including parental communication, recordkeeping, etc.; provided however that such business related training shall be limited to no more than two (2) of the required ten (10) clock hours of training. Records of completion of such training shall be maintained, as required by these rules. It was determined based on review of records that staff member #4, date of hire May 30, 2017, did not complete the required 10-clock hours of annual training for the year 2023.

Correction Deadline: 3/30/2024

591-1-1-.31 Staff(CR)**Technical Assistance****Technical Assistance**

Per director, the center will have a new lead teacher starting employment at the center after February 29, 2024. The consultant discussed the credential requirements for all lead staff. The consultant and director further discussed that all new lead staff must enroll in an approved education program within 6 months of hire and complete degree within 18 months.

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**

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.