



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: 10/16/2023 **VisitType:** Licensing Study

Arrival: 10:55 AM

Departure: 3:30 PM

CCLC-34771

**Training & Communications Unit
Consultant**

Friendship Learning Center

Codi Parham

4952 Lanier Islands Parkway Buford, GA 30518 Hall County
 (678) 546-9002 kathie@friendshiplearning.com

Phone: (770) 357-1737
 Fax: (770) 357-1738
 codi.parham@decal.ga.gov

Joint with: Candace Gilbert

Mailing Address
 Same

Quality Rated: No

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.
10/16/2023	Licensing Study	Good Standing	
06/06/2023	Monitoring Visit	Good Standing	
03/20/2023	Incident 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	Rm. A- 6wk - 12mth	Infants	1	4	C	27	C	NA	NA	Floor Play
Main	Rm. B	One Year Olds	1	5	C	26	C	NA	NA	Diapering
Main	Rm. C - Front	GA PreK	2	17	C	29	C	NA	NA	Free Play
Main	Rm. C- Back		0	0	C	26	C	NA	NA	
Main	Rm. D	GA PreK	2	18	C	37	C	NA	NA	Free Play
Main	Rm. E	Two Year Olds and Three Year Olds	2	10	C	32	C	NA	NA	Free Play
Main	Rm. F	One Year Olds and Two Year Olds	1	8	C	23	C	NA	NA	Circle Time
Main	Rm. G	Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds	2	15	C	26	C	NA	NA	Lunch

Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 226

Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0

Total # Children this Date: 77

Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 226

Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	A	14	C

Comments

The purpose of this visit was to conduct a Licensing Study and to follow up on the previous visit on June 6, 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.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.ga.gov for more information. Free technical assistance is available!

Kasandra McDaniel, Program Official	Date
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Candace Gilbert, Child Care Services Manager	Date
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Codi Parham, Training & Communications Unit 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-.03 Activities

Technical Assistance

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.03(2) - Discussed with program to ensure current lesson plans are posted.

Correction Deadline: 10/16/2023

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)

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
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Comment

Licensed capacity observed to be routinely met by center.

591-1-1-.25 Physical Plant - Safe Environment(CR)	Met
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Correction Deadline: 6/6/2023

Corrected on 10/16/2023

.25(13) - The citation was observed to be corrected on this date as no hazards were accessible.

591-1-1-.26 Playgrounds(CR)	Not Met
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Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.26 - Discussed with the Center to monitor the playgrounds daily and remove any broken toys from the area.

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 and measurement, that the back fence of the Playground D near the "telephone tube" was observed to be detached on the bottom from the ground with some gaps measuring between two inches and five inches on this date.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The previous citation was corrected on this date as the fence on the Playground A was observed to be in good condition. The Center will repair the bottom of the fence on Playground D and monitor the bottom prongs around the perimeter of the fence.

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 when identified.

Correction Deadline: 10/16/2023

Recited on 10/16/2023

Correction Deadline: 6/7/2023

Corrected on 10/16/2023

.26(6) - The citation was observed corrected on this date as the broken equipment has been removed.

Food Service

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

Center menu meets USDA guidelines.

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

Kitchen appears clean and well organized.

Health and Hygiene

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

Proper diapering procedures observed.

591-1-1-.17 Hygiene(CR)	Met
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Correction Deadline: 6/6/2023

Corrected on 10/16/2023

.17(8) - The citation was corrected on this date as staff and children followed proper hand washing procedures.

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

Met

Comment

Documentation for medication dispensing observed complete.

Safety

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

Met

Comment

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

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)

Technical Assistance

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.30 - Discussed with the Center to ensure proper supervision during resting periods.

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-.31 Staff(CR)

Not Met

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 records that Staff # 20 had an expired credential on this date.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

A teacher/lead caregiver will be hired that meets the minimum academic requirements and qualifying work experience. While the consultant was at the Center, the requested an updated paraprofessional certificate.

Correction Deadline: 10/16/2023

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.

