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: 6/12/2024 **VisitType:** Licensing Study **Arrival:** 9:05 AM **Departure:** 3:45 PM

CCLC-1960
Thomas Day Care Center, Inc
868 North Grand Avenue, N. W. Atlanta, GA 30318 Fulton County
(404) 794-8776 thomasdaycare@att.net

Regional Consultant
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Mailing Address
868 North Grand Avenue N.W.
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Quality Rated: ★ ★

Compliance Zone Designation		
06/12/2024	Licensing Study	Good Standing
11/16/2022	Licensing Study	Good Standing
06/01/2022	Monitoring Visit	Good Standing

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.

Ratios/License Capacity

Building	Room	Age Group	Staff	Children	NC/C	Max 35 SF.	35 SF. Comp.	Max 25 SF.	25 SF. Comp.	Notes
Front Bldg	Room A-Front	Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds and Six Year Olds and Over	2	26	C	56	C	NA	NA	Centers
		Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 56			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0					
Middle Bldg	Room B-Middle	Infants and One Year Olds	2	15	NC	14	NC	NA	NA	Floor Play
Middle Bldg	Room C	Two Year Olds	1	9	C	20	C	NA	NA	Centers
		Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 34			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0					
Rear Bldg	Room D		0	0	C	7	C	NA	NA	
Rear Bldg	Room E		0	0	C	12	C	NA	NA	
Rear Bldg	Room F		0	0	C	12	C	NA	NA	
		Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 31			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0					
Total # Children this Date: 50		Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 121			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0					

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Front Bldg	Plaground B Rear	41	C

Front Bldg	Playground A	9	C

Comments
The purpose of this visit was to conduct a Licensing Study.

Plan of Improvement: Developed This Date 06/12/2024

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.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)

QUALITY RATED CHILD CARE

CAPS CHILDCARE AND PARENT SERVICES

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 a1 855-800-7747 or qualityrated@decal.ga.gov for more information. Free techincal assistance is available!

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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 **Met**

Correction Deadline: 11/16/2022

Corrected on 6/12/2024
.03(2) - The previous citation was observed to be corrected in that all classrooms had lesson plans posted.

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) **Not Met**

Finding
591-1-1-.19(1) requires a Center to provide 35 square feet of usable space per child, which will determine the Center's License capacity. It was determined based on observation that in Room B, which has a 35 square foot capacity of fourteen, there were a total of fifteen children.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
The Center will limit the number of children in this space to the licensed capacity.

Correction Deadline: 6/12/2024

591-1-1-.25 Physical Plant - Safe Environment(CR) **Not Met**

Technical Assistance
591-1-1-.25(13) - Please ensure all hazards are kept out of reach of children.

Correction Deadline: 6/12/2024

Finding
591-1-1-.25(15) requires that any outside storage or equipment area be locked, separated from the children by a barrier or enclosure, and shall not be accessible to the children. It was determined based on observation that a storage building on the route to the playground was unlocked.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
Center Staff will routinely check outside storage or equipment areas to ensure they are locked or otherwise inaccessible to children.

Correction Deadline: 6/12/2024

591-1-1-.26 Playgrounds(CR) **Not Met**

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 washed out hole of approximately one foot nine inched wide and two feet three inches deep under the fence at the far end of the rear of the building. In addition the gates to the asphalt area (previous bus storage) were open. No children were on the playground.

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: 6/14/2024

Recited on 6/12/2024

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 one of the swings was broken and hanging by only one chain.

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: 6/22/2024

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 there was no resilient surface on the playground. The climbing structures and their heights are as follows: Red structure with blue slide at the front of the playground (closest to building) - four feet nine inches, monkey bars (right side of the playground on far side of small storage building - six feet three inches, pink and yellow climbing structure - five feet one inch, pink/yellow/green play structure at the back of the playground - four feet. In addition, there was no resilient surface beneath the swings.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
The Center will add additional resilient surfacing to the fall zones where needed and check daily, adding resilient surfacing as needed to maintain adequate resiliency.

Correction Deadline: 6/22/2024

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 a grill was present on the route to the playground. In addition sharp concrete edges were observed on the steps at the far end of the rear of the building,

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: 6/12/2024

Food Service

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

Comment
Bottles were covered and fully labeled with child's full name.

Comment
Center menu meets USDA guidelines.

591-1-1-.18 Kitchen Operations	Met

Comment
Kitchen appears clean and well organized.

Health and Hygiene

591-1-1-.07 Children's Health	Not Met

Finding
591-1-1-.07(5) requires Center Staff to not permit children to wear around their necks or attach to their clothing pacifiers or other hazardous items. It was determined based on observation that two out of fifteen children had pacifiers attached to their clothing.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
The Center will instruct Staff regarding this safety requirement.

Correction Deadline: 6/12/2024

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
Staff were observed to remind children to wash hands.

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

Comment
The Provider currently does not dispense/administer medication.

Organization

591-1-1-.16 Governing Body & License **Met**

Comment
591-1-1-.16(f) - Please ensure to enter an amendment request in DECAL Koala prior to utilizing the additional room in the Middle Building.

Correction Deadline: 6/12/2024

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 a review of records that no fire drill was performed in either April or May of 2024.

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: 6/17/2024

Safety

591-1-1-.05 Animals **N/A**

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.

Correction Deadline: 6/1/2022

Corrected on 6/12/2024
.13(2) - The previous citation of no parental permission for a field trip was found to be corrected in that no field trips have been held.

591-1-1-.36 Transportation(CR) **N/A**

Comment
Center does not provide routine transportation.

Correction Deadline: 11/26/2022

Corrected on 6/12/2024
.36(3)(a-b) - The previous citation of staff not having biannual transportation training was found to be corrected in that all staff with driving duties had completed the required training.

Sleeping & Resting Equipment

591-1-1-.30 Safe Sleeping and Resting Requirements(CR) **Met**

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.

Staff Records

591-1-1-.09 Criminal Records and Comprehensive Background Checks(CR) **Not Met**

Finding
591-1-1-.09(1)(c) requires the Center to ensure that every Employee has a valid and current satisfactory Comprehensive Records Check Determination on file prior to being present at the Center while any child is present for care or before an individual age 17 or older resides in the Center. The Comprehensive Records Check Determination must have a Records Check Clearance Date that is no older than the preceding 12 months of the hire date; provided, however, if the Employee has had a lapse of employment from the child care industry that lasted for 180 days (6 months) or longer, a new satisfactory Comprehensive Records Check Determination is required. It was determined based on a review of records that staff number one, with a hire date of May 1, 2019, was present in a classroom and had an expired Comprehensive Records Check Determination and had submitted an application to the department, but not fingerprints.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
IMMEDIATE CORRECTION - The Center will routinely review all staff records to ensure that every Employee has a valid and current satisfactory Comprehensive Records Check Determination on file prior to being present at the Center while any child is present for care or before an individual age 17 or older resides in the Center. The Comprehensive Records Check Determination must have a Records Check Clearance Date that is no older than the preceding 12 months of the hire date; provided, however, if the Employee has had a lapse of employment from the child care industry that lasted for 180 days (6 months) or longer, a new satisfactory Comprehensive Records Check Determination is required. The program's owner or an officer/member of the corporation must view the A to Z Background Check video units pertaining to this records check rule and return the signed affidavit within one week from this visit date. The center will follow the information contained in the training videos to ensure the CRC rules are maintained.

Correction Deadline: 6/12/2024

Finding
591-1-1-.09(1)(l)3. requires the Center to immediately require a new Comprehensive Records Check Determination for a Director, Employee or Provisional Employee at least once every five years. It was determined based on a review of records that staff number one, with a hire date of May 1, 2019, was present in a classroom and had an expired Comprehensive Records Check Determination and had submitted an application to the department online, but not fingerprints.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
IMMEDIATE CORRECTION - The Center will routinely review all staff records to ensure that each Director, Employee and Provisional Employee has a Comprehensive Records Check Determination on file that has been issued within the past five years. The program's owner or an officer/member of the corporation must view the A to Z Background Check video units pertaining to this records check rule and return the signed affidavit within one week from this visit date. The Center will follow the information in the training videos to ensure CRC rules are maintained.

Correction Deadline: 6/12/2024

591-1-1-.09 Criminal Records Check(CR) **Met**

Comment
Criminal records checks were observed to be complete.

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

Comment
Complete first aid kits observed in center and on vehicles.

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

Correction Deadline: 12/16/2022

Corrected on 6/12/2024
.14(2) - The previous citation of no CPR training for staff was observed to be corrected in that all staff had current CPR training.

591-1-1-.24 Personnel Records **Met**

Correction Deadline: 11/21/2022

Corrected on 6/12/2024
.24(1) - The previous citation of a lack of documentation of orientation for staff was observed to be corrected in that all staff files contained a documentation of orientation.

591-1-1-.33 Staff Training **Met**

Comment
Documentation observed of required staff training.

Correction Deadline: 12/16/2022

Corrected on 6/12/2024
.33(3) - The previous citation of staff not attaining the Health and Safety Orientation training was observed to be corrected in that all staff had documentation of the required training.

Correction Deadline: 12/16/2022

Corrected on 6/12/2024
.33(5) - The previous citation of staff not attaining the required ten hours of annual training was observed to be corrected in that all staff had documentation of at least ten hours of training for 2023.

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

Comment
Staff observed to be compliant with applicable laws and regulations.

Correction Deadline: 11/16/2022

Corrected on 6/12/2024
.31(2)(b)2. - The previous citation of no credential documentation for a lead staff was observed to have been corrected in that the staff person has moved to an Assistant Teacher.

Staffing and Supervision

591-1-1-.32 Staff:Child Ratios and Group Size(CR) **Not Met**

Finding
591-1-1-.32(2) requires the Center maintain Staff:child ratios in mixed-age groups based on the age of the youngest group of children that includes more than twenty percent of the total number of children in the mixed-age group. It was determined based on observation that in Room B there were eight Infants and seven one year olds with two staff. Using the 20% rule the required ratio was one staff to six children.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
The Center will provide adequate staff when there is a mixed-age group.

Correction Deadline: 6/12/2024

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

Comment
Adequate supervision observed on this date.