



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: 1/4/2024 **VisitType:** Licensing Study **Arrival:** 9:30 AM **Departure:** 1:30 PM

CCLC-448

Stepping Stones Child Care - Free Home

11930 Cumming Highway Canton, GA 30115 Cherokee County
 (770) 844-7795 steppingstones@etcmil.com

Regional Consultant

Marquita Brown-Opeloyeru
 Phone: (706) 434-6831
 Fax: (706) 434-7709
 marquita.brown-opeloyeru@dec.al.ga.gov

Mailing Address

201 Little River Farms Trail
 Canton, GA 30115

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.
01/04/2024	Licensing Study	Good Standing	
07/31/2023	Complaint Closure	Good Standing	
06/06/2023	Monitoring Visit	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	A1- Left Hallway Left	Infants and One Year Olds	3	8	C	16	C	NA	NA	Floor Play
Main	B- Left Hallway 3rd right room	One Year Olds and Two Year Olds	2	5	C	13	C	NA	NA	Art
Main	C- Left Hallway 2nd right	One Year Olds and Two Year Olds and Three Year Olds	2	12	C	14	C	NA	NA	Centers
Main	D-Left side 1st Rt. Pre-k		0	0	C	21	C	29	C	
Main	E- 2 R Right Side Back Three's	Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds and Five Year Olds	2	13	C	32	C	NA	NA	Outside
Main	F- Front Right 1R Pre-k	Four Year Olds and Five Year Olds and Six Year Olds and Over	1	13	C	26	C	37	C	Centers
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 122					Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 141					
Total # Children this Date: 51					Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 141					

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	Playground A Infant	46	C
Main	Playground B Middle	64	C
Main	Playground C Right	83	C

Comments

The purpose of this visit was to conduct a Licensing Study and to follow up on the previous visit conducted June 6, 2023.

Consultant provided a copy of the mixed age form and a list of poisonous plant sheet with the provider on this date.

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

Tonya Barrett, Program Official

Date

Marquita Brown-Opeloyeru, 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)

Technical Assistance

Comment

Consultant discussed rotating toys to support the procedures of daily disinfecting with the provider on this date.

Comment

Consultant observed a variety of equipment and toys throughout the center.

Technical Assistance

Ensure all equipment and furniture to be free from hazardous conditions such as, but not limited to, sharp rough edges or toxic paint; and be kept clean.

Correction Deadline: 1/4/2024

591-1-1.35 Swimming Pools & Water-related Activities(CR)

N/A

Comment

Per the Director, the center does not provide swimming activities.

Children's Records

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

Met

Comment

Consultant observed parent authorizations to be obtained and completed.

Correction Deadline: 7/31/2023

Corrected on 1/4/2024

.08(1) - Previous citation corrected. Consultant observed six child files to be properly completed on this date.

Facility

591-1-1-.06 Bathrooms

Met

Comment

Please monitor bathrooms for necessary supplies throughout the day.

591-1-1-.19 License Capacity(CR)

Met

Comment

Consultant observed licensed capacity to be routinely met by the center.

591-1-1-.25 Physical Plant - Safe Environment(CR)

Met

Comment

Consultant observed the center to be clean and well maintained.

Comment

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

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

Technical Assistance

Comment

Consultant discussed maintenance of resilient surface. Please fluff and redistribute under fall zones.

Comment

Consultant observed the playground to be clean and in good repair.

Technical Assistance

Ensure to remove or repair equipment that is not anchored and regularly inspect the equipment to ensure it remains anchored.

Correction Deadline: 1/14/2024

Food Service

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

Met

Comment

Consultant observed the center menu to meet USDA guidelines.

Comment

Please ensure that infant feeding forms are updated regularly.

Correction Deadline: 7/31/2023

Corrected on 1/4/2024

.15(9) - Previous citation corrected. Consultant reviewed six child records for written statements regarding nutrition requirements and each classroom had an allergy list posted.

591-1-1-.18 Kitchen Operations

Met

Comment

Consultant observed the kitchen to be clean and well organized.

Health and Hygiene

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

Met

Comment

Consultant observed proper diapering procedures.

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

Consultant observed proper hand washing throughout the center.

Comment

Consultant observed staff to remind children to wash hands.

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

Consultant discussed proper medication documentation and procedures.

Comment

Please document N/A or none if no adverse reaction is observed.

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

Consultant observed complete emergency drills. The last drill was conducted December 18, 2023 at 9:45 a.m.

591-1-1-.27 Posted Notices	Met
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Comment

Consultant observed all required posted notices.

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

Consultant discussed reporting requirements with the provider on this date.

	Safety
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591-1-1-.05 Animals	N/A
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Comment

Center does not keep animals on premises.

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

Consultant observed staff to maintain a positive learning environment on this date.

591-1-1-.13 Field Trips(CR)	Technical Assistance
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Technical Assistance

Consultant discussed proper field trip documentation and regulations regarding checklists, name tags and permission forms with the provider on this date. Ensure every line is complete and document N/A or none if applicable.

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

Per the provider, the center only provide transportation on field trips.

Comment

The vehicle had an approved fire extinguisher and first aid kit on this date.

	Sleeping & Resting Equipment
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591-1-1-.30 Safe Sleeping and Resting Requirements(CR)	Met
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Comment

Consultant observed the correct number of mats, sheets and blankets 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)	Met
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Comment

Consultant observed criminal record checks to be complete.

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

Consultant observed criminal records checks to be complete.

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

Consultant observed complete first aid kits in the center and on vehicles.

Comment

Please be mindful of training expiration dates.

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

Consultant observed documentation of required staff training.

Comment

Consultant discussed with the provider that Health and Safety Training is required for each staff member with direct care responsibilities within 90 calendar days of their hire date.

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

Consultant discussed with the provider that all lead staff must enroll in an approved education program within 6 months of hire and complete degree within 18 months.

Staffing and Supervision

591-1-1-.32 Staff:Child Ratios and Group Size(CR)	Met
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Comment

Consultant discussed combining children of mixed ages with the provider on this date.

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

Consultant observed the center to maintain appropriate staff:child ratios.