



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: 7/18/2023 **VisitType:** Complaint Investigation & Licensing Study **Arrival:** 10:20 AM **Departure:** 3:00 PM

CCLC-497

Rising Stars Kids Academy

6224 Hillandale Dr. Lithonia, GA 30058 DeKalb County
 (770) 981-8411 elainemar_palmer@yahoo.com

Regional Consultant

Christina Jennings

Phone: ()

Fax:

christina.jennings@dec.al.ga.gov

Joint with: Kesha McNeal

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.
07/18/2023	Complaint Investigation & Licensing Study	Good Standing	
06/02/2023	Complaint Closure	Good Standing	
05/31/2023	Complaint 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	B-2nd Right rear - 3 y/o	Three Year Olds	1	8	C	13	C	NA	NA	Transitioning, Centers
Main	BLDG-III-4th Left- 3 y/o		0	0	C	21	C	30	C	
Main	3rd Left-Additon Pre-K- A	Four Year Olds	1	7	C	22	C	30	C	Lunch
Main	A-1st Right Frnt- 3 y/o	Two Year Olds	1	8	C	13	C	NA	NA	Centers
Main	C-Mid Frnt- Office		0	0	C	9	C	NA	NA	
Main	D-2nd Left Back Room- 0-12 mos	Infants and One Year Olds	1	5	C	18	C	NA	NA	Floor Play
Main	E-lower level- Downstairs-4+	Six Year Olds and Over	1	8	C	26	C	36	C	Centers
Main	F- Bldg-II-Pre-K- House		0	0	C	25	C	NA	NA	
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 147					Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 147					
Total # Children this Date: 36					Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 147					
					Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 147					

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	Large Right	62	C

Comments

The purpose of the visit was to conduct a licensing study and complaint investigation.

Plan of Improvement: Developed This Date 07/18/2023

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!

Elaine Palmer, Program Official	Date
---------------------------------	------

Kesha McNeal, CCS Coordinator	Date
-------------------------------	------

Christina Jennings, Regional Consultant	Date
---	------



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

(Findings Report)

Date: 7/18/2023 VisitType: Complaint Investigation & Licensing Study Arrival: 10:20 AM Departure: 3:00 PM

CCLC-497

Rising Stars Kids Academy

6224 Hillandale Dr. Lithonia, GA 30058 DeKalb County
(770) 981-8411 elainemar_palmer@yahoo.com

Mailing Address
Same

Regional Consultant

Christina Jennings

Phone: ()

Fax:

christina.jennings@decal.ga.gov

Joint with: Kesha McNeal

The following information is associated with a Licensing Study Visit:

Activities and Equipment

591-1-1.12 Equipment & Toys(CR)

Met

Comment

Equipment and furniture observed to be properly secured, as applicable.

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

N/A

Comment

Center does not provide swimming activities.

Children's Records

Records Reviewed: 5

Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 4

Child # 1

Not Met

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.08(3)-Address of Release Person Missing,.08(1)-Allergies and Disabilities

Child # 2

Not Met

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.08(3)-Address of Release Person Missing

Child # 4

Not Met

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.08(3)-Address of Release Person Missing

Child # 5

Not Met

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.08(3)-Address of Release Person Missing

591-1-1-.08 Children's Records**Not Met****Comment**

Parent agreements observed obtained/completed.

Comment

Parent authorizations obtained/completed.

Finding

591-1-1-.08(1) requires the Center Staff to maintain a file for each child while such child is in care and for one year after that child is no longer enrolled. In order for the file to be complete, the file shall contain the following: child's name, birth date, sex, address, living arrangement, name of school if applicable; names of both Parents, home and work addresses, and home and work telephone numbers; name(s) and addresses of the person(s) to whom the child may be released including address, telephone numbers, relationship to child and to Parent(s), and other identifying information; name(s) and telephone number(s) of person(s) to contact in emergencies when the Parent cannot be reached; name and telephone number of the child's primary source of health care; and a statement regarding known allergies, physical problems, mental health disorders, intellectual disabilities or developmental disabilities which limit the child's participation in the program. It was determined based on the consultant's review of records that four of five children enrollment records were missing the addresses of the person(s) to whom the child may be released to. It was further determined based on the consultant's review of records that one of five children enrollment records were missing the known allergies, physical problems, mental health disorders, intellectual disabilities or developmental disabilities which limit the child's participation in the program.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

Center staff will develop a plan that includes how to obtain all required information for currently enrolled children and how to ensure this is done for future enrollees as well. The plan will also include how and where to maintain files for the required amount of time. The plan will be implemented and followed.

Correction Deadline: 7/28/2023**Facility****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)**Technical Assistance****Technical Assistance**

591-1-1-.25(8) - The Provider and the Director discussed ensuring that electrical outlets were covered with a cap in all classrooms.

Correction Deadline: 7/18/2023**591-1-1-.26 Playgrounds(CR)****Not Met****Comment**

Discussed maintenance of resilient surface. Please fluff and redistribute.

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 upon observation that the fence measured three feet and 10 inches on the left side across from the swings on the left playground. It was further determined that there was a five inch gap on the middle section located across from the red tunnel on the left 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: 7/18/2023

Correction Deadline: 5/31/2023

Corrected on 7/18/2023

.26(6) - Correction of previous citation in that the Consultant did not observe hazards on the playground on this date.

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 upon observation that following playground hazards were observed:

Right Playground:

- Exposed tree roots on the backside of the playground.
- A tree stump behind the play structure on the back of the playground causing a potential tripping hazard.
- Thorny vines growing along the fence line of the back of the playground.

Left Playground:

- The white pvc pipe on the back left playground near the end of the building was missing the end caps causing a potential entrapment hazard.
- Thorny vines along the back left side near the fence line.

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: 7/18/2023

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.

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

N/A

Comment

The Provider currently does not dispense/administer medication.

Policies and Procedures

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

Program observed complete emergency drills

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****Comment**

Discussed SIDS and infant sleeping position.

Comment

The correct number of cots, mats, sheets and blankets were observed on this date. Cleaning and disinfecting of mats and cots was discussed with the director on this date.

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.30(2) - Please ensure that Center Staff still place an infant to sleep on the infant's back in a crib unless the Center has been provided a physician's written statement authorizing another sleep position for that particular infant that includes how the infant shall be placed to sleep and a time frame that the instructions are to be followed. When an infant can easily turn over from back to front and back again, Staff shall continue to put the infant to sleep initially on the infant's back but allow the infant to roll over into his or her preferred position and not re-position the infant.

Correction Deadline: 7/18/2023

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)**Met****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**

Adequate supervision observed on this date.

