



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: 4/25/2023 **VisitType:** Complaint Investigation & Monitoring Visit **Arrival:** 9:00 AM **Departure:** 2:00 PM

CCLC-32822

Little Angels Pre-School & Child Care Center

512 N Barack Obama Blvd Valdosta, GA 31601 Lowndes County
 (229) 253-0083 little_angels@bellsouth.net

CCS Coordinator

Beth Houtz

Phone: (229) 238-2130

Fax: (229) 238-2955

beth.houtz@dec.al.ga.gov

Joint with: Rena Keene

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.
04/25/2023	Complaint Investigation & Monitoring Visit	Good Standing	
04/25/2023	Incident Investigation Closure	Deficient	
04/24/2023	Complaint Closure	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
LAPS Learning Academy	Room A School Age		0	0	C	11	C	15	C	
LAPS Learning Academy	Room B Pre-K	GA PreK	2	16	C	24	C	34	C	Centers
LAPS Learning Academy	Room C Pre K	GA PreK	2	17	C	26	C	37	C	Centers
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 61			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 265							
Main	Room A - 1s	One Year Olds	3	14	C	17	C	NA	NA	Breakfast
Main	Room B - 1s	One Year Olds	2	9	C	11	C	NA	NA	Free Play
Main	Room C	Two Year Olds	2	13	C	18	C	NA	NA	Centers
Main	Room D	Two Year Olds	2	16	C	18	C	NA	NA	Centers
Main	Room E	Infants	3	12	C	13	C	NA	NA	Nap, Feeding, Floor Play
Main	Room F	Three Year Olds	3	26	C	34	C	47	C	Centers
Main	Room G	Three Year Olds	2	12	C	16	C	22	C	Outside
Main	Room H	Four Year Olds	2	16	C	24	C	33	C	Outside
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 151			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 265							

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
LAPS Learning Academy	LAPS Playground	35	C
Main	Playground A	31	C
Main	Playground B	25	C
Main	Playground C	61	C

Comments

A monitoring visit was conducted on this date. All staff records were reviewed. The center does provide transportation but does not dispense any medication.

Plan of Improvement: Developed This Date 04/25/2023

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.state.ga.us/CCS/RuleAndRegulations.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!

Chanita Irvin, Program Official

Date

Beth Houtz, Consultant

Date

Rena Keene, Consultant

Date



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(Findings Report)

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The following information is associated with a Monitoring Visit:

Activities and Equipment

591-1-1.12 Equipment & Toys(CR)

Met

Comment

A variety of equipment and toys were observed throughout the center.

Comment

Discussed rotating toys to support the procedures of daily disinfecting.

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

Met

Comment

Center does not provide swimming activities.

Evening Care

591-1-1.32 Staffing/Supervision(CR)

Met

Comment

No evening care hours provided

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)

Not Met

Technical Assistance

591-1-1.25(11) - The consultant discussed with the director about ensuring all area rugs in the classrooms are cleaned daily and laid flat with no wrinkles that could be a tripping hazard.

Correction Deadline: 5/25/2023

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.25(13) - The consultant discussed with the director about ensuring plastic grocery bags and plastic wrapping around diaper packs are not accessible to children in care.

Correction Deadline: 4/25/2023

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 the bathroom outside of classroom H had a corner that had exposed drywall and nails that were accessible to children in care. Additionally, there was an outlet plug located in classroom B that did not have a cover on the outlet box.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will have the Center and surrounding areas cleaned, make repairs where needed, and remove all debris is removed. The Center will implement a plan to keep areas clean and in good repair that includes regular monitoring.

Correction Deadline: 4/25/2023

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

Technical Assistance

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.26(4) - The consultant observed new fencing between the infant and toddler playground and new fencing on the after school playground that had bolts longer than the required two threads in length. The director contacted the fence company during the visit to have the bolts cut down to the required length.

Correction Deadline: 4/25/2023

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.26(6) - On the infant playground the consultant observed the foam covering on the toddler slide to be in need of replacement. The director stated that they would replace the foam. The consultant also observed one bolt sticking out of the slide that needed to be cut down to the two threads in length. The director stated that the bolt would be cut down that day.

Correction Deadline: 5/5/2023

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.26(7) - The consultant observed the green jeep and the blue seesaw on the after school playground not to be anchored in the ground. The director stated that the equipment was new and would be anchored by the end of the day.

Correction Deadline: 5/5/2023

Technical Assistance

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. The consultant observed a jagged concrete edge on the bottom of the porch landing on the toddler and three-year-old playgrounds. The edges were spray painted red so not to be a tripping hazard. The consultant discussed with the director about covering the jagged edges with a PVC pipe, border, or other material so that it is not a potential hazard to children in care.

Correction Deadline: 4/25/2023

Food Service

591-1-1-.18 Kitchen Operations

Technical Assistance

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.18(8) - The consultant observed an open box of Honey Maid graham crackers in classroom B. The box had exposed crackers inside of it that were not in an air tight storage container or packaging as required.

Health and Hygiene

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

Not Met

Finding

591-1-1-.10(3) requires Center Staff to change diapers in the child's own crib or on a diaper changing surface that is used for no purposes other than changing diapers and other clothing in each room where infants or any other children wearing diapers are served. It was determined based on observation that the changing pad in classroom A had a tear in the corner and the edge was split in two places exposing the inside foam.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will ensure Staff are trained regarding specifically where to change diapers and clothing in each room housing children who are wearing diapers.

Correction Deadline: 4/25/2023

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

Met

Comment

Proper hand washing observed throughout the center.

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

Met

Comment

The Provider currently does not dispense/administer medication.

Safety

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

Met

Comment

Age-appropriate discussion and/or redirection observed.

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

Not Met

Correction Deadline: 5/26/2022

Corrected on 4/25/2023

.36(4)(b) - This citation was observed to be corrected on this date. The center has purchased new buses and no longer uses the previously cited vehicle.

Finding

591-1-1-.36(7)(c) 3. requires that the driver or other designated person document in writing the time of arrival and departure each time the vehicle departs from the Center, is loaded or unloaded at each school and when the vehicle returns to the Center; each time the vehicle departs from the Center, arrives at the location where any child is picked up or dropped off and when the vehicle returns to the Center; each time the vehicle leaves the Center, arrives at a field trip destination, leaves a field trip destination, and returns to the Center. It was determined based on a review of records that on the Sallas Mahone Elementary School PM transportation form for the week of April 17 -21, 2023, there was no departure time, arrival time, load/unload time documented for Monday, April 17, 2023. Additionally, on April 21, 2023, on the PM transportation form for S.L. Mason Elementary School there was no return time documented as required.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will ensure that each time of arrival and departure is documented by the driver or designated person with training, review and monitoring.

Correction Deadline: 4/26/2023

Finding

591-1-1-.36(7)(d)1. requires that the first check be conducted immediately upon unloading the last child at any location including, but not limited to, a field trip destination, arrival at the Center, and the last stop during transportation to home or school. The responsible person on the vehicle shall physically walk through the entire vehicle; visually inspect all seat surfaces, under all seats and in all compartments or recesses in the vehicle's interior; sign the passenger transportation checklist (s), indicating all of the children have exited the vehicle; and give the passenger transportation checklist(s) to the second designated Staff person. It was determined based on a review of records that on the Sallas Mahone Elementary School PM transportation checklist for the week of April 17 - 21, 2023, there was no first check signature on the passenger transportation checklist indicating all of the children had exited the vehicle documented for Monday, April 17, 2023.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will train Staff who are or may be involved in transporting children in how to thoroughly inspect a vehicle and properly complete transportation documentation. The Center will review and monitor.

Correction Deadline: 4/26/2023

Finding

591-1-1-.36(7)(d)2. requires that the second designated Staff person conduct a check of the vehicle immediately upon the completion of the first check of the vehicle. The responsible person shall physically walk through the entire vehicle; visually inspect all seat surfaces, under all seats and in all compartments or recesses in the vehicle's interior; and sign the passenger transportation checklist(s), indicating all of the children have exited the vehicle. There shall be continuous watchful oversight of the vehicle between the first check and second check. It was determined based on a review of records that on the Sallas Mahone Elementary School PM transportation checklist for the week of April 17 - 21, 2023, there was no second check signature on the passenger transportation checklist indicating the first check was completed and all of the children had exited the vehicle documented for Monday, April 17, 2023.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will train Staff who are or may be involved in transporting children in how to thoroughly inspect a vehicle and properly complete transportation documentation. The Center will review and monitor.

Correction Deadline: 4/25/2023

Sleeping & Resting Equipment

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

Discussed SIDS and infant sleeping position.

Comment

Pleasant naptime environment observed.

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.

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.30(4) - The consultant discussed with the director about ensuring all cots and rest mats stored in the classroom are covered to prevent the spread of germs when not in use.

Correction Deadline: 4/25/2023

Staff Records

Finding

591-1-1-.09(1)(a) requires that a Center ensure that every actual and potential Director, Employee and Provisional Employee of a Child Care Learning Center submit both a Records Check Application to the Department and Fingerprints to an authorized fingerprinting site. It was determined based on a review of records that staff #11 observed in classroom E caring for infants, had not submitted a comprehensive record check application to the Department and Fingerprints to an authorized fingerprinting site as required.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

IMMEDIATE CORRECTION - The Center will monitor to ensure that every actual and potential Director, Employee and Provisional Employee of a Child Care Learning Center submit both a Records Check Application to the Department and Fingerprints to an authorized fingerprinting site as 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 monitor to ensure the CRC rules are maintained.

Correction Deadline: 4/25/2023

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 #11 observed in classroom E caring for infants, did not have a satisfactory comprehensive record check letter on file prior to being employed and present at the center as required.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

IMMEDIATE CORRECTION - The Center will monitor 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 monitor to ensure the CRC rules are maintained.

Correction Deadline: 4/25/2023

591-1-1-.14 First Aid & CPR**Technical Assistance****Technical Assistance**

591-1-1-.14(3) - The consultant observed three new vehicles being used for transportation. Upon inspection two of the three vehicles did not have first aid kit. The center director had first aid kits in the office and were able to put them in the vehicles during the visit.

Correction Deadline: 5/5/2023

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

Correction Deadline: 8/4/2022

Corrected on 4/25/2023

.31(2)(b)2. - This citation was observed to be corrected on this date. Three of the five employees are no longer employed and two of the five employees have enrolled in a CDA program and have completed the 120 hours of training.

Staffing and Supervision

Comment

Center observed to maintain appropriate staff:child ratios.

The following information is associated with a Complaint Investigation Visit:

Staffing and Supervision

Correction Deadline: 5/1/2023

Corrected on 4/25/2023

.32(7) - This citation was observed to be corrected on this date. Appropriate supervision was observed throughout the center on this date.