



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: 7/29/2024 **VisitType:** Licensing Study

Arrival: 9:45 AM **Departure:** 1:10 PM

CCLC-51917

Smart Start Pre-School Learning Academy

505 Bartow Street Thomasville, GA 31792 Thomas County
(229) 225-1122 startsmart.leapintolearning@yahoo.com

Regional Consultant

Angela Williams-Jackson

Phone: (404) 710-3984

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angela.williams-jackson@decal.ga.gov

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.
07/29/2024	Licensing Study	Good Standing	
02/07/2024	Licensing Study	Good Standing	
10/30/2023	POI 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	Room A - Infants	Infants and One Year Olds	2	7	C	14	C	NA	NA	Floor Play, Feeding
Main	Room B - 1 to 2 yr olds		0	0	C	13	C	NA	NA	
Main	Room C - Older 2's	One Year Olds and Two Year Olds and Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds	2	15	C	20	C	NA	NA	Circle Time
Main	Room D - 5 to 12 yr olds		0	0	C	19	C	26	C	
Main	Room E - 3 to 4 yr olds	Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds and Six Year Olds and Over	1	13	C	20	C	27	C	Free Play
			Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 86			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0				
Total # Children this Date: 35			Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 86			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0				

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	Playground A	21	C
Main	Playground B	48	C

Comments

The purpose of this visit was to conduct a licensing study.

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.decgal.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@decgal.ga.gov for more information. Free technical 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

591-1-1.12 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

Records Reviewed: 5

Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 2

Child # 1

Not Met

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.08(1)-Emergency Contact information Missing

Child # 3

Not Met

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.08(1)-Emergency Contact information Missing

591-1-1.08 Children's Records

Not Met

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 a review of records that two out five children's records were missing the address of whom the child may be released to.

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: 7/29/2024

Evening Care**591-1-1-.32 Staffing/Supervision(CR)****Met****Comment**

No evening care hours provided at this time.

Facility**591-1-1-.06 Bathrooms****Not Met****Finding**

591-1-1-.06(7) requires Center Staff to ensure bathrooms are cleaned daily with a disinfectant. It was determined based on observation that the children's bathroom near the cubbies in classroom E had stains on the floor around the toilet and it smelled of urine.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will develop and implement a plan to ensure that bathrooms are cleaned and disinfected daily and that this is monitored daily.

Correction Deadline: 7/29/2024

591-1-1-.19 License Capacity(CR)**Met****Comment**

Licensed capacity observed to be routinely met by the center.

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

591-1-1-.25(13) requires that potentially hazardous equipment, materials and supplies be stored in a locked area inaccessible to children. It was determined based on observation that the following hazards were accessible to children:

- Classroom C: Had hand sanitizer on top of the sink that the children use to wash their hands. There were six packs of baby wipes and diapers in plastic packaging on a low shelf under the changing table.
- Classroom E: Had four cubbies with grocery bags inside and a pack of foam cups inside plastic packaging on top of the cubby. There was a grocery bag on the shelf in the art area and a broom and dustpan near the cubby and the children's bathroom door.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will identify all hazardous items and keep them in a locked area inaccessible to children. The Center will inform all Staff about hazardous items and the safe storage of those items.

Correction Deadline: 7/29/2024

Recited on 7/29/2024

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 following were not in good repair and posed a hazards to children:

- Classroom B: A hole in the drywall behind the classroom door.
- Classroom C: The tissue holder inside the children's bathroom was broken and there was a hole in the drywall around the tissue holder with exposed screws.
- Classroom E: The handle to the door that leads to the playground was broken. There was a hole in the drywall and an exposed screw in the circle area underneath the alphabet.

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: 7/29/2024

591-1-1-.26 Playgrounds(CR)**Not Met****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 the following hazards were found on the playground accessible to children:

- Playground A: A limb laying on top of the blue, red, green, and yellow seesaw and tall grass. There was a water fountain with cracks, peeling paint and rust.
- Playground B: A red chair with a crack and tall grass.

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: 7/29/2024

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

CACFP Meal Pattern Requirements effective October 1, 2017 will be implemented October 1, 2018: 3

Components for breakfast: Grains, Vegetables, Fruits or both, Milk

5 Components for lunch – Grains, Meat/Meat alternates, Fruits, Vegetable, and Milk OR Grains, Meat/Meat alternates, 2 different types of vegetables, and Milk

2 of 5 Components for snack

Provided Updated CACFP Infant Meal pattern and Child/Adult Meal pattern flyers.

The Crediting Handbook for the CACFP can be located on DECAL and USDA's website:

DECAL

<http://dec.al.ga.gov/CACFP/Handbook.aspx>

USDA

<http://www.fns.usda.gov/cacfp/cacfp-handbooks>

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

Kitchen appears clean and well organized.

Health and Hygiene**591-1-1-.10 Diapering Areas & Practices(CR)****Met****Comment**

Staff stated 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 or administer medication.

Policies and Procedures

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

Program observed complete emergency drills.

Safety

591-1-1-.05 Animals**Met****Comment**

Center does not keep animals on the premises.

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

Please be mindful of voice tone in redirecting children.

591-1-1-.13 Field Trips(CR)**N/A****Comment**

Center does not participate in field trips at this time.

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

Center does not provide routine transportation.

Sleeping & Resting Equipment

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

Discussed SIDS and infant sleeping position.

Staff Records

591-1-1-.09 Criminal Records and Comprehensive Background Checks(CR)**Met****Comment**

Director provided three files for employees hired since the last visit.

591-1-1-.14 First Aid & CPR**Not Met****Finding**

591-1-1-.14(2) requires a Staff member who is trained in CPR and first aid to be on the premises and on any field trip whenever any child is present. In addition, Staff who provide direct care to children must satisfactorily obtain certification in first aid and CPR by December 29, 2016 if employed prior to September 30, 2016 and within 90 days of their hire date if employed after September 30, 2016. It was determined based on a review of records that staff #10, Staff #11, and staff #12 did not have evidence of current CPR and first aid training as required.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will develop a schedule to ensure there is always a staff person with current first aid and CPR training present and will develop and implement a plan to ensure all staff members have satisfactorily completed first aid and CPR training by the specified date.

Correction Deadline: 8/28/2024

Finding

591-1-1-.33(3) requires each Staff member with direct care responsibilities to complete health and safety orientation training within the first 90 days of employment. The state-approved training hours obtained will count toward required first year training hours. The training must address the following health and safety topics: prevention and control of infectious diseases (including immunizations); prevention of sudden infant death syndrome and use of safe sleeping practices; administration of medication, consistent with standards for parental consent; prevention of and response to emergencies due to food and allergic reactions; building and physical premises safety, including identification of and protection from hazards that can cause bodily injury such as electrical hazards, bodies of water, and vehicular traffic; prevention of shaken baby syndrome, abusive head trauma and child maltreatment; emergency preparedness and response planning for emergencies resulting from a natural disaster or a human-caused event (such as violence at a child care facility); handling and storage of hazardous materials and the appropriate disposal of bio contaminants; precautions in transporting children; recognition and reporting of child abuse and neglect; and child development. It was determined based on a review of records that staff # 10, staff #11, and staff #12 did not have evidence of completion of health and safety orientation training within the first 90 days of employment as required.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will develop and implement a plan to schedule and track this training for all employees based on their hire dates and will ensure that the training includes all required components as required.

Correction Deadline: 8/28/2024

Finding

591-1-1-.33(4) requires within the first year of employment, the Director and person with primary responsibility for food preparation shall have four clock hours of training in food nutrition planning, preparation, serving, proper dish washing and food storage. It was determined based on a review of records that staff # 2 and staff #3 did not have evidence of completion of four clock hours of training in food nutrition planning, preparation, serving, proper dish washing and food storage as required.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will schedule food preparation training, as required, and follow up to ensure the training is completed.

Correction Deadline: 8/12/2024

Recited on 7/29/2024

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)

Not Met

Finding

591-1-1-.32(4) requires that children under three years old be housed in separate physical areas from older children and cannot be mixed with older children except at specified times and circumstances. It was determined based on observation that classroom C had two three-year-old children, nine four-year-old children with two one-year-old children and three two-year-old children together in the classroom.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will maintain separation of these children under three years old.

Correction Deadline: 7/29/2024

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

Met

Comment

Adequate supervision observed on this date.