



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: 6/6/2023 **VisitType:** Monitoring Visit **Arrival:** 10:15 AM **Departure:** 3:45 PM

CCLC-34771

Friendship Learning Center

4952 Lanier Islands Parkway Buford, GA 30518 Hall County
 (678) 546-9002 kathie@friendshiplearning.com

Process & QI Unit Consultant

Melyn Smith

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Joint with: Melak Tessema

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.
06/06/2023	Monitoring Visit	Good Standing	
03/20/2023	Incident Investigation & Follow Up	Good Standing	
06/16/2022	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	Rm. A- 6wk - 12mth	Infants	1	6	C	27	C	NA	NA	Nap,Floor Play
Main	Rm. B	One Year Olds	1	4	C	26	C	NA	NA	Diapering,Transitioning,Free Play
Main	Rm. C - Front	Five Year Olds	2	6	C	29	C	NA	NA	Lunch,Transitioning,Field Trip
Main	Rm. C- Back	Six Year Olds and Over	2	16	C	26	C	NA	NA	Lunch,Transitioning,Field Trip
Main	Rm. D		0	0	C	37	C	NA	NA	
Main	Rm. E	Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds	2	14	C	32	C	NA	NA	Art,Centers,Nap
Main	Rm. F	One Year Olds and Two Year Olds	2	7	C	23	C	NA	NA	Circle Time,Lunch,Nap
Main	Rm. G	Two Year Olds and Three Year Olds	2	13	C	26	C	NA	NA	Transitioning,Centers,Lunch
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 226					Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0					
Total # Children this Date: 66					Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 226					
					Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0					

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	A	14	C

Comments

The purpose of this visit was to conduct a monitoring visit and to follow up on the previous visit.

Plan of Improvement: Developed This Date 06/06/2023

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/Regulations.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.state.ga.us for more information. Free technical assistance is available!

Kasandra McDaniel, Program Official

Date

Melak Tessema, Region Consultant

Date

Melyn Smith, Process & QI Unit 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.

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.12(2) - The Consultant discussed with the Director and Owner to please ensure the vinyl furniture was free of tears and the shelves were free of chips and sharp edges on this date.

Correction Deadline: 6/6/2023

591-1-1-.35 Swimming Pools & Water-related Activities(CR)

N/A

Comment

Center does not provide swimming activities.

Facility

591-1-1-.06 Bathrooms

Technical Assistance

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.06(7) - The Consultant discussed with the Director and Owner to please ensure the ventilation or exhaust fans were free of dust in the bathrooms on this date.

Correction Deadline: 6/6/2023

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

Met

Comment

Licensed capacity observed to be routinely met by center.

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 potential hazards were observed to be accessible to children on this date:

- Room C - Front: An extension cord and charging cord were observed accessible to children near the computer. Three plastic bags were observed accessible to children on shelves on this date. A broom and dust pan were observed accessible to children near the sink on this date. A staff bag was observed accessible to children on top of the mat storage equipment. A locker containing adult scissors, a tape dispenser with a serrated edge, and staples were observed accessible to children in a locker on this date.
- Room C - Back: A broom and dust pan were observed accessible to children in a corner near the handwashing sink. Five bottles of sunscreen and a plastic bag were observed accessible to children in children's cubbies on this date. An unsecured storage closet was observed to contain plastic bags, a bottle of Isopropyl Alcohol, 15 bottles of sunscreen, and 2 bottles of Repel Insect Spray on this date. A shelf by the back door to the playground was observed to contain a box of gloves, plastic bags, , adult scissors, and a small bottle of hand sanitizer. A backpack located on the bottom shelf near the back door to the playground accessible to children was observed to contain Aquaphor Healing Ointment, a box of Alcohol Prep Pads, and a plastic bag on this date. A charging cord was observed accessible to children near the back door to the playground on this date.
- Room E - Three adult scissors and a stapler were observed accessible to children in a drawer on top of the mat storage equipment. Four children's lockers accessible to children were observed to contain plastic bags.
- Room F - Plastic bags and containers of baby diapering wipes were observed accessible to children in the bathroom on this date. Gloves and 10 bottles of sunscreen were observed accessible to children on the white shelf near near the diaper changing table on this date.

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: 6/6/2023

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 the back fence of the Back Left Playground was observed to be detached on the bottom from the ground with some gaps measuring between two inches and five inches on this date.

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: 6/27/2023

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 a blue plastic couch was observed to have a crack and the handles were observed to be broken off the bouncy zebra on the Front Left Playground. It was further determined that the seat was observed to be broken on one red tricycle and the handle observed broken on the Rubbermaid container storing the helmets and balls on this date on the Back Left Playground.

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.

Food Service

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

Technical Assistance

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.15(7) - The Consultant discussed with the Director and Owner that foods associated with young children's choking incidents, such as, but not limited to, peanuts, hot dogs, raw carrots, popcorn, fish with bones, cheese cubes, grapes and any other food that is of similar shape and size of the trachea/windpipe shall not be served to the children less than four (4) years of age. Children older than four (4) years of age may be served these foods provided that the foods are cut in such a way as to minimize choking. Food shall not be accessible or served to children until it has been chopped, diced, cut or mashed and is appropriate for each child's age and individual eating, chewing and swallowing ability.

Correction Deadline: 6/6/2023

Health and Hygiene

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

Met

Comment

Proper diapering procedures observed.

Comment

Staff state proper knowledge of diapering procedures.

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

Not Met

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.17(7) - The Consultant discussed with the Director and Owner to please ensure that children were washing their hands using warm running water and soap, lathering for a minimum of 20 seconds.

Correction Deadline: 6/6/2023

Finding

591-1-1-.17(8) requires staff to wash their hands with liquid soap and warm running water upon arrival for the day, when moving from one child care group to another, upon re-entering the child care area after outside play, before and after diapering each child, dispensing medication, applying topical medications, handling and preparing food, eating, drinking, preparing bottles, feeding each child, assisting children with eating and drinking, after toileting or assisting children with toileting, using tobacco products, handling garbage and organic waste, touching animals or pets, handling bodily fluids and after contamination by any means. It was determined, based on observation, that the staff in Room B was observed to not wash their hands after diapering one child and before diapering another child on this date.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will ensure liquid soap and warm running water are available for handwashing, train Staff on the handwashing requirements, review the requirements with Staff periodically, and monitor handwashing.

Correction Deadline: 6/6/2023

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

Met

Comment

Documentation for medication dispensing observed complete.

Safety

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

Met

Comment

Staff were observed to maintain a positive learning environment on this date.

591-1-1-.13 Field Trips(CR)**Met****Comment**

Field trip documentation observed to be complete to Buford United Methodist Church on this date.

591-1-1-.36 Transportation(CR)**Technical Assistance****Comment**

A current/completed inspection was observed for all vehicles used in transporting children this date.

Comment

The Consultant observed first and second checks of the vehicles upon children's return to the center at the end of the field trip taken on this date to Buford United Methodist Church.

Comment

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

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.36(7)(a) - The Consultant discussed with the Director and Owner to please ensure the vehicle tag numbers were documented on the Field Trip forms and the Transportation Checklists on this date.

Correction Deadline: 6/7/2023

Sleeping & Resting Equipment

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

Pleasant naptime environment observed.

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-.14 First Aid & CPR**Met****Comment**

Please be mindful of training expiration dates.

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)**Technical Assistance****Comment**

Adequate supervision observed on this date.

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.32(7) - The Consultant discussed with the Director and Owner to please ensure staff were attentive and participating with all children during mealtimes and shall be seated within an arm's length away from children thirty-six (36) months of age and younger on this date.

Correction Deadline: 6/6/2023