



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: 8/18/2023 **VisitType:** Complaint Closure

CCLC-53587

Growing Gardens Learning Center

815 US Highway 27 Cataula, GA 31804 Harris County
(762) 524-7651 gglcdirector@gmail.com

Regional Consultant

Laura Swann

Phone: (706) 855-3454

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laura.swann@decals.ga.gov

Mailing Address

2510 mckee rd
upatoi, GA 31829-0000

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.
08/18/2023	Complaint Closure	Good Standing	
08/08/2023	Complaint Investigation & Monitoring Visit	Good Standing	
04/26/2023	Complaint Investigation Follow Up	Good Standing	

Comments

Complaint in-progress on August 8, 2023.

Advisement of Potential for Repeated Rule Violations during Pending Investigations

This report shall serve as official notice of potential rule violations. These potential rule violations have been detailed in this report and discussed with you by the consultant. The department shall conduct a thorough investigation to determine if in fact the alleged rule violation(s) should or should not be substantiated. Please be aware that the investigation may take some time to be finalized to ensure fairness and accuracy. During this investigation period, any violations of an identical rule or rules will require the department to treat any and all substantiated rule violations identified in the investigation as repeated rule violation(s).

Further, from time to time the department discovers additional rule violations during the course of an investigation. If there are new rule violation(s), your consultant shall inform you of the violation(s) as soon as possible. However, as stated above, any violations of identical rule(s) will require the department to treat any and all additional rule violations identified in the investigation as repeated rule violations.

All rule violations found in relation to a complaint or incident investigation will be associated with the date the investigation was closed.



Please refer to the website, <http://www.decals.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

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)

I have read and understand the Rules and Regulations for Child Care Learning Centers, 591-1-1. I acknowledge that the items noted in this report have been discussed with me and I have agreed to a Plan of Improvement (POI) as indicated in this report. I understand that correction of these deficiencies, while required, will not necessarily prevent DECAL from taking adverse action against this facility. I understand that if I disagree with any of the deficiencies cited, I have the right to refute them on this report or any other form that I choose to send to Child Care Services.

Camelle Tasby, Program Official

Date

Laura Swann ,Regional Consultant

Date



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Summary Report

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The following information is associated with a Complaint Closure:

Activities and Equipment

591-1-1-.03 Activities

Not Met

Finding Associated with Complaint

591-1-1-.03(9) requires center staff to refrain from engaging in, or allowing children or other adults to engage in, activities that could be detrimental to a child's health or well-being, such as but not limited to, horse play, rough play, wrestling, and picking up a child in a manner that could cause injury. It was determined based on an investigation that on July 27, 2023, three staff members had engaged in a verbal altercation with yelling inside the center and in the parking lot when a staff member would not perform their required duties.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will review requirements with Staff to ensure that appropriate activities are conducted with children.

Correction Deadline: 8/19/2023

Food Service

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

Not Met

Finding Associated with Complaint

591-1-1-.15(1) requires that meals and snacks are served, with serving sizes dependent upon the age of the child, that meet nutritional guidelines as established by the United States Department of Agriculture Child and Adult Care Food Program. Meals and snacks shall be varied daily, and additional servings of nutritious food shall be offered to children over and above the required daily minimum, if not contraindicated by special diets. It was determined based on an investigation that on July 27, 2023, children in the toddler B classroom were only served pizza rolls and broccoli for lunch when another vegetable or fruit should have been served.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

Center Staff will prepare menus and/or serve foods that meet the USDA guidelines and will offer and serve seconds to children.

Correction Deadline: 8/18/2023

Finding Associated with Complaint

591-1-1-.15(2)(a) requires Center Personnel to hold and feed infants less than six months of age and older children who cannot hold their own bottles or sit alone. Baby bottles shall never be propped; the infant's head shall be elevated while feeding. It was determined based on an investigation that staff had propped up a two-month-old infant's bottle while they were in a bouncy seat when the infant should have been fed while being held.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will train Staff to hold infants less than six months old or who can not hold their own bottle, to never prop bottles and to elevate infant's heads during feeding. The director will monitor Staff to ensure appropriate feeding procedures are followed.

Correction Deadline: 8/18/2023

Health and Hygiene**591-1-1-.17 Hygiene(CR)****Not Met****Finding Associated with Complaint**

591-1-1-.17(2) requires that Personnel, to the extent possible, keep children clean, dry and comfortable. It was determined based on an investigation that included staff written statements and staff interviews that a two-month-old infant was not kept clean, dry, and comfortable when they were not held and fed when the infant's bottle was propped while they were in a bouncy seat. The bottle had fallen from the propped location into the bouncy seat and had soaked the child's clothing and the seat. The infant was observed sitting in the seat screaming with no staff intervention was substantiated.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will train staff, review regularly, and monitor.

Correction Deadline: 8/18/2023

Policies and Procedures**591-1-1-.21 Operational Policies & Procedures****Not Met****Finding Associated with Complaint**

591-1-1-.21(1)(a-o) requires the Center to establish and implement written policies and procedures that describe the Center's operations as follows: a) services to be provided, ages of children served, days and times of operations and days and times closed; b) enrollment and admission requirements specifying Parents' responsibilities for supplying needed information and escorting the child to and from the Center; c) a fee and payment schedule with standard fees, fees related to absences and vacations and other fees such as for transportation and late fees; d) Center's transportation and field trip services; e) administration of medication and Parent notification of adverse reactions to prescribed medication; f) Parental notification in cases of illness/injury and exclusion of sick children; g) Parental notification when a notifiable communicable disease is present; h) handling of medical emergencies; i) meals and snacks served, including guidelines for food brought from child's home; j) access by the Parents to all Center areas used by the child; k) child abuse reporting law requirements; l) behavior management and discipline actions used; m) nondiscrimination statement; n) Center sponsored religious and cultural activities; and o) diapering, toilet training and feeding procedures. It was determined based on an investigation that the center had not followed their policies and procedures when children under two-years-old had been allowed to watch television when their policies stated children under two-years-old were not allowed to watch television.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will revise their policies and procedures to include all required information and update as needed.

Correction Deadline: 8/18/2023