



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: 12/28/2023 VisitType: Monitoring Visit

Arrival: 9:50 AM

Departure: 2:00 PM

CCLC-54295

Cozy Childcare & Learning Center

2731 Tobacco Rd. Hephzibah, GA 30815 Richmond County
(706) 793-5550 cozylearningcenter@gmail.com

Regional Consultant

Ashley Richards

Phone: (229) 584-1482

Fax:

ashley.richards@decal.ga.gov

Mailing Address

8840 Old Southwick Pass
Alpharetta, GA 30022

Quality Rated: No

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.
12/28/2023	Monitoring Visit	Good Standing	
10/23/2023	Complaint Closure	Good Standing	
10/11/2023	Complaint Investigation & 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	A-1st Left (1's&2's)	One Year Olds and Two Year Olds	1	5	C	24	C	NA	NA	Transitioning
Main	B-2nd Left (Preschool)	Three Year Olds	1	9	C	36	C	NA	NA	Centers
Main	C- Back (PreK-Schoolage)		0	0	C	38	C	NA	NA	
Main	D-2nd Right (1's)	Four Year Olds and Five Year Olds and Six Year Olds and Over	1	7	C	31	C	NA	NA	Art
Main	E-1st Right (Infants)	Infants	1	2	C	14	C	NA	NA	Free Play,Floor Play
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.:			143		Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0					
Total # Children this Date: 23			Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.:		Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0					

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	PG- Left Playgd- 3yrs-12yrs	91	C
Main	PG- Right Playgd- 6wks-2yrs	23	C

Comments

The purpose of this visit was to conduct a Monitoring Visit.

Plan of Improvement: Developed This Date 12/28/2023

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.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.ga.gov for more information. Free technical assistance is available!

Anne Thomas, Program Official

Date

Ashley Richards, Regional 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)

Technical Assistance

Technical Assistance

591-1-1.12 - Please ensure that equipment and toys are accessible to children in order to enhance free choice and variety.

Comment

Discussed rotating toys to support the procedures of daily disinfecting.

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) - Please ensure that Center Staff clean and maintain children bathrooms with disinfectant daily.

Correction Deadline: 12/28/2023

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)

Met

Comment

No hazards observed accessible to children on this date.

591-1-1-.26 Playgrounds(CR)**Not Met****Technical Assistance**

591-1-1-.26 - Please ensure that any resilient surfacing under rotating devices are spread out enough that children can operate the equipment independently and without difficulty.

Correction Deadline: 11/10/2023**Corrected on 12/28/2023**

.26(4) - Correction of previous citation in that the last section of fencing at the front left of the Playground - Left Playground - 3yrs-12yrs measured at four feet on this date. It was further determined that the back right corner and right back corner of the playground fencing had no gap or potential entrapment hazards on this date.

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 the following playground hazards were observed on Playground - Left Playground - 3yrs-12yrs on this date:

- Two green mini trampolines were accessible to children.
- The stationary equipment had plastic coating that was torn away from the metal sides of the steps which caused sharp openings and ends.
- Red wooden beams located on the back middle and back left sides of the playground had sharp, splintering, and protruding ends.

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.

Correction Deadline: 2/7/2024**Correction Deadline: 11/10/2023****Corrected on 12/28/2023**

.26(9) - Correction of previous citation in that there were no active ant beds on Playground - Left Playground - 3yrs-12yrs on this date. It was further determined that the concrete at the middle right side of Playground - Left Playground - 3yrs-12yrs was flush with the ground and free of sharp exposed edges.

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.

Comment

Staff were observed to remind children to wash hands.

591-1-1-.20 Medications(CR)**Technical Assistance****Technical Assistance**

591-1-1-.20 - The Consultant, Director, and Assistant Director discussed proper medication documentation and procedures on this date.

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

Age-appropriate discussion and/or redirection observed.

591-1-1-.36 Transportation(CR)**Not Met****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 Center Staff failed to document the second check of the vehicle for the following routes:

Diamond Lakes Elementary School

- No second check was conducted from December 11, 2023 to December 15, 2023.

Deer Chase Elementary School

- No second check was conducted from December 18, 2023 to December 22, 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: 12/28/2023

Sleeping & Resting Equipment**591-1-1-.30 Safe Sleeping and Resting Requirements(CR)****Not Met****Comment**

Discussed SIDS and infant sleeping position.

Finding

591-1-1-.30(2) requires the Center to provide a safe sleep environment in accordance with American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) and American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) recommendations as listed in these rules for all infants. Center Staff shall 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. Sleepers, sleep sacks and wearable blankets that fit according to the commercial manufacturer's guidelines and will not slide up around the infant's face may be used when necessary for the comfort of the sleeping infant. Swaddling shall not be used unless the Center has been provided a physician's written statement authorizing its use for a particular infant that includes instructions and a time frame for swaddling the infant. Center Staff shall not place objects or allow objects to be placed in or on the crib with an infant such as but not limited to toys, pillows, quilts, comforters, bumper pads, sheepskins, stuffed toys, or other soft items and shall not attach objects or allow objects to be attached to a crib with a sleeping infant, such as, but not limited to, crib gyms, toys, mirrors and mobiles. It was determined based on observation that an infant in room Main E - 1st Right was asleep in their crib with a blanket placed on top of them.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will take all steps necessary to provide a safe sleep environment for infants as listed in these rules; will train Staff to follow these rules; and will monitor for compliance.

Correction Deadline: 12/28/2023

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.30(4) - Please ensure that mats and/or cots that are stored are covered while not in use.

Correction Deadline: 12/28/2023

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.

Correction Deadline: 10/23/2023

Corrected on 12/28/2023

.32(4) - Correction of previous citation in that mixed age group rules and regulations were compliant on this date.

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

Met

Comment

Adequate supervision observed on this date.