



**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:** 11/13/2024 **VisitType:** Licensing Study

**Arrival:** 12:40 PM **Departure:** 2:45 PM

**CCLC-419**

**Ramah Junior Academy**

3400 Florance St. Savannah, GA 31405 Chatham County  
(912) 233-3101 Pblackwell@ramahsdaacademy.org

Regional Consultant

Rebecca Owsley

Phone: (229) 238-2130

Fax:

rebecca.owsley@decal.ga.gov

**Mailing Address**

Same

**Quality Rated:** No

| <u>Compliance Zone Designation</u> |                  |               | <b>Compliance Zone Designation</b> - 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.<br><br><b>Good Standing</b> - Program is demonstrating an acceptable level of performance in meeting the rules.<br><b>Support</b> - Program performance is demonstrating a need for improvement in meeting rules.<br><b>Deficient</b> - Program is not demonstrating an acceptable level of performance in meeting the rules. |
|------------------------------------|------------------|---------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 11/13/2024                         | Licensing Study  | Good Standing |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| 01/24/2024                         | Licensing Study  | Good Standing |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| 03/22/2023                         | 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                           | 1 (A)         |           | 0                              | 0        | C    | 19         | C            | NA         | NA           | Not In Use |
| Main                           | 2 (B) Library |           | 0                              | 0        | C    | 19         | C            | NA         | NA           | Not In Use |
| Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 38 |               |           | Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0  |          |      |            |              |            |              |            |
| Total # Children this Date: 0  |               |           | Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 38 |          |      |            |              |            |              |            |
|                                |               |           | Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0  |          |      |            |              |            |              |            |

| Building | Playground | Playground Occupancy | Playground Compliance |
|----------|------------|----------------------|-----------------------|
| Main     | Playground | 56                   | C                     |

| <b>Enrolled Children</b> |         |         |         |         |                    |                   |
|--------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|--------------------|-------------------|
| Under 1 years            | 1 years | 2 years | 3 years | 4 years | 5 years (Prekonly) | 5 years and older |
| 0                        | 0       | 0       | 0       | 0       | 0                  | 0                 |

**Comments**

An in person licensing study was conducted on this date.

Plan of Improvement: Developed This Date 11/13/2024

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.decal.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.

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#### 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](http://www.decalkoala.com) with the user id 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.

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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@decal.ga.gov](mailto:qualityrated@decal.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-.03 Activities**

**Met**

**Comment**

Staff will ensure that a current GELDS lesson plan is posted in the child classroom prior to reopening.

**Correction Deadline: 11/13/2024**

**Comment**

Staff will ensure that the licensed classroom is set up with centers and equipped with a variety of age appropriate activities prior to reopening.

**Correction Deadline: 11/13/2024**

**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.

**Facility**

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

**Met**

**Comment**

No children were enrolled on this date.

**591-1-1-.25 Physical Plant - Safe Environment(CR)**

**Met**

**Comment**

Staff will review physical plant policy and ensure that the grounds and classroom are clean and in good repair and no hazards are accessible prior to reopening.

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

**Met**

**Comment**

Staff will review playground policy and ensure that toys, equipment, and the playground area are clean, in good repair, and free of hazards prior to reopening.

**Food Service**

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

Staff will ensure a current menu meeting USDA guidelines is posted prior to reopening.

**Health and Hygiene****591-1-1-.10 Diapering Areas & Practices(CR)****Not Evaluated****Comment**

There were no children enrolled in the program on this date. (This rule was not evaluated on this date)

**591-1-1-.17 Hygiene(CR)****Met****Comment**

There were no children enrolled on this date. Proper hand washing of children and staff was discussed with the director on this date.

**591-1-1-.20 Medications(CR)****Not Evaluated****Comment**

There were no children enrolled on this date. (This rule was not evaluated)

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

Staff will review emergency drill policy prior to reopening. A fire drill is to be conducted monthly and tornado and other emergency drills are to be conducted at a minimum of once every six months, and documented and posted in the center.

**591-1-1-.27 Posted Notices****Not Met****Finding**

591-1-1-.27 requires each Center to post in a designated area for public viewing near the front entrance the following: the Center's current License or Permit; a copy of these rules; a copy of the current communicable disease chart; a statement allowing Parent(s) access to all child care areas upon notifying any staff member of his or her presence; names of persons responsible for the administration of the Center in the administrator's absence; the dated current week's menu for meals and snacks; emergency plans for severe weather, fire, and other emergency situations; a statement requiring visitors to check in with Staff when entering the Center; no smoking signs; and a notice provided by the Department which advises Parents of their right to review a copy of the Center's most recent licensure evaluation report upon request to the Center Director. The Center shall provide any Parent with a copy of this evaluation report upon request. It was determined based on observation that the Center did not have posted notices in a designated area.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

The Center will post the notices as required and ensure they remain posted.

**Correction Deadline: 11/13/2024**

**Safety****591-1-1-.05 Animals****N/A****Comment**

Center does not keep animals on premises.

**591-1-1-.11 Discipline(CR)****Not Evaluated****Comment**

There were no children enrolled on this date. The center's discipline policy was reviewed on this date. Regulations regarding proper discipline were discussed with the director on this date.

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

**Comment**

Center does not participate in field trips.

**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**

Staff will review safe sleep policy and disinfecting of mats / cots prior to reopening.

**Staff Records****591-1-1-.09 Criminal Records and Comprehensive Background Checks(CR)****Not Met****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 #1 and Staff #2 did not submit both a Records Check Application to the Department and Fingerprints to an authorized fingerprinting site.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

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

**Correction Deadline: 11/13/2024**

**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 #1 and Staff #2 did not have a valid and current satisfactory Comprehensive Records Check Determination on file.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

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

**Correction Deadline: 11/13/2024**

**Finding**

591-1-1-.31(1)(a) requires the Center to have a Director who is responsible for the supervision, operation and maintenance of the Center. The Director must be on the Center's premises. If the Director is absent from the Center at any time during the hours of the Center's operation, there shall be an officially designated person on the Center site to assume responsibility for the operation of the Center, and this person shall have full access to all records required to be maintained under these rules. It was determined based on a review of records that the center did not have a Director who is responsible for the supervision, operation and maintenance of the Center.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

The Center will ensure a director, responsible for the supervision, operation and maintenance of the Center is on the premises. during operating hours. The Center will officially designate a person to assume responsibility for the operation of the Center when the director is not present who has full access to all records.

**Correction Deadline: 11/13/2024**

**Staffing and Supervision****591-1-1-.32 Staff:Child Ratios and Group Size(CR)****Met****Comment**

There were no children enrolled on this date. Proper ratios and classroom capacities were discussed with the director on this date.

**591-1-1-.32 Supervision(CR)****Not Evaluated****Comment**

There were no children enrolled on this date. Proper supervision of children, including being prompt to children's needs, was discussed with the director on this date.