



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: 11/29/2023 **VisitType:** Licensing Study

Arrival: 9:15 AM **Departure:** 3:30 PM

CCLC-1493

Children's Academy of Hickory Flat

4360 Hickory Rd. Canton, GA 30115 Cherokee County
(770) 345-2929 cahf.parentinfo@gmail.com

Regional Consultant

Marquita Brown-Opeloyeru

Phone: (706) 434-6831

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marquita.brown-opeloyeru@dec.al.ga.gov

Mailing Address

Same

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.
11/29/2023	Licensing Study	Good Standing	
05/02/2023	Monitoring Visit	Good Standing	
10/05/2022	Complaint Investigation & Licensing Study	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
Bldg 1	C- Second Left Room	GA PreK	2	20	C	20	C	NA	NA	Centers
Bldg 1	D- First Left	Two Year Olds and Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds	1	9	NC	17	C	NA	NA	Art
Bldg 1	E- First Right	Three Year Olds	1	10	C	18	C	NA	NA	Music
Bldg 1	F-Second Right	Two Year Olds	2	11	C	18	C	NA	NA	Centers
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 73					Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0					
Bldg 2	A- Downstairs	GA PreK	2	19	C	25	C	NA	NA	Centers
Bldg 2	B- Upper Level	One Year Olds	1	7	C	11	C	NA	NA	Centers
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 36					Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0					
Total # Children this Date: 76		Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 109			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0					

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Bldg 1	Playground A:	31	C
Bldg 1	Playground B: Preschool	23	C
Bldg 1	Playground C	78	C
Bldg 1	Playground: Toddler Play Area	9	C

Comments

The purpose of this visit was to conduct a Licensing Study.

Consultant provided a copy of Required Training- Frequently Asked Questions and Clarifications Form with the Providers on this date.

Consultant went over Georgia Professional Development System with the Providers on this date.

Plan of Improvement: Developed This Date 11/29/2023

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.al.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.al.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)

Not Met

Comment

A variety of equipment and toys were observed throughout the center.

Finding

591-1-1-.12(4) requires that equipment and furniture is secured if it is of a weight or mass that could cause injury from tipping, falling, or being pulled or pushed over. It was determined based on observation in Building One-Classroom C, 2nd left room, a large "doll house" in the home living area and in Classroom B, a "kitchen set" could potentially be moved by the children and cause injury from tipping, falling, or be pulled or pushed over.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will ensure that the identified equipment or furniture and any other such existing or future items are secured adequately and will have a system for checking these for stability.

Correction Deadline: 12/6/2023

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

Met

Comment

Pool not in use at this time, gates observed locked.

Children's Records

Records Reviewed: 6

Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 1

Child # 1

Not Met

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.08(1)(c)-Keep center advised of change in Family Physicians

591-1-1-.08 Children's Records

Met

Comment

Parent agreements observed obtained/completed.

Comment

Parent authorizations for five child files reviewed were obtained and completed.

591-1-1-.06 Bathrooms**Technical Assistance****Technical Assistance**

Ensure bathrooms are cleaned and well maintained throughout the day.

Comment

Monitor bathrooms for necessary supplies throughout the day.

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)**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 in Building One- Classrooms C and D, had an unlocked closet door with staff purses and other potentially hazardous items. It was also determined based on observation, in Classroom C, an unlocked cabinet under the sink had two pest control traps in each corner with bugs inside. It was further determined in Classroom F, diaper cream was observed in the diapering table drawer that was unlocked and accessible to children.

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: 11/29/2023

Finding

591-1-1-.25(8) requires protective caps on all unused electrical outlets within children's reach and requires that electrical outlets in use be made inaccessible to children. It was determined based on observations that the hallway entrance of the building did not have protective caps on one out of two unused electrical outlets.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will train Staff to check outlets and replace protective caps when needed and identify and monitor how outlets in use are inaccessible to children.

Correction Deadline: 11/29/2023

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

Discussed maintenance of resilient surface for playgrounds A-D. Ensure to fluff and redistribute on Playground C.

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 the following hazards:

on Playground C

-a three inch gap on gate enclosing the meter near Building Two- Classroom A downstairs area

-bob wire accessible on right side which could be accessible when reached over the fence

on Playground D

-a hole on bottom left side of fence measuring six by nine inches

-protruding nails on bottom left side of fence

-splintered wood on bottom left side of fence

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: 12/6/2023

Technical Assistance

Ensure all outdoor equipment are free of lead-based paint, sharp corners, and be regularly maintained to be free of rust and splinters and remove any broken toys.

Correction Deadline: 12/9/2023

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

Center menu meets USDA guidelines.

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)****Not Met****Comment**

Staff state proper knowledge of diapering procedures.

Finding

591-1-1-.10(1) requires Centers first licensed after March 1, 1991, and Centers that are renovated after March 1, 1991, to provide ventilation in the diapering areas with functioning exhaust fans and a duct system or by the required amount of window space provided by operable windows when open. It was determined based on observation in Building One-2nd Right, Classroom F, there was no ventilation provided in the diapering areas. It was also determined based on observation in Building Two- Upper Level, Classroom B, there was no ventilation system or exhaust fan present in the diapering area.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The responsible person(s) at the center will ensure that the exhaust fans and duct systems are functioning or that the required amount of operable window space is provided in each diapering area.

Correction Deadline: 12/26/2023

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

Please ensure lids remain on trash containing organic waste.

Comment

Please ensure soiled items are stored inaccessible to children.

Comment

Staff were observed to remind children to wash hands.

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

If planning to dispense medication, ensure to have an authorization for medication form for each child with prescription medication.

Correction Deadline: 11/29/2023

Policies and Procedures**591-1-1-.21 Operational Policies & Procedures****Technical Assistance****Technical Assistance**

Consultant discussed with the provider requirements that the Center conduct drills for fire, tornado and other emergency situations. Discussed with the provider the fire drills will be conducted monthly and tornado and other emergency situation drills will be conducted every six months. Also discussed with the provider that the Center shall maintain documentation of the dates and times of these drills for two years.

591-1-1-.29 Required Reporting**Met****Comment**

Discussed reporting requirements.

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

Center does not keep animals on premises.

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

Age-appropriate discussion and/or redirection observed.

Comment

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

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)**Met****Comment**

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

Comment

Complete documentation of transportation observed.

Comment

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

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

Pleasant nap time environment observed.

Comment

The correct number of mats, sheets and blankets were observed on this date. Cleaning and disinfecting of mats was discussed with the director on this date.

Staff Records**Records Reviewed: 31****Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 5**

Staff # 1

Not Met

Date of Hire: 07/12/2023

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.31(2)(b)2.-Staff Qualifications-Education Missing

Staff # 3

Not Met

Date of Hire: 08/03/2023

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(3)-Health & Safety Certificate,.31(2)(b)2.-Staff Qualifications-Education Missing

Staff # 5

Not Met

Date of Hire: 05/22/2023

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.31(2)(b)2.-Staff Qualifications-Education Missing

Staff # 19

Not Met

Date of Hire: 06/17/2023

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.31(2)(b)2.-Staff Qualifications-Education Missing,.33(3)-Health & Safety Certificate

Staff # 21

Not Met

Date of Hire: 10/12/2023

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.31(2)(b)2.-Staff Qualifications-Education Missing

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

Evidence observed of 50% of center staff certified in First Aid and CPR.

Comment

Please be mindful of training expiration dates.

Comment

Please replace/add missing/expired item(s) in first aid kit(s).

591-1-1-.33 Staff Training

Not Met

Comment

Please ensure completed orientation checklists are documented, signed, and organized in a binder or in each staff file.

Comment

Discussed: Health and Safety Training is required for each staff member with direct care responsibilities within 90 calendar days of their hire date.

Technical Assistance

Consultant discussed with provider that 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.

Correction Deadline: 12/29/2023

Finding

591-1-1-.33(6) requires that evidence of orientation and training shall be documented in the Personnel file of each Staff member and shall be available to the Department for inspection. It was determined based on a review of records, staff #3, and #19 were missing evidence of health and safety training certification in their personnel file.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will develop and implement procedures to review staff records for documentation of training and orientation, to obtain and place missing documentation in staff records, and to file such documents in staff records on an ongoing basis.

Correction Deadline: 12/9/2023

591-1-1-.31 Staff(CR)

Technical Assistance

Technical Assistance

Discussed that all lead staff must enroll in an approved education program within 6 months of hire and complete degree within 18 months.

Technical Assistance

Discussed with provider that a copy and/or written verification of the credential or degree awarded to the Director by the technical college, university, school or Department- approved trainer listed in 591-1-1-.31(1)(b)2.(i) through (xiii) be maintained by the Center in the Director's file and such documentation shall be available for inspection by Department staff upon request.

Correction Deadline: 11/29/2023

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

Discussed with the Provider to ensure that children under three years of age are not grouped with older children unless a written agreement from the parent of the younger child is on file.

Correction Deadline: 11/29/2023

591-1-1-.32 Supervision(CR)**Met****Comment**

Adequate supervision observed on this date.

Comment

Center observed to maintain appropriate staff:child ratios.

Comment

Discussed combining children of mixed ages.