



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: 12/16/2024 **VisitType:** Licensing Study

Arrival: 11:20 AM **Departure:** 3:45 PM

CCLC-30911

AppleGate Academy & Preschool (Jonesboro)

9610 Deer Crossing Drive Jonesboro, GA 30236 Clayton County
(770) 629-5876 applegateacademy@comcast.net

Regional Consultant

Angela Williams-Jackson

Phone: (404) 710-3984

Fax: (678) 717-5765

angela.williams-jackson@decal.ga.gov

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.
12/16/2024	Licensing Study	Good Standing	
10/16/2023	Complaint Closure	Good Standing	
10/06/2023	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	Rm A: 1st Left	Five Year Olds and Six Year Olds and Over	1	2	C	14	C	NA	NA	Transitioning
Main	Rm B: 1st Right	Infants and One Year Olds	2	9	C	12	C	NA	NA	Nap,Floor Play,Diapering
Main	Rm C: 2nd Right		0	0	C	11	C	NA	NA	
Main	Rm D: 2nd Right (inside Rm C)		0	0	C	11	C	NA	NA	
Main	Rm E: 3rd Right	Two Year Olds	2	13	C	18	C	NA	NA	Nap
Main	Rm F: 4th Right	Infants and One Year Olds	2	10	C	15	C	NA	NA	Nap
Main	Rm G: 2nd Left		0	0	C	21	C	NA	NA	
Main	Rm H: 3rd Left	Two Year Olds	1	14	C	15	C	NA	NA	Nap
Main	Rm I: 5th Right	Three Year Olds	1	15	C	20	C	NA	NA	Nap
Main	Rm J: 4th Left	Four Year Olds	1	13	C	21	C	NA	NA	Lunch
Main	Rm K: 6th Right	Four Year Olds and Five Year Olds	1	13	C	20	C	NA	NA	Lunch
Main	Rm L: 5th Left	GA PreK	1	13	C	25	C	NA	NA	Nap
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 203			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0							
Total # Children this Date: 102			Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 203							
			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0							

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	A (4+ Years)	33	C
Main	B (3+ Years)	74	C

Enrolled Children						
Under 1 years	1 years	2 years	3 years	4 years	5 years (Prekonly)	5 years and older
10	14	16	18	39	13	3

Comments

The purpose of this visit was to conduct a licensing study.

Plan of Improvement: Developed This Date 12/16/2024

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.

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-.03 Activities

Technical Assistance

Technical Assistance

The consultant discussed with the director to ensure the classrooms have current lesson plans.

Correction Deadline: 12/16/2024

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.

Children's Records

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

Met

Comment

Parent agreements observed obtained and completed.

Facility

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

Met

Comment

Licensed capacity observed to be routinely met by the 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 were accessible to children and posed a hazard:

Classroom A

- A grocery bag to the left by the entry door hanging on a hook.

Classroom B

- Green plastic bags on top of the changing table.

Classroom E

- Inside the bathroom on the right were black crates. Inside one crate was plastic packaging for pull-ups.

Classroom F

- Green plastic bags and rubber gloves on top of the changing table.

Classroom H

- Plastic packaging for pull-ups inside the cubbies.

Classroom I

- Inside two cubbies were plastic packaging for pull-ups.

Classroom K

- Plastic packaging for disposable cups sitting on the backside of the bookshelf.

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: 12/16/2024

Finding

591-1-1-.25(3) requires the Center and surrounding premises to be kept clean, free of debris and in good repair. Hygienic measures such as, but not limited to, screened windows and proper waste disposal procedures shall be utilized to minimize the presence of rodents, flies, roaches and other vermin at the Center. It was determined based on observation that the following were not in good repair as required:

Classroom A

- The toilet was covered with plastic, not working and on the right side of the wall was chipped drywall.

Classroom E

- The toilet to the right was covered with plastic and was not working.

Classroom G

- The orange wall on the right side of the class had chipped drywall.

Classroom I

- On the left side of the toilet the blue floor boarder was detached from the wall.

Classroom L

- The toilet was covered with plastic and not working.

Playground C

- From the right to left of the door that leads to the playground in classroom G the window screens on the 4th and 7th windows had tears.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will have the Center and surrounding areas cleaned, make repairs where needed, and remove all debris is removed. The Center will implement a plan to keep areas clean and in good repair that includes regular monitoring.

Correction Deadline: 12/16/2024

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 measurements that on playground B the back on the left side closest to the back door of classroom K the chain links were detached at the top of the fence from the pole and the fence measured 42 inches. At the back right corner the fence measured 42 inches. Additionally, on playground C The back fence across measured 42 inches and the fence to the left in the middle between the red and purple merry-go-rounds measured 42 inches which posed an entrapment hazard and posed a risk of the children being able to exit the playground.

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: 12/16/2024

Technical Assistance

The consultant discussed with the director to ensure that the leaves on playground A, B, and C are maintained.

Correction Deadline: 12/16/2024

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)****Met****Comment**

Proper diapering procedures observed.

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

Staff were observed to remind children to wash hands.

591-1-1-.20 Medications(CR)**N/A****Comment**

The Provider currently does not dispense or administer medication at this time.

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

Program observed complete emergency drills on this date.

Safety**591-1-1-.05 Animals****Met****Comment**

Center does not keep animals on the premises.

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

Age-appropriate discussion and redirection observed.

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

Center does not participate in field trips at this time.

Comment

A current and completed inspection was observed for all vehicle with license QAG5802 used in transporting children on this date.

Comment

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

Comment

Transportation was observed on this date.

Finding

591-1-1-.36(4)(a) requires an annual safety check for each vehicle. The annual safety check, completed by a trained individual, should include a check of the: tires, headlights, horn, taillights, turn signals, brake lights, brakes, suspension, exhaust system, steering, windows, windshields and windshield wipers. A copy of the annual safety check will be kept in the Center or on the vehicle and should include evidence of any repairs and/or replacements that were identified as needed on the inspection report. It was determined based on a review of records that the director did not have evidence of an annual inspection check for the vehicle with license QAE2871.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will obtain the annual vehicle inspection.

Correction Deadline: 12/21/2024

Finding

591-1-1-.36(4)(b) requires that the interior of a transportation vehicle be clean, in safe repair and free of hazardous items, objects and/or other non-essential items which could cause injury. It was determined based on observation that the following seats had tears:

Vehicle with license plate QAE2871

- Four seats on the right with tears on the left bottom corner.
- Three seats on the left with tears on the right bottom corner.
- The seat on the first row of the left side was torn on top of the seat near where the seat belts snaps in.
- In the second row on the right side at the top of the back rest was torn.

Vehicle with license plate QAG5802

- Three seats on the right had tears in the left bottom corner.
- Two seats on the left side had tears on the right bottom corner.
- The first row seat had a tear near the seat near where the seat belts snaps in.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The center will maintain that all transportation vehicles are clean, in safe repair, and free from hazards.

Correction Deadline: 12/17/2024

Finding

591-1-1-.36(7)(b) requires that an emergency medical information record be maintained in the vehicle for each child being transported. The emergency medical information record for each child shall include a listing of the child's full name, date of birth, allergies, special medical needs and conditions, current prescribed medications that the child is required to take on a daily basis for a chronic condition, the name and telephone number of the child's doctor, the local medical facility that the Center uses in the area where the Center is located and the telephone numbers where the Parents can be reached. It was determined based on a review of records that 32 out of 46 children were missing the emergency medical information from the vehicle transportation binder.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will obtain a complete emergency medical information record for each child that is transported and maintain a copy on the vehicle.

Correction Deadline: 12/17/2024

Finding

591-1-1-.36(7)(c)3. requires that the driver or other designated person document in writing the date and time of arrival and departure each time the vehicle departs from the Center, is loaded or unloaded at each school and when the vehicle returns to the Center; each time the vehicle departs from the Center, arrives at the location where any child is picked up or dropped off and when the vehicle returns to the Center; each time the vehicle leaves the Center, arrives at a field trip destination, leaves a field trip destination, and returns to the Center. It was determined based on a review of records that the checklist for the week of December 9, 2024 did not have the dates for departure and arrival as required.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will ensure that each date and time of arrival and departure is documented by the driver or designated person with training, review and monitoring.

Correction Deadline: 12/17/2024

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(1)(b)1 requires that cots and mats are of sound construction and of sufficient size to accommodate comfortably the size and weight of the child; and that mats are in good repair, washable, covered with a waterproof material and at least two inches (2") thick. It was determined based on observation that the blue mats in classrooms E and K had tears.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will ensure that cots and mats are of sound construction and of sufficient size to accommodate the size and weight of the child and mats are in good repair, washable, covered with a waterproof material and is at least two inches thick.

Correction Deadline: 12/16/2024

Staff Records**591-1-1-.09 Criminal Records and Comprehensive Background Checks(CR)****Met****Comment**

Director provided four files for employees hired since the last visit.

591-1-1-.14 First Aid & CPR**Met****Comment**

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

591-1-1-.33 Staff Training**Not Met****Finding**

591-1-1-.33(2) requires the initial Center orientation to include the following subjects: the Center's policies and procedures; the portions of these rules dealing with the care, health and safety of children; the Staff person's assigned duties and responsibilities; reporting requirements for suspected cases of child abuse, neglect or deprivation; communicable diseases and serious injuries; emergency weather plans; the program's emergency preparedness plan; childhood injury control; the administration of medicine; reducing the risk of Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS); hand washing; fire safety; water safety; and prevention of HIV/AIDS and blood borne pathogens. It was determined based on a review of records that staff member # 9 did not have evidence of orientation as required.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will provide orientation in all missing subjects to the employee(s) and will take steps to provide a complete orientation to new Employees in the future.

Correction Deadline: 12/17/2024

Finding

591-1-1-.33(3) requires each Staff member with direct care responsibilities to complete health and safety orientation training within the first 90 days of employment. The state-approved training hours obtained will count toward required first year training hours. The training must address the following health and safety topics: prevention and control of infectious diseases (including immunizations); prevention of sudden infant death syndrome and use of safe sleeping practices; administration of medication, consistent with standards for parental consent; prevention of and response to emergencies due to food and allergic reactions; building and physical premises safety, including identification of and protection from hazards that can cause bodily injury such as electrical hazards, bodies of water, and vehicular traffic; prevention of shaken baby syndrome, abusive head trauma and child maltreatment; emergency preparedness and response planning for emergencies resulting from a natural disaster or a human-caused event (such as violence at a child care facility); handling and storage of hazardous materials and the appropriate disposal of bio contaminants; precautions in transporting children; recognition and reporting of child abuse and neglect; and child development. It was determined based on a review of records that staff member # 5 and #7 did not have evidence of health and safety orientation training as required.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will develop and implement a plan to schedule and track this training for all employees based on their hire dates and will ensure that the training includes all required components as required.

Correction Deadline: 1/15/2025

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)

Not Met

Finding

591-1-1-.32(7) requires that children be supervised at all times appropriate to the individual age, needs and capabilities of each child. Such supervision must include, but not be limited to, indoor and outdoor activities, mealtimes, naptime, transportation, field trips, and transitions between activities. "Supervision" means that the appropriate number of Staff members are physically present in the area where children are being cared for and are providing watchful oversight to the children, volunteers and Students-in-Training. The persons supervising in the child care area must be alert, positioned to maximize their ability to hear and see the children at all times, and able to respond promptly to the needs and actions of the children being supervised, as well as the actions of the volunteers and Students-in-Training, and provide timely attention to the children's actions and needs. Staff shall be 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. It was determined based on observation that the staff member in classroom J left the children unattended while they were eating lunch for more than three minutes. The staff member had the staff from across the hall in classroom I stand in the middle of the hall to supervise the children in classroom J. Additionally, the staff member in classroom I left the classroom to stand in the hall to supervise the children in classroom J.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will train Staff and monitor to ensure they are providing supervision and watchful oversight to the children at all times.

Correction Deadline: 12/16/2024