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: 12/4/2023 **VisitType:** Licensing Study **Arrival:** 11:40 AM **Departure:** 7:20 PM

CCLC-47083
Friendship Learning Center of Tucker

6000 Mimosa Circle Tucker, GA 30084 Gwinnett County
(770) 279-7800 friendshiplearningtucker@gmail.com

Lead Consultant
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Mailing Address
Same

Quality Rated: ★ ★

Compliance Zone Designation		
12/04/2023	Licensing Study	Support
10/10/2023	Incident Investigation & Follow Up	Good Standing
01/25/2023	Complaint Investigation Follow Up	Good Standing

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.

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- 1L	Infants and One Year Olds	1	6	C	26	C	NA	NA	Nap
Main	B- 2L		0	0	C	24	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
Main	C- 3L		0	0	C	25	C	NA	NA	
Main	D- 4L		0	0	C	26	C	NA	NA	
Main	E- Back Cafe		0	0	C	23	C	NA	NA	
Main	F- Back 1L	GA PreK	1	160	C	21	NC	NA	NA	Nap
Main	G- Back 2L	GA PreK	2	17	C	21	C	NA	NA	Art,Transitioning
Main	H- Back 3L	GA PreK	1	14	C	23	C	NA	NA	Nap,Transitioning
Main	I- 4R	Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds	1	11	C	19	C	NA	NA	Transitioning,Nap
Main	J- 3R		0	0	C	23	C	NA	NA	
Main	K- 2R	Three Year Olds	1	11	C	22	C	NA	NA	Transitioning
Main	L- 1R	Two Year Olds	1	10	C	24	C	NA	NA	Transitioning,Nap
		Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 277			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0					
Total # Children this Date: 229		Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 277			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0					

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	A- 1L	30	C
Main	B- Back Left	238	C
Main	C- Middle	25	C
Main	D- Right	73	C

Comments

Reminders: Refer to the published communicable disease chart for guidance regarding communicable diseases. In most scenarios, only outbreaks/clusters should be reported to the local health districts.

Please be sure to contact the Gwinnett County Department of Health, if there are any outbreaks/clusters of positive COVID-19 cases immediately and get their guidance. Please be sure to also complete a Required Report in DECAL KOALA for all individual cases of communicable diseases within 24 hours. Be sure to select “Notifiable Communicable Diseases” to report closures for COVID cases.

You must be sure to enter all temporary closures by 8 a.m. (vacation, emergencies, school closures, holidays etc…) in DECAL KOALA at all times under the Required Report tab whenever your facility is closed temporarily because you are not caring for children for one day or more. Please be sure to SAVE the report prior to exiting.

Incident Reports are to be submitted via DECAL KOALA with all signed staff statements for staff and the director.

All amendments are required to be electronically entered in DECAL KOALA effective August 2, 2021.

Please be sure to hide staff who are no longer employed in your DECAL KOALA account. Please reach out for help with this, if needed.

Please ensure that director and staff responsible for food preparation completes the four (4) hours of nutrition training as soon as possible but within the first year of employment.

For centers conducting or planning on conducting transportation, please remember that the transportation training certificates must be completed prior to participating in transportation and renewed every two years for anyone checking the vehicle, chaperoning on a trip, and signing the checklist, including the director. Please ensure that directors ensure that they also complete the transportation training upon being hired at the center. Please ensure to contact your consultant for guidance if you have not been conducting transportation and plan on conducting transportation.

Provided updated orientation checklist.

Share information regarding the indicator manual.

Email updated Transportation forms including sample as of October 1, 2023, to begin using immediately.

One Day Letter left

Plan of Improvement: Developed This Date 12/04/2023

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.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 a1 855-800-7747 or qualityrated@decal.ga.gov **for more information. Free techincal assistance is available!**

Don McDaniel, Program Official   Date

Dianne Clarke, Lead Consultant   Date

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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) **Met**

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

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

Comment
Center does not provide swimming activities.

Facility

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 that the following hazards were observed to be accessible:
-A- 1L: Lysol and diaper creams were observed to be accessible in the diaper cubby area in an unlocked cabinet.
-C- 3L: In an unlocked cabinet above the sink, bleach, glass cleaner and soap and water were observed to be accessible.
-F- Back 1L: There was a can of sunscreen in a child's cubby accessible.
-G- Back 2L: There was a tub of Clorox wipes observed on the sensory table.
-K- 2R: There were wipes, diaper packaging and plastic grocery bags in children's cubby that were accessible.
-L- 1R: There were diaper and pull ups packaging, and grocery bags accessible in a box under the diaper changing table.

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. The items were removed during the visit. The center will retrain the teachers and management will conduct regular checks.

Correction Deadline: 12/4/2023

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 cleaning and repairs were needed:

-B-2L: There was a water stain observed on ceiling.
-C-3L: The ceiling was observed to be peeling near the fan in the girls bathroom and there was a missing light cover in the boys bathroom.
-F-Back 1L: The ceiling in the classroom was observed to be peeling.
-G-Back 2L: The ceiling in the classroom was observed to be peeling near the sink. The vents were observed to be dusty in the boys and girls bathroom as well as the classroom. Also, based upon observation the left sink was not draining.
-H-Back 3L: The ceiling in the classroom was observed to be peeling. The vents were observed to be dusty in the classroom.
-I-4R: The vent in the classroom was observed to be dusty. Spider webs were observed in the girls bathroom. The top on the faucet was observed to be coming off.
-K-2R: The closet between L-1R was observed to be missing a cover for the light switch and there was a hole. The sink in the classroom on the right was not draining.
-L-1R: There were two areas on the ceiling observed to be dusty in the classroom. Also, based on observation the faucet near the diaper area was not secured.

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. The teacher removed the spider web during the visit. The owner/director will have someone come out to repair.

Correction Deadline: 12/18/2023

Recited on 12/4/2023

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 observation that the fence on the 1R PreK playground was observed to be detached at the top creating a seven inch gap and also had a seven inch gap at the bottom .

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. The owner will have the repairs made to the fence.

Correction Deadline: 12/8/2023

Finding
591-1-1-.26(9) requires the playground to be kept clean, free from litter and free of hazards, such as but not limited to rocks, exposed tree roots and exposed sharp edges of concrete. It was determined based on observation that the drain was detached and accessible. Also, there were panels missing on the roof along the walkway on the 1L playground.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
The Center will remove any litter and fix or remove hazards from the playground and will routinely monitor the playground and remove litter and hazards. The center will repair the drain and the panels.

Correction Deadline: 12/18/2023

Food Service

591-1-1-.15 Food Service & Nutrition **Not Met**

Finding
591-1-1-.15(7) requires that food be served according to manufacturer's instructions and recommendations. Foods that are associated with young children's choking incidents, such as, but not limited to, peanuts, hot dogs, raw carrots, popcorn, fish with bones, cheese cubes, grapes and any other food that is of similar shape and size of the trachea/windpipe shall not be served to the children less than four (4) years of age. Children older than four (4) years of age may be served these foods provided that the foods are cut in such a way as to minimize choking. Food shall not be accessible or served to children until it has been chopped, diced, cut or mashed and is appropriate for each child's age and individual eating, chewing and swallowing ability. It was determined based on observation that string cheese was served to infants in the 1L classroom. Also, based on observation the cheese served in the H-Back 3L PreK classroom was not cut in a way to minimize choking hazards.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
The Center will train Staff and monitor food served and accessible to children to ensure that the food does not present a choking hazard. The center will remove the item from the list and ensure the proper cheese is ordered.

Correction Deadline: 12/4/2023

591-1-1-.18 Kitchen Operations **Not Met**

Finding
591-1-1-.18(5) requires the refrigeration of all perishable and potentially hazardous foods at 40 degrees Fahrenheit or below and served promptly after cooking. Freezer temperature shall be maintained at zero (0) degrees Fahrenheit or below. It was determined based on observation that the left freezer thermometer was observed to display the temperature as 10 degrees.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
The Center will refrigerate foods as required, will train Staff on proper refrigerator and freezer temperature settings and monitor the settings. Food will be served promptly after cooking. The center will have the freezer looked at.

Correction Deadline: 12/4/2023

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.

591-1-1-.20 Medications(CR) **Met**

Comment
The Provider currently does not dispense/administer medication.

Safety

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(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 seatbelt in the first row middle seat was observed to be frayed. Also, the second row, first seat buckle was observed to be in need of repair.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
The center will maintain that all transportation vehicles are clean, in safe repair, and free from hazards. The center will have the repairs done but will ensure the children do not sit in those seats. The center will check for needed repairs.

Correction Deadline: 12/19/2023

Finding
591-1-1-.36(6) requires written Parental authorization for routine transportation provided by or on behalf of the Center. Written authorization must include the routine pick-up location, routine pick-up time, routine delivery location, routine delivery times and the name of any person authorized to receive the child. It was determined based on a review of records that four children being transported did not have evidence of the pick-up, and delivery times recorded.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
The Center will obtain the required written parental authorization. The center will create the form with the times listed for parents to complete.

Correction Deadline: 12/5/2023

Technical Assistance
591-1-1-.36(7)(b) - Please ensure that the medical emergency forms are completed with physician and emergency contact information at all times.

Correction Deadline: 12/5/2023

Finding
591-1-1-.36(7)(c)2. requires that the driver or other designated person shall immediately document in writing, with a check or other mark/symbol to account for each child listed on the passenger transportation checklist each time a child enters and exits the vehicle. The driver or other designated staff person shall document in writing with a different mark/symbol to account for each child listed on the passenger transportation checklist who was not present on the vehicle for any reason. An explanation shall be documented in writing whenever a child is transported to a field trip site but is not present on the return trip to the Center. It was determined based on a review of records that the driver did not record when two children exited the vehicle from Smoke Rise Elementary School on Wednesday during the week of November 13, 2023, and did not record when one child entered or exited the vehicle from Nesbit Elementary School on Wednesday during the week of November 27, 2023.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
The driver/other designated person will immediately document in writing with a check/mark/symbol each time a child gets on and off the vehicle. The person that does the second check will ensure that the load and unload is completed.

Correction Deadline: 12/5/2023

Sleeping & Resting Equipment

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

Comment
Pleasant naptime environment observed.

Staff Records

Records Reviewed: 21 **Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 1**

Staff # 11 Not Met

Date of Hire: 03/30/2017

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.09-Criminal Records Check Missing

591-1-1-.09 Criminal Records and Comprehensive Background Checks(CR) **Not Met**

Finding
591-1-1-.09(1.)(b) requires the Center to ensure that every Director 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 Director 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 #11 hired on March 30, 2017, did not have a valid records check on file. The records check was observed to be expired.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
IMMEDIATE CORRECTION - The Center will complete a comprehensive records check whenever there is a lapse of employment prior to being present at the facility, to ensure that the Director 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 Director 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 review the CRC modules regarding criminal records to ensure CRC rules are maintained. The application was submitted during the visit.

Correction Deadline: 12/4/2023

Finding
591-1-1-.09(1)(l)3. requires the Center to immediately require a new Comprehensive Records Check Determination for a Director, Employee or Provisional Employee at least once every five years. It was determined based on a review of records that staff #11 hired on March 30, 2017 had an expired criminal records check.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
IMMEDIATE CORRECTION - The Center will check regularly to ensure that each Director, Employee and Provisional Employee has a Comprehensive Records Check Determination on file that has been issued within the past five years. 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 review the CRC modules regarding criminal records to ensure the CRC rules are maintained. The application was submitted during the visit.

Correction Deadline: 12/4/2023

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

Comment
Staff observed to be compliant with applicable laws and regulations.

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 consultant's observation that in the A- 1L classroom the teacher was not within arms reach while the infants were eating snack. Also, a teacher in the H- Back 3L classroom was observed to stand at the threshold of the classroom while children retrieved their sheets and blankets in preparation for naptime.

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. The staff will ensure that they contact the front office before having the children retrieve their sheets and blankets. Management will reiterate the supervision rules during mealtimes with all staff.

Correction Deadline: 12/4/2023

Recited on 12/4/2023