



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: 1/16/2024 VisitType: Licensing Study

Arrival: 12:00 PM

Departure: 4:00 PM

CCLC-58425

Azalea Academy

3460 Jimmy Rodgers way Valdosta, GA 31602 Lowndes County
(229) 252-8232 hpettigrew@azaleaacademyvaldosta.com

Regional Consultant

Lindsey Ray

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lindsey.ray@decal.ga.gov

Mailing Address

PO Box 2932
Valdosta, GA 31604

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.
01/16/2024	Licensing Study	Good Standing	
09/13/2023	Monitoring Visit	Good Standing	
04/17/2023	Initial Licensing Study	Good Standing	
			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	Infants	2	8	C	16	C	NA	NA	Feeding,Diapering,Nap
Main	B	Infants and One Year Olds	2	9	C	14	C	NA	NA	Floor Play
Main	C	Three Year Olds	2	22	C	25	C	NA	NA	Nap
Main	D	Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds	1	16	C	25	C	NA	NA	Nap
Main	E	Two Year Olds and Three Year Olds	2	17	C	21	C	NA	NA	Nap
Main	F	Two Year Olds and Three Year Olds	2	14	C	23	C	NA	NA	Nap
Main	G	Two Year Olds and Four Year Olds	2	12	C	15	C	NA	NA	Free Play,Snack,Transitioning,Diapering
Main	H	One Year Olds	2	12	C	15	C	NA	NA	Transitioning,Diapering,Free Play
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 154					Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0					
Total # Children this Date: 110		Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 154			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0					

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	A	11	C
Main	B	55	C
Main	C	22	C
Main	D	22	C

Comments

The purpose of today's visit was to conduct a licensing study.

Plan of Improvement: No Plan Developed

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 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.

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!

Heather Pettigrew, Program Official

Date

Lindsey Ray, Regional Consultant

Date



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(Findings Report)

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The following information is associated with a Licensing Study:

Activities and Equipment

591-1-1.03 Activities

Not Met

Finding

591-1-1.03(1) requires the Center to provide a daily planned program of varied and developmentally appropriate activities to promote social, emotional, physical, cognitive, language and literacy growth. Center Staff shall use a variety of teaching methods to accommodate the needs of the children's different learning styles. It was determined based on observation that classrooms one, four, and six did not have lesson plans available to review on this date.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will plan a program that includes a variety of developmentally appropriate activities that are provided daily, train Staff to use various teaching methods, and monitor both.

Correction Deadline: 1/16/2024

591-1-1.12 Equipment & Toys(CR)

Not Met

Finding

591-1-1.12(5) requires Center Staff to provide table space for each child who is able to sit at a table unassisted and an appropriately sized chair or bench for each child who is not an infant and who is able to use a chair or bench. It was determined based on observation that the chairs in classroom two (the one year old classroom) had been removed and placed in storage leaving no appropriate sized chair or bench for each child who is not an infant.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will provide required equipment as noted.

Correction Deadline: 2/15/2024

591-1-1.35 Swimming Pools & Water-related Activities(CR)

N/A

Comment

Center does not provide swimming activities.

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

Technical Assistance

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.08(1) - requires the Center Staff to maintain a file for each child while such child is in care and for one year after that child is no longer enrolled. In order for the file to be complete, the file shall contain the following: child's name, birth date, sex, address, living arrangement, name of school if applicable; names of both Parents, home and work addresses, and home and work telephone numbers; name(s) and addresses of the person(s) to whom the child may be released including address, telephone numbers, relationship to child and to Parent(s), and other identifying information; name(s) and telephone number(s) of person(s) to contact in emergencies when the Parent cannot be reached; name and telephone number of the child's primary source of health care; and a statement regarding known allergies, physical problems, mental health disorders, intellectual disabilities or developmental disabilities which limit the child's participation in the program. The consultant and the director discussed complete children's records.

Correction Deadline: 1/16/2024

Facility

591-1-1-.06 Bathrooms

Met

Comment

Please monitor bathrooms for necessary supplies.

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 potential hazards were observed:

- Classroom 5 (3rd on left)-Lysol in the bathroom, plunger
- Classroom 7 (4th on left)-Lysol wipes, thumb tacks in the top drawer that was not locked

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: 1/16/2024

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

Met

Comment

Discussed maintenance of resilient surface. Please fluff and redistribute.

Food Service

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.15(3) - requires baby bottles and formula to be labeled with the individual child's name; supplied by the Parent daily in bottles; and refrigerated at a temperature of forty (40) degrees Fahrenheit or less. Only the current day's formula or breast milk shall be served. If formula must be provided by the Center, only commercially prepared, ready-to-feed formula shall be used. Refrigerated or frozen breast milk shall only be heated or thawed under warm running water or in a container of warm water. The consultant and the director discussed appropriate refrigeration temperatures.

Correction Deadline: 1/16/2024

591-1-1-.18 Kitchen Operations

Technical Assistance

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.18(8) - requires that containers of food be stored above the floor on clean surfaces protected from splash and other contamination. Containers for food storage other than the original container or package in which the food was obtained shall be impervious and non-absorbent, have tight-fitting lids or covers and labeled as to contents. The consultant and the director discussed labeling contents of containers.

Correction Deadline: 1/16/2024

Health and Hygiene**591-1-1-.10 Diapering Areas & Practices(CR)**

Not Met

Finding

591-1-1-.10(4) requires that if diapers are changed on a diaper changing surface, the surface shall be smooth, nonporous, and equipped with a guard or rails to prevent falls. Between each diaper change, the diaper changing surface shall be cleaned with a disinfectant and dried with a single-use disposable towel. It was determined based on observation that the changing pad in classroom 2, the one year old room, had a worn covering causing the foam underneath to become exposed to the children in care.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will ensure there is a smooth, nonporous changing surface that has a guard or rails for safety in each classroom that houses children wearing diapers. Center Staff will be trained and have adequate supplies to properly clean the diaper changing surface between each diaper change.

Correction Deadline: 1/16/2024

591-1-1-.17 Hygiene(CR)

Not Met

Finding

591-1-1-.17(11) requires that containers used for the storage of disposable and non-disposable items such as diapers, washcloths and bed linens be: leak proof or have a leak proof disposable liner, covered, easily cleaned and maintained so contents are not accessible to the children. It was determined based on observation that the trash can in the children's bathroom in classroom 7, the 3 and 4 year old room, containing used pull ups did not have a cover leaving the contents accessible to the children in care.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will provide the required number and type of containers and will provide instruction regarding the use, cleaning and storage of the containers.

Correction Deadline: 1/16/2024

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

N/A

Comment

The Provider currently does not dispense/administer medication.

Safety

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

Center does not keep animals on premises.

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

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

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

Center does not participate in field trips at this time.

591-1-1-.36 Transportation(CR)	N/A
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Comment

Center does not provide routine transportation.

Sleeping & Resting Equipment

591-1-1-.30 Safe Sleeping and Resting Requirements(CR)	Not Met
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Finding

591-1-1-.30(1)(b)2 requires that cots and mats are used by the same child daily and marked for individual use. It was determined based on observation the the cots in classrooms five, seven, eight, four and two did not have cots labeled for individual use.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will ensure that cots and mats are used by the same child daily and marked for individual use.

Correction Deadline: 1/16/2024

Staff Records

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

Criminal record checks were observed to be complete.

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

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

Staffing and Supervision

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

Center observed to maintain appropriate staff:child ratios.

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

Adequate supervision observed on this date.