



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: 6/26/2024 VisitType: POI Follow Up

Arrival: 10:20 AM Departure: 12:30 PM

CCLC-46967

Happy Explorer's Learning Academy

2123 Avalon Road Columbus, GA 31907 Muscogee County
(706) 507-4689 bernicerush.db@gmail.com

Regional Consultant

Penny Svenson

Phone: (470) 346-1037

Fax: (678) 891-5613

penny.svenson@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.
06/26/2024	POI Follow Up	Good Standing	
04/11/2024	Licensing Study	Support	
12/13/2023	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	A	Infants	2	6	C	10	C	NA	NA	Feeding,Nap,Floor Play
Main	A-1		0	0	C	13	C	NA	NA	
Main	B		0	0	C	14	C	NA	NA	
Main	C	Six Year Olds and Over	4	15	C	15	C	NA	NA	Field Trip
Main	D	Three Year Olds	1	6	C	14	C	NA	NA	Story
Main	E	Three Year Olds	1	10	C	14	C	NA	NA	Nap,Transitioning
Main	F	Two Year Olds	1	8	C	16	C	NA	NA	Nap,Transitioning
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 96					Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0					
Total # Children this Date: 45					Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0					

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	Playground A	10	C
Main	Playground B	170	C

Comments

June 26, 2024--The Follow-up visit was conducted on this date. All corrections were observed.

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.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.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 POI Follow Up:

Food Service

591-1-1.15 Food Service & Nutrition

Met

Correction Deadline: 4/11/2024

Corrected on 6/26/2024

The correction was observed during a review of records. The Consultant discussed ensuring foods that were the same size as the child's trachea should not be served. Further, the Consultant discussed the importance of a staff member sitting with children three and under so that a staff member could immediately observe if a child was distressed during mealtime.

Health and Hygiene

591-1-1.07 Children's Health

Met

Correction Deadline: 4/11/2024

Corrected on 6/26/2024

The correction was observed during the visit on this date. There were no pacifier clips observed to be present.

Safety

591-1-1.36 Transportation(CR)

Met

Correction Deadline: 4/11/2024

Corrected on 6/26/2024

The correction was observed on this date during a review of records and observation. The school age classroom went on a field trip and the field trip was observed to be conducted properly and the required documents were observed.

Sleeping & Resting Equipment

591-1-1.30 Safe Sleeping and Resting Requirements(CR)

Met

Correction Deadline: 4/11/2024

Corrected on 6/26/2024

The correction was observed on this date. Crib sheets were observed to be of proper size and tight fitted.

Staff Records

591-1-1-.33 Staff Training

Defer

Defer

One staff member completed the required Health and Safety training on April 29, 2024. The other staff member returned from maternity leave on June 24, 2024, and was notified by the Director that they were required to complete the training no later than June 28, 2024.

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: 5/11/2024

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

Met

Correction Deadline: 4/11/2024

Corrected on 6/26/2024

The correction was made. The Director counseled the two staff members. Further, the Director notified all staff that all certificates sent to GA PDS were verified for authenticity.