



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: 11/3/2023 **VisitType:** Complaint Investigation & Monitoring Visit **Arrival:** 11:00 AM **Departure:** 2:30 PM

CCLC-36694

1st Step Learning Academy L.L.C

3217 New MacLand Road Suite 120 & 130 Powder Springs, GA 30127
 Cobb County
 (678) 401-2379 1ststeplearningacademy1@gmail.com

Regional Consultant

Nadia Bernard

Phone: (404) 670-9398

Fax: (706) 434-7710

nadia.bernard@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.
11/03/2023	Complaint Investigation & Monitoring Visit	Good Standing	
03/16/2023	Licensing Study	Good Standing	
10/28/2022	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
Building 2	One room	Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds and Six Year Olds and Over	1	3	C	25	C	NA	NA	Lunch
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 25			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0							
Main	B- 2nd Right	Two Year Olds and Three Year Olds	2	5	C	10	C	NA	NA	Nap
Main	C-1st Left	Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds and Five Year Olds	1	8	C	18	C	NA	NA	Transitioning, Lunch
Main	D- 2nd Left	One Year Olds	2	4	C	9	C	NA	NA	Nap
Main	Rm. A-1st Right	Infants	1	2	C	6	C	NA	NA	Floor Play
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 43			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0							
Total # Children this Date: 22			Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 68			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0				

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	Playground-Back of Center	29	C

Comments

Plan developed on this date.

Plan of Improvement: Developed This Date 11/03/2023

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.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!

Kai Kyser, Program Official

Date

Nadia Bernard, Regional Consultant

Date



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(Findings Report)

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The following information is associated with a Monitoring Visit:

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(2) requires that all equipment and furniture be free from hazardous conditions such as, but not limited to, sharp rough edges or toxic paint; and be kept clean. It was determined based on observation that in room C in the reading center the brown child sized sofa had tears on the left arm rest.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will ensure that equipment and furniture are used by the age-appropriate group of children.

Correction Deadline: 11/3/2023

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

Met

Comment

Center does not provide swimming activities.

Facility

591-1-1.06 Bathrooms

Not Met

Finding

591-1-1.06(1) requires the center to provide a specified minimum number of flush toilets and hand washing sinks with running water for the use of all children, at least one flush toilet for children being potty-trained and to not substitute nursery potty chairs for a required flush toilet. It was determined based on observation that there only two operating toilets on this date. The facility capacity was 43 and three toilets are required.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The center will add the required number of flush toilets and/or sinks or decrease the licensed capacity

Correction Deadline: 12/3/2023

Defer

591-1-1-.06(4)- The bathroom was under construction on this date. The consultant will be observed during next regulatory visit.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will fully enclose and ventilate bathroom areas, as required, and will provide adequate ventilation and sanitation in bathrooms that are not fully enclosed.

Correction Deadline: 3/30/2023

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

Comment

Please be mindful to keep items that pose a hazard inaccessible to children.

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 that the following hazards were observed in children's personal bags and were labeled keep out of reach of children:

- Room C Johnson's Aloe and Vitamin powder, Pampers Wipes, Cantu For Kids Curling Cream, and Kid's Crest
- Room D Saline Nasal Mist

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: 11/3/2023

591-1-1-.25 Physical Plant-Structural/Mechanical

Technical Assistance

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.25(5) - Consultant discussed with the provider to ensure the approval from the Department, local zoning authorities, fire safety agencies and local building authorities for any structural changes to an existing Center or for construction of a new Center. Construction and maintenance work shall take place only in areas that are not accessible to the children. Consultant further discussed that a required report should be submitted to ensure compliance with the department.

Correction Deadline: 11/3/2023

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

Not Met

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 following hazards were observed on the playground: Water Heater, plywood, and electric saw.

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.

Correction Deadline: 11/3/2023

Food Service

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

591-1-1-.15(11) requires that food purchased from a caterer has been prepared in a facility with a current food service permit and is maintained at a safe temperature (forty (40) degrees Fahrenheit or below for foods requiring refrigeration or one hundred forty (140) degrees Fahrenheit for foods which must be heated prior to serving) until served. It was determined based on staff statements that food was prepared from the director's home and served to the children at the center due to the center being under construction.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will obtain and keep a copy of the caterer's current food service permit and will have and use the equipment necessary to store the food at the required temperature until served.

Correction Deadline: 11/3/2023

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

591-1-1-.18(2) requires the Center to have a designated space for food preparation separate from rooms used by children and in an area not used for diaper changing. The area shall be kept clean and free of accumulation of dust, dirt, food particles and grease deposits. Food preparation surface areas shall be nonporous with no unsealed cracks or seams. It was determined based on observation that food service was prepared and served Building 2 One room on the table in the left corner.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will ensure that a separate food preparation area is provided that meets the requirements. If needed, the area will be cleaned and cracks and seams will be sealed.

Correction Deadline: 11/13/2023

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 that the ventilation in room B was inoperable.

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: 12/4/2023

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

Please ensure lids remain on trash containing organic waste.

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****Comment**

Paperwork, checklist, permission forms, annual inspection form and proper check of the vehicle after transportation were discussed with the director.

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 four out of thirteen seats on the van did not have operable seatbelts.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

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

Correction Deadline: 11/17/2023**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 documents that children transported to Powder Springs Elementary for date October 30, 2023-November 3, 2023 did not have departure, load, and return times for October 30th through November 2nd.

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: 11/4/2023

Sleeping & Resting Equipment

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

Discussed SIDS and infant sleeping position.

Comment

Pleasant naptime 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.

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.30(1)(b)1 - Consultant discussed with the director to ensure 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

Correction Deadline: 11/3/2023

Staff Records

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

Criminal record checks were observed to be complete.

Comment

Director provided three files for employees hired since last visit.

591-1-1-.33 Staff Training**Defer****Correction Deadline: 4/15/2023****Corrected on 11/3/2023**

.33(3) - Citation observed to be corrected on this date. Consultant observed complete health and safety for applicable staff members on this date.

Defer

591-1-1-.33(5)- Center staff have until December 31, 2023 to complete the ten hours of annual training for the year 2023.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will plan and schedule the required 10 hours of annual training each year and follow up to ensure the training is completed.

Correction Deadline: 4/15/2023**591-1-1-.31 Staff(CR)****Met****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****Comment**

Adequate supervision observed on this date.

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

Center observed to maintain appropriate staff:child ratios.