



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: 2/13/2024 VisitType: Licensing Study

Arrival: 9:10 AM

Departure: 1:35 PM

CCLC-53587

Growing Gardens Learning Center

815 US Highway 27 Cataula, GA 31804 Harris County
(762) 524-7651 ggldirector@gmail.com

Regional Consultant

Laura Swann

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Mailing Address

2510 mckee rd
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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.
02/13/2024	Licensing Study	Good Standing	
08/18/2023	Complaint Closure	Good Standing	
08/08/2023	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	Room A	Infants	1	7	NC	13	C	NA	NA	Floor Play, Feeding
Main	Room B	One Year Olds	2	14	C	17	C	NA	NA	Outside
Main	Room C	Two Year Olds	1	14	NC	20	C	NA	NA	Circle Time
Main	Room D	Three Year Olds	1	7	C	20	C	NA	NA	Centers
Main	Room E	Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds	1	9	C	20	C	NA	NA	Centers
Main	Room F	Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds	1	8	C	27	C	NA	NA	Free Play
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 117					Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0					
Total # Children this Date: 59					Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0					

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	Playground A	15	C
Main	Playground B	65	C

Comments

Licensing study completed on February 13, 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.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 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!

Camelle Tasby, Program Official

Date

Laura Swann, 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

Met

Correction Deadline: 8/19/2023

Corrected on 2/13/2024

.03(9) - Correction observed on this date. Staff had no verbal altercations.

591-1-1-.12 Equipment & Toys(CR)

Met

Correction Deadline: 8/8/2023

Corrected on 2/13/2024

.12(1) - Correction observed on this date. Children were observed to be buckled in seats at the feeding tables.

Correction Deadline: 8/8/2023

Corrected on 2/13/2024

.12(7)

- Correction observed on this date. No balloons were allowed in the classrooms.

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 classrooms had hazards accessible to children in care.

Classroom C- Under the diaper changing table in an unlocked drawer were staple remover, screw driver, batteries, scraper, push pins, "Wite-Out", and "Purell" wipes. In cubbies there were "Pampers" wipes, and plastic grocery bags.

Classroom D- In the cubbies were "Pampers" wipes

Classroom E- in the cubbies were Pampers" wipes and plastic grocery bags.

All items had the warning label "Keep Out of Reach of Children"

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: 2/13/2024**Recited on 2/13/2024****Technical Assistance**

591-1-1-.25(3) - Please monitor all the classrooms and restrooms ceilings, vents and vent covers for dust and remove when present.

Correction Deadline: 2/13/2024

591-1-1-.26 Playgrounds(CR)**Met****Comment**

Please continue to fluff and redistribute resilient surfacing when needed to cover the fall zones.

Food Service

591-1-1-.15 Food Service & Nutrition**Technical Assistance****Correction Deadline: 8/18/2023****Corrected on 2/13/2024**

.15(1) - Correction observed on this date. Required components were served daily.

Correction Deadline: 8/18/2023**Corrected on 2/13/2024**

.15(2)(a) - Correction observed on this date. Children under six months old and older that cannot hold their bottles were held to be fed.

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.15(3) - Please monitor baby bottles to ensure they are labeled with child's name and not just initials.

Correction Deadline: 2/13/2024

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 in classrooms A and B the diaper changing pad had designs and was not smooth. .

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. The center will remove the sheets from diaper changing pads.

Correction Deadline: 2/16/2024

Recited on 2/13/2024

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

Met

Correction Deadline: 8/18/2023

Corrected on 2/13/2024

.17(2) - Correction was observed on this date. Staff were observed to keep children dry, clean and comfortable.

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

Technical Assistance

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.20(1) - Consultant reviewed with the director the following directions for medication. requires Personnel to obtain specific written authorization from the child's physician or parent in order to dispense prescription or non-prescription medications, except for first aid. Such authorization will include when applicable, date; full name of the child; name of the medication; prescription number, if any; dosage; the dates to be given; the time of day to be dispensed; and signature of parent.

Correction Deadline: 2/13/2024

Policies and Procedures

591-1-1-.21 Operational Policies & Procedures

Met

Correction Deadline: 8/18/2023

Corrected on 2/13/2024

.21(1)(a-o) - Correction observed on this date. Policies and procedures set by the center were being followed.

Safety

591-1-1-.05 Animals

Met

Comment

Center does not keep animals on premises.

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(7)(d)2. requires that the second designated Staff person conduct a check of the vehicle immediately upon the completion of the first check of the vehicle. The responsible person shall physically walk through the entire vehicle; visually inspect all seat surfaces, under all seats and in all compartments or recesses in the vehicle's interior; and sign the passenger transportation checklist(s), indicating all of the children have exited the vehicle. There shall be continuous watchful oversight of the vehicle between the first check and second check. It was determined based on a review of records that for the weeks of January 16-19, 2024, and January 22-26, 2024, from Pine Ridge Elementary School to the center there was no second check on the vehicle along with no signature..

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will train Staff who are or may be involved in transporting children in how to thoroughly inspect a vehicle and properly complete transportation documentation. The Center will review and monitor.

Correction Deadline: 2/13/2024

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

Pleasant naptime environment observed.

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 4 file(s) for employees hired since last visit.

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

Complete first aid kits observed in center and on vehicles.

591-1-1-.31 Staff(CR)**Technical Assistance****Technical Assistance**

591-1-1-.31(2)(b)3.(ii)(I) - (VIII) - Consultant reviewed with the director and left a copy of the requirements for staff professional development plan.

Correction Deadline: 2/13/2024

Staffing and Supervision**591-1-1-.32 Staff:Child Ratios and Group Size(CR)****Not Met****Finding**

591-1-1-.32(1) requires the Center to maintain the required Staff:child ratios as follows: under 1 year or under 18 months if not walking = 1:6; 1 year and walking = 1:8; 2 years = 1:10; 3 years = 1:15; 4 years = 1:18; 5 years = 1:20; and 6 years and older = 1:25. A Center must establish groupings of children for care with maximum group sizes as follows: under 1 year = 12; under 18 months/not walking = 12; 1 year and walking = 16; 2 years = 20; 3 years = 30; 4 years = 36; 5 years = 40; and 6 years and older = 50. It was determined based on observation and staff statements the following classrooms were not in ratio and required one additional teacher. A- had seven infants with one staff, one additional staff was required. C- had 14 two-year-olds with one staff, one additional staff was required.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will hire additional Staff or reschedule current Staff to meet required Staff:child ratios and will organize children into groups that meet requirements.

Correction Deadline: 2/13/2024

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

Adequate supervision observed on this date.

