



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: 3/4/2024 VisitType: Licensing Study Arrival: 9:35 AM Departure: 2:20 PM

CCLC-48039

A Step of Faith Christian Academy, LLC

4651 Flat Shoals Road, Suite 2 & 3 Union City, GA 30291 Fulton County
(678) 654-8104 deborpay@aol.com

Exemption Unit Consultant

Melissa McFarlin

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Joint with: Chrissy Powell

Mailing Address

150 Sams Drive
Fayetteville, GA 30214

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.
03/04/2024	Licensing Study	Good Standing	
05/08/2023	Licensing Study	Good Standing	
11/08/2022	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
Main	A- 1st Right	One Year Olds and Two Year Olds	2	7	C	11	C	15	C	Centers
Main	B- 2nd Right	One Year Olds	2	9	C	12	C	NA	NA	Centers
Main	C- 1st Left	Infants	2	9	C	19	C	NA	NA	Nap,Circle Time
Main	D- 1st room	Five Year Olds	3	5	C	23	C	32	C	Circle Time
Main	E- 2nd middle	Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds	2	15	C	18	C	25	C	Centers
Main	F-3rd back room	Four Year Olds	2	8	C	22	C	30	C	Circle Time
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 105					Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 133					
Total # Children this Date: 53					Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 133					

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	Playground A	33	C

Comments

A visit was conducted on this date, the purpose of the visit was to conduct a licensing study and to follow-up on the previous visit.

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.state.ga.us/CCS/RuleAndRegulations.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.state.ga.us for more information. Free technical assistance is available!

Deborah Payne, Program Official	Date
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Chrissy Powell, Child Care Services Manager	Date
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Melissa McFarlin, Exemption Unit 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

Equipment and furniture observed to be properly secured, as applicable. The fishtank in the three and four-year old classroom room was observed to be stable and secure.

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

Met

Comment

Center does not provide swimming activities.

Facility

591-1-1-.06 Bathrooms

Technical Assistance

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.06(4) - It was observed that the bathrooms ventilation were not operating properly. The center needs to clean the exhaust vents to ensure that the ventilation is operating as needed. The center will ensure that toilet brushes are removed from the bathroom and out of the children's reach.

Correction Deadline: 4/3/2024

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)

Technical Assistance

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.25(13) - Staff in the two-year-old classsroom was reminded to keep purse and personal belongings out of reach of children.

Correction Deadline: 3/4/2024

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.25(13) - The staff was reminded to ensure that soap and other supplies that state keep out of reach of children are not accessible to children.

Correction Deadline: 3/4/2024

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.25(7) - It was observed that the door leading to the kitchen and break room was open and children in the adjacent classroom had access to an area that should not be accessible to children. Staff members will ensure that all areas that should be inaccessible to children including storage rooms are locked.

Correction Deadline: 3/4/2024

591-1-1-.26 Playgrounds(CR)**Technical Assistance****Technical Assistance**

591-1-1-.26(4) - The director will ensure that the cracked border at the top of the fence is repaired or replaced to ensure that the fence remains four (4) feet at all times. The border was observed to to be connected to the fence and the height of the fence was not altered.

Correction Deadline: 3/4/2024

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.26(6) - Two swings on the left on the older children's playground were observed to have swing chains that measured a 6 feet and fall zones in the back of the swing that measured at 11.2 feet. The fall zones were not in compliance. No children were observed on the playground. The director removed the current swings and ordered replacement swings.

Correction Deadline: 3/14/2024

Food Service

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

591-1-1-.15(4) requires that a feeding chair or similar equipment designed for feeding children shall be provided for the use of each child being fed who is capable of sitting up but who is unable to sit unassisted at a table and must be cleaned with a disinfectant after each use. Such chair or similar equipment shall have a broad base to prevent tipping, a surface that the child cannot raise, a strap or other device which prevents the child from sliding out of the chair, and a feeding surface free of cracks. It was determined based on consultant's observation that the children were not properly secured in the feeding chairs. The feeding chairs did not have straps attached.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will inspect feeding equipment to ensure it meets each of the listed criteria and to verify a feeding chair or equipment is provided for each child who requires one. The Center will train staff and monitor to ensure that the feeding equipment is used as intended and the children are properly secured.

Correction Deadline: 3/4/2024

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.15(6)(g) - Staff were reminded to ensure that liquid is offered during feeding time.

Correction Deadline: 3/4/2024

591-1-1-.18 Kitchen Operations**Technical Assistance****Technical Assistance**

591-1-1-.18(8) - The staff will ensure that food is properly stored in the refrigerator to reduce spills and cross contamination.

Correction Deadline: 3/4/2024

Health and Hygiene

591-1-1-.10 Diapering Areas & Practices(CR)**Not Met****Technical Assistance**

591-1-1-.10(4) - The center staff will ensure nonporous changing stations are not used in the infants classroom. The staff stated they were using single use covers over the quilted changing pads. The director will replace the changing pads with the nonporous changing pad on reserve.

Correction Deadline: 3/4/2024**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 the consultant's observation that the changing station did not have a proper strap in a two-year classroom.

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. The director has ordered a new diaper changing table with a working strap.

Correction Deadline: 3/4/2024

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

Staff were observed to remind children to wash hands.

591-1-1-.20 Medications(CR)**N/A****Comment**

The Provider currently does not dispense/administer medication.

Policies and Procedures

591-1-1-.27 Posted Notices**Technical Assistance****Technical Assistance**

591-1-1-.27 - Staff will ensure the current menu is posted. The staff will ensure all required signs are posted and up to date.

Safety

591-1-1-.05 Animals**Met****Comment**

Animals maintained clean and appropriately caged.

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

Staff in the three-year old classroom were reminded to use age appropriate discipline policies.

591-1-1-.13 Field Trips(CR)**N/A****Comment**

Center does not participate in field trips at this time.

591-1-1-.36 Transportation(CR)**Met****Comment**

Center does not provide routine transportation per the director.

Sleeping & Resting Equipment

591-1-1-.30 Safe Sleeping and Resting Requirements(CR)**Not Met****Technical Assistance**

591-1-1-.30(1)(b) - It was observed that the mats were torn at the edges in the three and four-year old classroom. Mats must be in good condition for resting and sleeping. The director stated that cots and mats were ordered and will be delivered by March 20, 2024.

Correction Deadline: 3/4/2024**Technical Assistance**

591-1-1-.30(2) - An infant was observed to be sleeping in the crib with a silicone attachment to the pacifier. The staff will ensure that the infants have a safe sleeping environment.

Correction Deadline: 3/4/2024**Finding**

591-1-1-.30(2)(c) requires that infants shall not sleep in equipment other than safety-approved cribs, such as, but not limited to, a car safety seat, bouncy seat, highchair, or swing. Infants who arrive at the Center asleep or fall asleep in such equipment, on the floor or elsewhere, shall be transferred to a safety-approved crib. It was determined based on the consultant's observation that an infant was sleep in the baby swing, the infant was not moved immediately to the crib. The consultant had to ask for the child to be removed from the swing.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will only place infants in safe cribs to sleep and will transfer them to a safe crib when the infants are asleep in other equipment.

Correction Deadline: 3/4/2024

Staff Records

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

Twenty six of twenty six criminal record checks were observed to be complete.

591-1-1-.09 Criminal Records Check(CR)**Met****Comment**

Twenty six of twenty six criminal records checks were observed to be complete.

591-1-1-.33 Staff Training**Not Met****Finding**

591-1-1-.33(4) requires within the first year of employment, the Director and person with primary responsibility for food preparation shall have four clock hours of training in food nutrition planning, preparation, serving, proper dish washing and food storage. It was determined based on administrative review that the director and other staff members that operate food service did not have the proper nutrition training.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will schedule food preparation training, as required, and follow up to ensure the training is completed.

Correction Deadline: 4/3/2024

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

Staff observed to be compliant with applicable laws and regulations.

Staffing and Supervision

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

Comment

Staff observed to provide direct supervision and be attentive to children's needs.

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

Center observed to maintain appropriate staff:child ratios.