



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: 1/17/2024 VisitType: Complaint Investigation & Licensing Study Arrival: 10:20 AM Departure: 6:00 PM

CCLC-39820

The Children's Courtyard

201 Center Pointe Parkway Stockbridge, GA 30281 Henry County
(678) 289-4777 3210@childrenscourtyard.com

Regional Consultant

April Brown

Phone: (770) 357-5101

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april.brown@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.
01/17/2024	Complaint Investigation & Licensing Study	Good Standing	
08/30/2023	Complaint Closure	Good Standing	
08/30/2023	Complaint Investigation Follow Up	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-Front Middle	Infants	1	4	C	11	C	NA	NA	Nap,Free Play
Main	B-Front Left		0	0	C	13	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
Main	C-2nd Left	One Year Olds	1	7	C	13	C	NA	NA	Floor Play,Nap
Main	D-3rd Left	One Year Olds	1	6	C	17	C	NA	NA	Nap
Main	E-4th Left	Two Year Olds	1	9	C	17	C	NA	NA	Nap
Main	F-Back Left Side	Two Year Olds	2	11	C	25	C	NA	NA	Lunch
Main	G-Back Middle	Two Year Olds and Three Year Olds	2	15	C	25	C	NA	NA	Lunch
Main	H-Front Right	Four Year Olds	1	15	C	25	C	NA	NA	Transitioning
Main	I-2nd Right		0	0	C	25	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
Main	J-2nd Middle	Five Year Olds and Six Year Olds and Over	1	3	C	25	C	NA	NA	TV

Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 196

Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0

Total # Children this Date: 70

Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 196

Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	Plgd-Front Left	33	C
Main	Plgd-Front Right	10	C
Main	Plgd-Rear Left	29	C
Main	Plgd-Rear Right	51	C

Comments

CI/LS was completed on this date.

Plan of Improvement: Developed This Date 01/17/2024

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!

Darasha Gaines, Program Official

Date

April Brown, Regional Consultant

Date



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(Findings Report)

Date: 1/17/2024 **VisitType:** Complaint Investigation & Licensing Study **Arrival:** 10:20 AM **Departure:** 6:00 PM

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The following information is associated with a Licensing Study Visit:

Activities and Equipment

591-1-1-.03 Activities

Not Met

Finding

591-1-1-.03(9) requires center staff to refrain from engaging in, or allowing children or other adults to engage in, activities that could be detrimental to a child's health or well-being, such as but not limited to, horse play, rough play, wrestling, and picking up a child in a manner that could cause injury. It was determined that on January 17, 2024, a staff member picked up a two-year-old child in a manner that could cause injury to the child. The child was picked up by both arms as the child's legs dangled and the child was lifted up by the arms by the staff member and moved from the carpet area to a standing position near by.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will review requirements with Staff to ensure that appropriate activities are conducted with children.

Correction Deadline: 1/17/2024

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

Not Met

Comment

Equipment and furniture observed to be properly secured, as applicable. Consultant discussed with the director to ensure the computer monitor and modem are properly secured by adding more velcro in the front right classroom.

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 the following equipment and furniture was not in good repair:

Back Middle Classroom

* Exposed foam was present on the red sofa.

Second Middle Classroom

* Exposed foam was present on the blue sofa.

* The handles on the kitchen set were broken.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will ensure that equipment and furniture are used by the age-appropriate group of children. The director will order new sofas and a kitchen set for the classrooms identified.

Correction Deadline: 2/1/2024

Finding

591-1-1-.12(6) requires that a variety of age-appropriate toys and play materials be available, stored on low, open shelves accessible to children in each room or assigned area. It was determined based on observation there was not a variety of age-appropriate toys and play materials available and stored on low shelves in the second left, third left, fourth left, back left, and second middle classrooms as required.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center director will ensure there is a variety of age-appropriate toys and play materials in each room for each age group. that are stored on low, open shelves accessible to children. The director will order age appropriate toys for each class and set the classroom up with each area identified.

Correction Deadline: 2/1/2024

Recited on 1/17/2024

591-1-1-.35 Swimming Pools & Water-related Activities(CR)**N/A****Comment**

Center does not provide swimming activities at this time.

Children's Records

591-1-1-.08 Children's Records**Met****Comment**

Parent authorizations obtained and completed on this date.

Comment

Records were observed to be complete and well organized on this date.

Facility

591-1-1-.19 License Capacity(CR)**Met****Comment**

Licensed capacity observed to be met by the center on this date.

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 the following hazards were present:

Third Left Classroom

* Plastic trash bags, plastic gloves, baby wipes, A & D ointment, Eucerin Cream, and Aquaphor, labeled, "Keep out of reach of children", were in an unlocked cabinet accessible to children in care.

Second Middle Classroom

* A staff member's purse was located on a low shelf in the classroom accessible to children in care.

Front Right Classroom

* A staff member's purse was located under a desk in the classroom accessible to children in care.

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: 1/17/2024

Finding

591-1-1-.25(3) requires the Center and surrounding premises to be kept clean, free of debris and in good repair. Hygienic measures such as, but not limited to, screened windows and proper waste disposal procedures shall be utilized to minimize the presence of rodents, flies, roaches and other vermin at the Center. It was determined based on observation the following was not in good repair:

Third Left Classroom

- * The fluorescent light in the ceiling was cracked in the classroom.
- * Chipped green paint was present throughout the classroom walls.
- * The baseboard surrounding the sink to the right of the classroom was detached from the wall. The baseboards surrounding the classroom were dirty.

Fourth Left Classroom

- * The baseboards surrounding the classroom were dirty.
- * The fluorescent light in the ceiling was cracked.
- * Chipped green paint was present throughout the classroom walls.

Back Left Classroom

- * The baseboards surrounding the classroom were dirty.
- * Chipped green paint was present throughout the classroom walls.
- * The vent in the children's bathroom was not in working order.
- * The metal fixture which connected the water line in the back of the toilet was rusted.
- * The air duct vent in the ceiling was rusted with dust present.

Back Middle Classroom

- * Rusted screws were protruding at the base of the toilets in the children's bathroom.
- * The fluorescent light in the ceiling was cracked in the children's bathroom.
- * One toilet was not in working order in the children's bathroom.
- * The vent in the children's bathroom was dusty and not in working order.
- * The baseboards surrounding the classroom were dirty.
- * Chipped green paint and small holes were present throughout the classroom walls.

Second Middle Classroom

- * The vents in the children's bathroom were dusty and not in working order.

Front Right Classroom

- * The baseboards surrounding the classroom were dirty.
- * Chipped blue paint was present throughout the classroom walls.
- * Rust was present surrounding the base of the toilet in the children's bathroom.
- * The vents in the children's bathroom were dusty and not in working order.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will have the Center and surrounding areas cleaned, make repairs where needed, and remove all debris is removed. The Center will implement a plan to keep areas clean and in good repair that includes regular monitoring.

Correction Deadline: 2/1/2024

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

Discussed maintenance of resilient surface. Please fluff and redistribute due to weather conditions.

Defer

This citation will be deferred pending approval and/or recommendation from the City of Stockbridge Fire Department. The director will contact consultant by January 24, 2024 with information from the fire department pertaining to the fence/gates to the front left and front right playground areas.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will routinely check the fence to determine if it is in good repair and remains at least 4 feet high, and will repair any hazards. The Center will train Staff to identify and report any fence hazards and to keep the fence gates closed when not in use.

Correction Deadline: 9/20/2023

Correction Deadline: 9/20/2023

Corrected on 1/17/2024

Correction of citation in that the playgrounds were clean and free of litter and hazards as required on this date.

Food Service**591-1-1-.15 Food Service & Nutrition****Technical Assistance****Comment**

Center menu meets USDA guidelines on this date.

Technical Assistance

Please ensure that a signed written feeding plan for children less than one (1) year of age shall be obtained from Parent(s) and that instructions from the Parent(s) shall be updated regularly as new foods are added or other dietary changes are made. The feeding plan shall be posted in the child's assigned room and must include the child's feeding schedule, the amount of formula or breast milk to be given, instructions for the introduction of solid foods, the amount of food to be given and notation of any type(s) of commercially premixed formula which may not be used in an emergency because of food allergies.

Correction Deadline: 1/17/2024

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

Kitchen appears clean and well organized on this date.

Technical Assistance

Please ensure that garbage be stored in trash containers with lids that are emptied and cleaned daily and as needed.

Correction Deadline: 1/17/2024

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

Staff stated proper knowledge of diapering procedures on this date.

591-1-1-.17 Hygiene(CR)**Technical Assistance****Technical Assistance**

Please ensure that staff members are trained to ensure that children wash their hands with liquid soap and warm running water upon arrival for care, when moving from one child care group to another, upon re-entering the child care area after outside play, before and after eating meals and snacks, handling or touching food, playing in water; after toileting and diapering, playing in sand, touching animals or pets, and contact with bodily fluids and after contamination by any other means.

Correction Deadline: 1/17/2024

591-1-1-.20 Medications(CR)**Met****Comment**

The center currently does not dispense or administer medication at this time.

Policies and Procedures

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

Met

Comment

Program observed to have completed emergency drills on this date.

591-1-1-.29 Required Reporting

Met

Comment

Thank you for reporting as required.

Safety

591-1-1-.05 Animals

N/A

Comment

Center does not keep animals on premises at this time.

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

Met

Comment

Age-appropriate discussion and redirection observed on this date.

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)

Not Met

Comment

Paperwork, checklist, permission forms, annual inspection form and proper check of the vehicle after transportation were discussed with the director and driver on this date. The director reported that transportation has not been conducted for the past two weeks. January 15, 2024 was the first week of transportation for 2024. Consultant discussed the transportation procedures with the director and driver on this date.

Comment

The vehicles had an approved fire extinguisher and first aid kit on this date.

Finding

591-1-1-.36(4)(a) requires an annual safety check for each vehicle. The annual safety check, completed by a trained individual, should include a check of the: tires, headlights, horn, taillights, turn signals, brake lights, brakes, suspension, exhaust system, steering, windows, windshields and windshield wipers. A copy of the annual safety check will be kept in the Center or on the vehicle and should include evidence of any repairs and/or replacements that were identified as needed on the inspection report. It was determined based on observation vehicles with tag numbers ending in N0975 and Q6755 did not have an annual safety check inspection check completed on file as required.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will obtain the annual vehicle inspection.

Correction Deadline: 1/22/2024

Sleeping & Resting Equipment

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

Met

Comment

Discussed SIDS and infant sleeping position with infant staff and director on this date.

Staff Records

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

Criminal record checks were observed to be complete on this date.

Comment

Director provided three files for employees hired since the last visit which was conducted on August 30, 2023.

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

Evidence observed of 50% of center staff certified in First Aid and CPR on this date.

Comment

Please replace/add missing/expired item(s) in first aid kit(s). Please place thermometers in both vehicle's first aid kits that are used in transportation.

591-1-1-.24 Personnel Records**Technical Assistance****Technical Assistance**

Please ensure to maintain a personnel file on the Director, all Employees, Provisional Employees, Personnel, Staff, Students-in-Training, Volunteers, Clerical, Housekeeping, Maintenance, and other Support Staff for the duration of the term of employment plus one calendar year, and it shall contain the following: identifying information to include: name, date of birth, social security number, current address and current telephone number; employment history; as applicable to the position held: evidence of education and qualifying work experience; evidence of all training required by these rules which shall include: title of training, date of training, trainer's signature, location of training and number of clock hours obtained; a statement completed by the staff member that the information provided is true and accurate; any other records required by these rules; and as applicable to the position held, evidence of required orientation including date and signature of person providing the orientation.

Correction Deadline: 1/22/2024

591-1-1-.33 Staff Training**Met****Comment**

Documentation observed of required annual staff training for 2023 on this date.

591-1-1-.31 Staff(CR)**Not Met****Comment**

Staff observed to be compliant with applicable laws and regulations on this date.

Technical Assistance

Please ensure the center has qualified and sufficient direct-care, clerical, housekeeping, maintenance and other employees to ensure full compliance with these rules without neglecting the supervision of children.

Correction Deadline: 1/17/2024

Finding

591-1-1-.31(2)(b)2. requires teachers and lead caregivers to meet minimum academic requirements and qualifying experience at the time of employment. It was determined based on a review of records seven out of eight classrooms that were operating did not have a lead caregiver that met the minimum academic requirements and qualifying experience at the time of employment as required.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

A teacher/lead caregiver will be hired that meets the minimum academic requirements and qualifying work experience.

Correction Deadline: 2/1/2024

Staffing and Supervision

Comment

Center observed to maintain appropriate staff:child ratios on this date.

Technical Assistance

Consultant discussed with the director and front office staff members rule 591-1-1-.32(4)(a) which requires that during the early morning times of arrival and late afternoon times of departure, infants and children younger than three (3) years may be grouped with older children so long as Staff: child ratios and group size are met based on the age of the youngest child in the group.

Correction Deadline: 1/17/2024

591-1-1-.32 Supervision(CR)**Not Met****Finding**

591-1-1-.32(7) requires that children be supervised at all times appropriate to the individual age, needs and capabilities of each child. Such supervision must include, but not be limited to, indoor and outdoor activities, mealtimes, naptime, transportation, field trips, and transitions between activities. "Supervision" means that the appropriate number of Staff members are physically present in the area where children are being cared for and are providing watchful oversight to the children, volunteers and Students-in-Training. The persons supervising in the child care area must be alert, positioned to maximize their ability to hear and see the children at all times, and able to respond promptly to the needs and actions of the children being supervised, as well as the actions of the volunteers and Students-in-Training, and provide timely attention to the children's actions and needs. Staff shall be attentive and participating with all children during mealtimes and shall be seated within an arm's length away from children thirty-six (36) months of age and younger. It was determined based on observation a two-year-old child left out of the back left side classroom, ran up the hall and into the director's office at the front of the center. Additionally, staff members in the back left side and back middle classrooms were not seated within arm's length from two-year-old and three-year-old children during lunch time. Furthermore, all diapering classrooms (second left, third left, fourth left and front middle) were not complaint with the supervision plan for diapering in that staff members did not have an additional staff member in the classroom during diaper changing. The staff members had their back turned away from the children in the classroom during diaper changing times.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will train Staff and monitor to ensure they are providing supervision and watchful oversight to the children at all times.

Correction Deadline: 1/17/2024