



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: 9/11/2024 **VisitType:** Monitoring Visit

Arrival: 9:05 AM **Departure:** 2:20 PM

CCLC-35001

Tara Academy

2326 Bouldercrest Road Atlanta, GA 30316 DeKalb County
(404) 381-9300 melioradirector@gmail.com

Regional Consultant

Jessica Johnson

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Fax:

jessica.johnson@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.
09/11/2024	Monitoring Visit	Deficient	
07/24/2024	Complaint Closure	Good Standing	
07/22/2024	TA Follow Up	NA	

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 Left	Infants	1	4	C	11	C	NA	NA	Floor Play
Main	B 1st Right	One Year Olds	1	6	C	13	C	NA	NA	Outside
Main	C 2nd Left	Two Year Olds	2	12	C	22	C	NA	NA	Outside
Main	D 2nd Right		0	0	C	20	C	NA	NA	
Main	E 3rd Left	Three Year Olds	3	16	C	22	C	NA	NA	Centers
Main	F 3rd Right		0	0	C	16	C	NA	NA	
Main	G 4th Left		0	0	C	11	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
Main	H 5th Left		0	0	C	26	C	NA	NA	
Main	I 4th Right	GA PreK	2	12	C	26	C	NA	NA	Circle Time
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 167					Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0					
Total # Children this Date: 50					Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0					

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	PG Preschool	24	C
Main	PG School Age	125	C
Main	PG Toddler	18	C

Enrolled Children						
Under 1 years	1 years	2 years	3 years	4 years	5 years (Prekonly)	5 years and older
4	6	14	17	15	0	30

Comments

An on-site inspection was conducted on September 11, 2024 with the Director Cynthia Wright .Background checks were all reviewed on September 11, 2024.

Plan of Improvement: To Be Submitted 09/25/2024

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.decga.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@decga.gov for more information. Free technical assistance is available!



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(Findings Report)

Date: 9/11/2024 **VisitType:** Monitoring Visit

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The following information is associated with a Monitoring Visit:

Activities and Equipment

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

Met

Comment

A variety of equipment and toys were observed throughout the center.

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)

Technical Assistance

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.25(13) - The Consultant discussed with the Director that potentially hazardous equipment, materials and supplies be stored in a locked area inaccessible to children.

Correction Deadline: 9/11/2024

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.25(3) - The Consultant discussed with the Director replacing the missing ceiling tile in the back hallway and replacing the damaged ceiling tile in the restroom of classroom D.

Correction Deadline: 9/11/2024

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

Not Met

Finding

591-1-1-.26(6) requires that playground equipment provide an opportunity for the children to engage in a variety of experiences and shall be age-appropriate. For example, toddlers shall not be permitted to swing in swings designed for School-age Children. The outdoor equipment shall be free of lead-based paint, sharp corners and shall be regularly maintained in such a way as to be free of rust and splinters that could pose significant safety hazard to the children. All equipment shall be arranged so as not to obstruct supervision of children. It was determined based on observation that both green stairs on the playground were broken and not connected to the equipment.

Correction Deadline: 9/25/2024

Finding

591-1-1-.26(8) requires climbing and swinging equipment to have a resilient surface beneath the equipment and the fall zone from such equipment must be adequately maintained by the Center to assure continuing resiliency. It was determined based on observation that the following hazards were observed:

PG School Age

- No resilient surface around the blue climbing dome, when three inches was required.
 - Four inches of resilient surface under the monkey bar swing bar, when six inches was required.
 - Four inches of resilient surface around the swing, when six inches was required.
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Correction Deadline: 9/25/2024

Health and Hygiene

591-1-1-.07 Children's Health

Met

Correction Deadline: 7/24/2024

Corrected on 9/11/2024

.07(2) - Citation corrected. The Consultant discussed with the Director that Parents be immediately notified and specific instructions obtained until the child can be picked up or returned to the group, immediately when professional medical attention is required, or when the child experiences symptoms of moderate discomfort, or when the child is involved in an incident that puts their health and/or safety at risk and to notify Parents by the end of the day when professional medical attention is not required, when the child experiences symptoms of less than moderate discomfort or when the child experiences an adverse reaction to prescribed medication which does not constitute moderate discomfort.

591-1-1-.10 Diapering Areas & Practices(CR)

Met

Comment

Staff state proper knowledge of diapering procedures.

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

Met

Comment

Proper hand washing of children and staff was discussed with the director on this date.

Comment

Staff were observed to remind children to wash hands.

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

Met

Comment

The Provider currently does not dispense/administer medication.

Safety

Comment

Age-appropriate discussion and/or redirection observed.

591-1-1-.36 Transportation(CR)

Technical Assistance

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.36(4)(a) - The Consultant discussed with the Director completing the annual safety check for the new vehicle purchased on 8/19/24. 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. The Director stated that only one vehicle was in use.

Correction Deadline: 9/16/2024

Sleeping & Resting Equipment

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

Technical Assistance

Comment

Discussed SIDS and infant sleeping position.

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.30(1)(a)1 - The Consultant discussed with the Director that the manufacture date must be on each crib. The Consultant discussed with the Director that the manufacturer's certificate of compliance. NOTE: For a standard full-size crib, the certificate of compliance should indicate that the crib meets compliance code 16CFR Part 1219. For a non-full-size crib, the certificate of compliance should indicate that the crib meets compliance code 16CFR Part 1220.

Correction Deadline: 9/11/2024

Staff Records

Records Reviewed: 20	Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 1
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Staff # 17

Not Met

Date of Hire: 12/27/2023

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.31(2)(b)2.-Staff Qualifications-Education Missing

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

Not Met

Finding

591-1-1-.09(1)(j) requires that for portability for Directors, Employees and Provisional Employees, excluding Students-in-Training, only the most recently issued determination letter is eligible for portability and must be ported electronically. A Center may accept a satisfactory Fingerprint Records Check Determination letter or a satisfactory Comprehensive Records Check Determination letter issued by the Department if the Records Check Clearance Date is within the preceding 12 months from the hire date, the individual has not had a lapse of employment from the child care industry that lasted for 180 days (6 months) or longer, and the Center does not know or reasonably should not know that the individual's satisfactory status has changed. It was determined based on a review of records that staff #12 did not have the most recently issued determination letter ported electronically prior to being present at the center.

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

Technical Assistance

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.31(2)(b)2. - The Consultant discussed with the Director updating staff # lead teacher credential and add a professional learning plan in the file.

Correction Deadline: 9/11/2024

Staffing and Supervision

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

Met

Comment

Center observed to maintain appropriate staff:child ratios.

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 that a child was unsupervised for approximately one minute when they ran into classroom F from the hallway and exited the back door to the playground without adult supervision. It was further determined based on observation that a child was observed in the hallway without adult supervision for approximately two minutes.

Correction Deadline: 9/11/2024