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: 4/24/2024 **VisitType:** Licensing Study **Arrival:** 8:45 AM **Departure:** 12:45 PM

CCLC-36048
Ms. Niecy's Home Away From Home Learning Center
2520 Old Hapeville Rd., SW Atlanta, GA 30315 Fulton County
(404) 767-4177 msniecyschildcare@yahoo.com

Regional Consultant
Jackqueline Frederick
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Joint with: Yolanda Marable

Mailing Address
Same

Quality Rated:

Compliance Zone Designation		
04/24/2024	Licensing Study	Good Standing
03/07/2024	Complaint Investigation Follow Up	Good Standing
11/01/2023	Complaint Investigation Follow Up	Good Standing

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.

Ratios/License Capacity

Building	Room	Age Group	Staff	Children	NC/C	Max 35 SF.	35 SF. Comp.	Max 25 SF.	25 SF. Comp.	Notes
Bldg II	A 1L		0	0	C	17	C	23	C	
Bldg II	B 1R	GA PreK	1	13	NC	15	C	21	C	Story
		Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 32			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 144					
Building III	Main		0	0	C	17	C	NA	NA	
		Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 19			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 144			Building @35 capacity limited by Zoning		
Main	A-Front Rm.	One Year Olds and Two Year Olds	2	8	NC	15	C	NA	NA	Circle Time
Main	B- PreK Left Room		0	0	C	23	C	NA	NA	
Main	C- Right Room	Two Year Olds	2	11	C	7	NC	NA	NA	Art
Main	D- 3	Three Year Olds	1	15	C	20	C	NA	NA	Breakfast
		Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 65			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 144					
Main-Downstairs	Rm. E- 1's-2's	Infants and One Year Olds	1	6	C	12	C	NA	NA	TV,Feeding
		Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 12			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 144					
Total # Children this Date: 53		Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 128			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 144					

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	Playground	178	C

Comments
The purpose of today's visit is to conduct a licensing study.

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.decal.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 a1 855-800-7747 or qualityrated@decal.ga.gov **for more information. Free techincal assistance is available!**

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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 **Not Met**

Finding
591-1-1-.03(2) requires the Center to keep current lesson plans on site that reflect appropriate instruction practices and activities to support children's development The Center shall have sufficient and varied play and learning equipment and materials to support the above program of activities in all developmental areas. It was determined that classrooms A, C, D, E in the main building, classrooms A and B in building 2, and pre-k did not have evidence of current lesson plans as required.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
The Center will keep current lesson plans on site that include appropriate instruction practices and activities and will have sufficient and varied play and learning equipment and materials to support the activities.

Correction Deadline: 4/24/2024

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.

Children's Records

Records Reviewed: 5 **Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 2**

Child # 1 Not Met

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.08(1)-Allergies and Disabilities

Child # 2 Not Met

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.08(1)-Allergies and Disabilities

591-1-1-.08 Children's Records **Not Met**

Finding
591-1-1-.08(1) requires the Center Staff to maintain a file for each child while such child is in care and for one year after that child is no longer enrolled. In order for the file to be complete, the file shall contain the following: child's name, birth date, sex, address, living arrangement, name of school if applicable; names of both Parents, home and work addresses, and home and work telephone numbers; name(s) and addresses of the person(s) to whom the child may be released including address, telephone numbers, relationship to child and to Parent(s), and other identifying information; name(s) and telephone number(s) of person(s) to contact in emergencies when the Parent cannot be reached; name and telephone number of the child's primary source of health care; and a statement regarding known allergies, physical problems, mental health disorders, intellectual disabilities or developmental disabilities which limit the child's participation in the program. It was determined that the center did not complete documentation referencing medication and allergies for two children in care as required.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
Center staff will develop a plan that includes how to obtain all required information for currently enrolled children and how to ensure this is done for future enrollees as well. The plan will also include how and where to maintain files for the required amount of time. The plan will be implemented and followed.

Correction Deadline: 4/24/2024

Finding
591-1-1-.08(1)(a) requires Center Staff to maintain a file for each child that includes a description of any special procedures to be followed in caring for the child, including any special services which the Center agrees to provide to a Child with Special Needs. It was determined that the center did not have documented evidence of a written plan for one child in care that requires special care as required.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
Center staff will develop a written plan with the parent or guardian for a child who requires special procedures to be followed and maintain the plan in the child's file.

Correction Deadline: 4/24/2024

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(11) requires that floor coverings be tight, smooth, free of odors and washable or cleanable. It was determined that the center's flooring in classroom E and Classroom B in building 2 was not tight and smooth as required. The flooring was observed to be broken and raised posing a tripping hazard.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
Floors will be maintained to be safe and sanitary.

Correction Deadline: 5/24/2024

Technical Assistance
591-1-1-.25(13) - Center will ensure that all cleaning tools including but not limited to vacuum cleaners, toilet brushes etc. are secure and inaccessible to the children care.

Correction Deadline: 4/24/2024

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 that in building 2 (pre-k) and abundance of dust and dirt was observed in the classroom and kitchen. The area was not kept clean as required. Additionally, the floor vents in classroom D were observed to be broken and have rust.

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: 4/24/2024

Finding
591-1-1-.25(8) requires protective caps on all unused electrical outlets within children's reach and requires that electrical outlets in use be made inaccessible to children. It was determined that the cover plate for an outlet in classroom E was missing, leaving the outlets interior exposed.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
The Center will train Staff to check outlets and replace protective caps when needed and identify and monitor how outlets in use are inaccessible to children.

Correction Deadline: 4/24/2024

591-1-1-.26 Playgrounds(CR) — **Not Met**

Comment
Discussed maintenance of resilient surface. Please fluff and redistribute.

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 the the playgrounds black barrier was observed to be detached in several areas, posing an entrapment hazard. Additionally, goat feces was observed on the playground and was not clean as required. Lastly, two active ant beds were observed.

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: 4/24/2024

Health and Hygiene

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

Comment
Hand washing requirements for diapering were discussed with the director on this date.

591-1-1-.17 Hygiene(CR) — **Met**

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

591-1-1-.05 Animals — **Technical Assistance**

Technical Assistance
591-1-1-.05(2) - Center will ensure that all animals are properly confined and caged as required.

Correction Deadline: 4/24/2024

591-1-1-.11 Discipline(CR) — **Met**

Comment
Age-appropriate discussion and/or redirection observed.

Comment
Staff were observed to maintain a positive learning environment on this date.

591-1-1-.36 Transportation(CR) **Not Met**

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 that seat covers on bus SCM 4361 were observed to be torn on the first row on the left side and not in good repair as required.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

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

Correction Deadline: 4/25/2024

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 that there was no documented evidence of a signature confirming that a second check was conducted during the April 24, 2024 AM and April 23, 2024 PM route for the following schools: Slater, Cleveland, Humphrey's Elementary and Heritage Academy.

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: 4/24/2024

Sleeping & Resting Equipment

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

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.

Staff Records

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

Comment

Criminal record checks were observed to be complete.

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

Finding

91-1-1-.33(5) requires that every calendar year after the first year of employment, all supervisory and caregiver Personnel, except independent contractors, Students-in-Training and volunteers shall attend ten (10) clock hours of diverse training which is task-focused in on-going health, safety and early childhood or child development related topics and which is offered by an accredited college, university or vocational program or other Department-approved source. The annual ten (10) clock hours of training shall be chosen from the following fields: child development, including discipline, guidance, nutrition, injury control and safety; health, including sanitation, disease control, cleanliness, detection and disposition of illness; child abuse and neglect, including identification and reporting, and meeting the needs of abused and/or neglected children; and business related topics, including parental communication, recordkeeping, etc.; provided however that such business related training shall be limited to no more than two (2) of the required ten (10) clock hours of training. Records of completion of such training shall be maintained, as required by these rules. It was determined that one staff member did not have complete annual hours as required.

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: 5/24/2024

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

Finding
591-1-1-.31(1)(b)2 requires the Director to possess at least one of the sets of minimum academic requirements and qualifying child care experience listed in Rule 591-1-1-.31(1)(b)2.(i-xiii). It was determined that the director's education credential expired February 11, 2023.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
The Center will ensure that the Director meets the minimum education and work requirements and secure the necessary documentation.

Correction Deadline: 4/24/2024

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) **Met**

Comment
Adequate supervision observed on this date.