



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: 12/11/2024 VisitType: Complaint Investigation Follow Up Arrival: 8:50 AM Departure: 11:30 AM

CCLC-46772

Stepping Stones Academy

1108 Bear Creek Blvd Hampton, GA 30228 Henry County
(770) 707-3955 hamptonssa@gmail.com

Regional Consultant

Brandi Mangino

Phone: (478) 314-9726

Fax: (478) 599-0169

brandi.mangino@decal.ga.gov

Mailing Address

Same

Quality Rated: ★ ★

<u>Compliance Zone Designation</u>			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.
12/11/2024	Complaint Investigation Follow Up	Deficient	
11/20/2024	Licensing Study	Good Standing	
07/25/2024	Complaint Closure	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- Infants-1st Right	One Year Olds	2	7	C	11	C	NA	NA	Circle Time
Main	B- 2's 2nd Right	Two Year Olds	2	14	C	20	C	NA	NA	Circle Time
Main	C- PreK 3rd Right	Three Year Olds	2	20	C	19	NC	NA	NA	Circle Time
Main	D- PreK 4th Right	GA PreK	2	19	C	26	C	NA	NA	Circle Time
Main	E- School age-5th Right	GA PreK	2	19	C	27	C	NA	NA	Circle Time
Main	F- Toddlers- 2nd Left	One Year Olds	1	6	C	10	C	NA	NA	Free Play
Main	G- 3's 3rd Left	Infants and One Year Olds	2	8	C	15	C	NA	NA	Floor Play,Breakfast
Main	H- 3's 4th Left	Two Year Olds	2	8	C	15	C	NA	NA	Centers
Main	I- PreK 5th Left	Three Year Olds	2	17	C	20	C	NA	NA	Centers
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 163			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0							
Modular	A:Left		0	0	C	12	C	NA	NA	
Modular	B: right		0	0	C	12	C	NA	NA	
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 24			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0							
Total # Children this Date: 118			Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 187			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0				

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	Playground C (back right)	99	C

Main	Playground D (right front)	47	C
Main	Plgd A - Infants left side of Bldg	20	C
Main	Plgd B- Toddler	46	C
Main	Plgd E- School age	86	C

Comments

A plan of Improvement will need to be submitted through Decal Koala by December 27, 2024.

Plan of Improvement: To Be Submitted 12/27/2024

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.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!



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(Findings Report)

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The following information is associated with a Complaint Investigation Follow Up:

Activities and Equipment

Records Reviewed: 23

Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 6

Staff # 6

Not Met

Date of Hire: 07/29/2024

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.14(2)-First Aid Missing,.14(2)-CPR missing

Staff # 8

Not Met

Date of Hire: 07/29/2024

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.14(2)-First Aid Missing,.14(2)-CPR missing

Staff # 15

Not Met

Date of Hire: 03/15/2024

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.14(2)-First Aid Missing,.14(2)-CPR missing

Staff # 17

Not Met

Date of Hire: 09/09/2023

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.14(2)-First Aid Missing,.14(2)-CPR missing

Staff # 19

Not Met

Date of Hire: 07/29/2024

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.14(2)-First Aid Missing,.14(2)-CPR missing

Staff # 20

Not Met

Date of Hire: 04/08/2024

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

Records Reviewed: 23

Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 6

.14(2)-First Aid Missing,.14(2)-CPR missing

591-1-1-.03 Activities

Met

Correction Deadline: 11/20/2024

Corrected on 12/11/2024

.03(2) - Citation corrected all classes had current lesson plans.

Facility

Records Reviewed: 23

Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 6

Staff # 6

Not Met

Date of Hire: 07/29/2024

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.14(2)-First Aid Missing,.14(2)-CPR missing

Staff # 8

Not Met

Date of Hire: 07/29/2024

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.14(2)-First Aid Missing,.14(2)-CPR missing

Staff # 15

Not Met

Date of Hire: 03/15/2024

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.14(2)-First Aid Missing,.14(2)-CPR missing

Staff # 17

Not Met

Date of Hire: 09/09/2023

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.14(2)-First Aid Missing,.14(2)-CPR missing

Staff # 19

Not Met

Date of Hire: 07/29/2024

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.14(2)-First Aid Missing,.14(2)-CPR missing

Staff # 20

Not Met

Date of Hire: 04/08/2024

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.14(2)-First Aid Missing,.14(2)-CPR missing

591-1-1-.19 License Capacity(CR)

Not Met

Finding

591-1-1-.19(1) requires a Center to provide 35 square feet of usable space per child, which will determine the Center's License capacity. It was determined based on observation that 20 children were present in Room C which was licensed for 19 children.

Correction Deadline: 12/11/2024

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 hazards were accessible to children in care.

Room C- Zip lock bags located in cubbies were accessible to children which posed a suffocation hazard.

Room D- Zip lock bags located in cubbies were accessible to children which posed a suffocation hazard.

Correction Deadline: 12/11/2024

Recited on 12/11/2024

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

Finding

591-1-1-.26(7) requires that climbing and swinging equipment be anchored. It was determined based on observation that the yellow school bus on the Front Right Playground was not anchored to the ground as required.

Correction Deadline: 12/11/2024

Recited on 12/11/2024

Correction Deadline: 11/20/2024

Corrected on 12/11/2024

.26(9) - Citation corrected.

Food Service

Staff # 6 Not Met

Date of Hire: 07/29/2024

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.14(2)-First Aid Missing,.14(2)-CPR missing

Staff # 8 Not Met

Date of Hire: 07/29/2024

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.14(2)-First Aid Missing,.14(2)-CPR missing

Staff # 15 Not Met

Date of Hire: 03/15/2024

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.14(2)-First Aid Missing,.14(2)-CPR missing

Staff # 17 Not Met

Date of Hire: 09/09/2023

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.14(2)-First Aid Missing,.14(2)-CPR missing

Staff # 19 Not Met

Date of Hire: 07/29/2024

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.14(2)-First Aid Missing,.14(2)-CPR missing

Staff # 20 Not Met

Date of Hire: 04/08/2024

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.14(2)-First Aid Missing,.14(2)-CPR missing

591-1-1-.15 Food Service & Nutrition

Not Met

Finding

591-1-1-.15(2)(f) requires that food for infants or children less than one (1) year of age be cut into pieces one-quarter inch or smaller and food for toddlers shall be cut into pieces one-half inch or smaller to prevent choking. It was determined based on observation that a child in the infant/one-year-old classroom was eating a pancake on a stick.

Correction Deadline: 12/11/2024

Safety

Staff # 6 Not Met

Date of Hire: 07/29/2024

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.14(2)-First Aid Missing,.14(2)-CPR missing

Staff # 8 Not Met

Date of Hire: 07/29/2024

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.14(2)-First Aid Missing,.14(2)-CPR missing

Staff # 15 Not Met

Date of Hire: 03/15/2024

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.14(2)-First Aid Missing,.14(2)-CPR missing

Staff # 17 Not Met

Date of Hire: 09/09/2023

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.14(2)-First Aid Missing,.14(2)-CPR missing

Staff # 19 Not Met

Date of Hire: 07/29/2024

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.14(2)-First Aid Missing,.14(2)-CPR missing

Staff # 20 Not Met

Date of Hire: 04/08/2024

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.14(2)-First Aid Missing,.14(2)-CPR missing

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

Met

Correction Deadline: 11/20/2024

Corrected on 12/11/2024

.36(7)(d)2. - Citation corrected.

Staff Records

Staff # 6 Not Met

Date of Hire: 07/29/2024

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.14(2)-First Aid Missing,.14(2)-CPR missing

Staff # 8 Not Met

Date of Hire: 07/29/2024

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.14(2)-First Aid Missing,.14(2)-CPR missing

Staff # 15

Not Met

Date of Hire: 03/15/2024

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.14(2)-First Aid Missing,.14(2)-CPR missing

Staff # 17

Not Met

Date of Hire: 09/09/2023

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.14(2)-First Aid Missing,.14(2)-CPR missing

Staff # 19

Not Met

Date of Hire: 07/29/2024

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.14(2)-First Aid Missing,.14(2)-CPR missing

Staff # 20

Not Met

Date of Hire: 04/08/2024

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.14(2)-First Aid Missing,.14(2)-CPR missing

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

Met

Correction Deadline: 11/20/2024

Corrected on 12/11/2024

.09(1)(c) - Citation corrected as the employee was not present on the child care premises at the time of the visit.

Correction Deadline: 11/20/2024

Corrected on 12/11/2024

Citation corrected as the employee was not present on the child care premises at the time of the visit..09(1)(l)3. -

591-1-1-.14 First Aid & CPR

Not Met

Finding

591-1-1-.14(1) requires the Center Director and, at any given time, at least fifty percent (50%) of the caregiver Staff to successfully complete a biennial training program in cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and a triennial training program in first aid. The first aid training must be done by certified or licensed health care professionals or trainers and must deal with the provision of emergency care to infants and children. The Center shall maintain current evidence of the successful completion of such training which shall be available to the Department for inspection. It was determined based on a review of records that 10 of 23 staff members had current First Aid and CPR when 12 staff members were needed to meet requirements.

Correction Deadline: 12/18/2024

Recited on 12/11/2024

Correction Deadline: 11/20/2024

Corrected on 12/11/2024

.14(1)(a) - Citation corrected.

Finding

591-1-1-.14(2) requires a Staff member who is trained in CPR and first aid to be on the premises and on any field trip whenever any child is present. In addition, Staff who provide direct care to children must satisfactorily obtain certification in first aid and CPR by December 29, 2016 if employed prior to September 30, 2016 and within 90 days of their hire date if employed after September 30, 2016. It was determined based on a review of records that staff member #6, staff member #8, staff member #15, staff member #17, staff member #19 and staff member #20 were employed over 90 days of hire and did not have the required First Aid and CPR training.

Correction Deadline: 12/18/2024

Recited on 12/11/2024

591-1-1-.33 Staff Training

Met

Correction Deadline: 12/4/2024

Corrected on 12/11/2024

.33(3) - Citation observed to be corrected.

Staffing and Supervision

Records Reviewed: 23

Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 6

Staff # 6

Not Met

Date of Hire: 07/29/2024

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.14(2)-First Aid Missing,.14(2)-CPR missing

Staff # 8

Not Met

Date of Hire: 07/29/2024

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.14(2)-First Aid Missing,.14(2)-CPR missing

Staff # 15

Not Met

Date of Hire: 03/15/2024

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.14(2)-First Aid Missing,.14(2)-CPR missing

Staff # 17 Not Met

Date of Hire: 09/09/2023

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.14(2)-First Aid Missing,.14(2)-CPR missing

Staff # 19 Not Met

Date of Hire: 07/29/2024

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.14(2)-First Aid Missing,.14(2)-CPR missing

Staff # 20 Not Met

Date of Hire: 04/08/2024

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.14(2)-First Aid Missing,.14(2)-CPR missing

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 in Room G (infant and one-year-old room) an enrolled child was eating in a highchair and both staff were across the classroom and not seated within an arm's length away from the child.

Correction Deadline: 12/11/2024