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: 7/23/2024 **VisitType:** Initial Licensing Study **Arrival:** 11:30 AM **Departure:** 6:00 PM

CCLC-63224
ASTEAM CHILDCARE ACADEMY INC.
6224 Hillandale Dr. Lithonia, GA 30058 DeKalb County
(470) 607-2337 josh@asteamchildcareacademy.com
Temporary License

Application Services Unit Consultant
Derian Williams
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Joint with: Margaret Pringle

Mailing Address
Same

Quality Rated: ★ ★

Compliance Zone Designation		
07/23/2024	Initial Licensing Study	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
Main	A-1st Right Frnt- 3 y/o	Four Year Olds	1	7	C	13	C	NA	NA	Nap
Main	Bldg-II-Pre-K-House		0	0	C	25	C	NA	NA	
Main	C-Mid Frnt- Office	Infants	1	4	C	9	C	NA	NA	Floor Play,Feeding
Main	D-2nd Left Back Room- 0-12 mos		0	0	C	18	C	NA	NA	
Main	F - lower level-Downstairs-4+	Six Year Olds and Over	1	9	C	25	C	NA	NA	TV
Main	Room B 4th Left- 3 y/o	Three Year Olds	1	7	C	21	C	NA	NA	Nap
Main	Room E 2nd Right Rear - 1 y/o	One Year Olds	1	7	C	13	C	NA	NA	Nap
		Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 124			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0					
Total # Children this Date: 34		Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 124			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0					

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	Playground A	19	C
Main	Playground B	62	C

Comments
An in person Initial Licensing Study was conducted on July 23, 2024. The exit conference was conducted with the Director. Temporary License issued on this date. Facility does carry Liability Insurance.

Plan of Improvement: Developed This Date 07/23/2024

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.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:

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 CAPS/ QR Provisional Status, allowing for scholarships while working toward an initial star rating. Provisional Status eligibility will be determined at the time of CAPS enrollment as part of the CAPS application process.

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 Initial Licensing Study:

Activities and Equipment

591-1-1-.12 Equipment & Toys(CR) — **Technical Assistance**

Technical Assistance
Please ensure age appropriate tables and chairs are provided in each room so that children are able to properly sit.

Correction Deadline: 8/22/2024

Technical Assistance
Please ensure that all toys are organized and clean.

Correction Deadline: 8/22/2024

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

Comment
Center does not provide swimming activities. No pool observed on site.

Facility

591-1-1-.06 Bathrooms — **Not Met**

Finding
591-1-1-.06(4) requires a Center first licensed after March 1, 1991, and Centers that remodel or add to existing plumbing facilities, to have the bathroom area fully enclosed and ventilated to the outside of the building with either an open screened window or functioning exhaust fan and duct system and requires Centers without fully enclosed bathrooms to ensure there is adequate ventilation to control odors and adequate sanitation measures to prevent the spread of contagious diseases. It was determined based on observation that the restrooms utilized for children in classroom A, classroom B, classroom D, classroom E, classroom F, and Pre-K (building two) did not provide exhaust fans to ventilate and sanitize restrooms after usage.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
The Center will fully enclose and ventilate bathroom areas, as required, and will provide adequate ventilation and sanitation in bathrooms that are not fully enclosed.

Correction Deadline: 8/22/2024

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) — Not Met

Technical Assistance
Please ensure all hazardous items are inaccessible to children in care.

Correction Deadline: 7/23/2024

Finding
591-1-1-.25(6) requires each child's personal items to be kept in individually labeled cubbies, lockers or racks separated from articles used by other children. The spaces shall be accessible to the children to whom they are assigned. It was determined based on observation that the cubbies in room D, E, and Pre-K (building two) were too high for the intended ages of the classrooms.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
The Center will lower the cubbies in each room and/or will storage space for each child.

Correction Deadline: 8/22/2024

591-1-1-.25 Physical Plant-Structural/Mechanical — Met

Comment
The facility is currently still awaiting on Dekalb County to issue the buildings certificate of occupancy. Dekalb County has placed this document on hold to further review and reclassify an additional building on-site. The additional building will not be used for childcare services.

Correction Deadline: 7/23/2024

591-1-1-.26 Playgrounds(CR) — Not Met

Finding
591-1-1-.26(4) requires that playgrounds be protected from traffic or other hazards by a (4) four foot high fence or other barrier approved by this Department. Fencing material shall not present a hazard to children and shall be maintained so as to prevent children from leaving the playground area by any means other than through an approved access route. Fence gates shall be kept closed except when persons are entering or exiting the area. It was determined based on observation that playground A had rust on the fence, top poles and fence panels and there was vegetation growing from the bottom of the fencing. Additionally, the front fencing measured at 3 feet 8 inches and the back fencing measured at 3 feet 9 inches and the front fencing had screws protruding on the gate and corner poles. It was further determined that Playground B was observed to have rust on the back fencing , the top poles had screws protruding on the fence gate.

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. All hazards will be removed.

Correction Deadline: 7/23/2024

Finding
591-1-1-.26(5) requires that the playground have a surface suitable for varied activities. Hard surfaces (gravel, concrete, paving) shall not exceed one-fourth of the total area. It was determined based on observation the playground A exceeded the required amount of hard surface. The playground has 589 sq. ft of hard surface with the measuring sq.ft of the playground for the infant /toddlers to be 1,937 sq.ft requiring it to be 484 sq.ft of hard surface.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
The Center will increase the unpaved area or decrease the size of the hard surface to be in compliance. The center is required to cover and or break up 105 sq.ft of the hard surface to meet requirements.

Correction Deadline: 8/22/2024

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 the following hazards were present:
Playground A:
- Rust on playground equipment
- Debris in the trike area

Playground B:
- Blue metal slide had peeling paint
- Rust on the top pole swing structure
- Debris on playground A and B playground equipment

POI (Plan of Improvement)
The Center will provide a variety of age-appropriate equipment that is arranged so as not to obstruct supervision of children. Staff will check the equipment daily to ensure that the equipment is free of hazards, rust and splinters.

Correction Deadline: 8/2/2024

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 ensure continuing resiliency. It was determined based on observation that the swings on playground B only had 1 inch of resilient surface under the swings, six inches was required.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
The Center will add additional resilient surfacing to the fall zones where needed and check daily, adding resilient surfacing as needed to maintain adequate resiliency.

Correction Deadline: 8/2/2024

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 based on observation that there were exposed tree roots, and tall grass on playground A and B. Additionally, there was deteriorated wood on playground B, creating a tripping hazard.

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: 7/23/2024

Food Service

591-1-1-.18 Kitchen Operations **Not Met**

Finding
591-1-1-.18(2) requires the Center to have a designated space for food preparation separate from rooms used by children and in an area not used for diaper changing. The area shall be kept clean and free of accumulation of dust, dirt, food particles and grease deposits. Food preparation surface areas shall be nonporous with no unsealed cracks or seams. It was determined based on observation that the counter area surrounding the kitchen area measured at 3 feet and 1 inch, causing the kitchen appliances (stove, microwave, etc.) to be accessible to children.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
The Center will ensure that a separate food preparation area is provided that meets the requirements. If needed, the area will be cleaned and cracks and seams will be sealed.

Correction Deadline: 8/9/2024

Health and Hygiene

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

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

Comment
Staff state proper knowledge of diapering procedures.

Finding
591-1-1-.10(1) requires Centers first licensed after March 1, 1991, and Centers that are renovated after March 1, 1991, to provide ventilation in the diapering areas with functioning exhaust fans and a duct system or by the required amount of window space provided by operable windows when open. It was determined based on observation that room C, D and E lacked functioning exhaust fans. The rooms have windows: Room C need to have 3 windows open at all times, Room D needs to have two windows open at all times, and Room E needs to have two windows open at all times.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
The responsible person(s) at the center will ensure that the exhaust fans and duct systems are functioning or that the required amount of operable window space is provided in each diapering area.

Correction Deadline: 7/23/2024

Finding
591-1-1-.10(9) requires Center Staff to not use the area used for diapering for food preparation and to keep the diapering area clear of formulas, food, food utensils and food preparation items. It was determined based on observation a bottle was observed on the counter near the diaper changing station in room C.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
Center staff will be trained, specified areas will be available for food preparation and placement of food-related items, and the director will monitor.

Correction Deadline: 7/23/2024

Comment
Please ensure no food items are near the diapering sink in the diapering rooms.

Correction Deadline: 7/23/2024

591-1-1-.17 Hygiene(CR) — **Met**

Comment
Proper hand washing of children and staff was discussed with the director on this date. Children were napping during the visit.

591-1-1-.20 Medications(CR) — **Met**

Comment
The Provider currently does not dispense/administer medication.

Safety

591-1-1-.05 Animals — **Met**

Comment
Center does not keep animals on premises.

591-1-1-.11 Discipline(CR) — **Met**

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

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

Comment
Currently the center does not provide routine transportation during summer hours.

Sleeping & Resting Equipment

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

Finding
591-1-1-.30(1)(a)3 requires that each crib shall have only an individual, tight-fitting sheet which is changed daily or more often as needed and prior to a change of occupant. It was determined based on observation that four out of four crib mattresses in the infant room were observed to not have tight- fitting sheets, which is considered a sleeping hazard for infants. Consultant recommended to the owner and administrator that sheet fasteners or tighter fitted sheets be purchased.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
The center will ensure that each crib has an individual, tight-fitting sheet which is changed daily or more often as needed and prior to a change of occupant.

Correction Deadline: 7/23/2024

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-.09 Criminal Records Check(CR) **Met**

Comment
Criminal records checks were observed to be complete.

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

Comment
Complete first aid kits observed in center and on vehicles.

Comment
Evidence observed of 100% of center staff certified in First Aid and CPR.

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

Comment
Documentation observed of required staff training.

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
Center observed to maintain appropriate staff:child ratios.

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

Comment
A supervision plan was created on this date for the dismissal routine of infants - 4 years old, due to the location of the classrooms.

Comment
Adequate supervision observed on this date.