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

Cover Sheet

Date: 12/10/2021 **VisitType:** Complaint Investigation Follow Up **Arrival:** 11:05 AM **Departure:** 12:05 PM

CCLC-53079

First Step Learning Academy

1213 North Liberty Street Waynesboro, GA 30830 Burke County
(706) 535-4251 kpressley@augustaga.gov

Regional Consultant

Kaycee Purvis

Phone: (770) 357-4915
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kaycee.purvis@decal.ga.gov

Mailing Address
Same

Quality Rated:

Compliance Zone Designation		
12/10/2021	Complaint Investigation Follow Up	Good Standing
10/29/2021	Licensing Study	Good Standing
06/17/2021	Complaint Closure	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- (1L) 1's & 2's		0	0	C	12	C	NA	NA	
Main	B- (2L) 4wks- 18 mths		0	0	C	6	C	NA	NA	
Main	C-(2R) 3 yrs		0	0	C	14	C	NA	NA	
Main	D- (1R) 4 yr-12yrs	Infants and One Year Olds and Two Year Olds and Three Year Olds	1	7	NC	19	C	NA	NA	Floor Play,Free Play
		Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 50			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0			Building @35 capacity limited by Insufficient Toilets/Sinks		
Total # Children this Date: 7		Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 50			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0					

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	Playground A - 4 wks - 12 years	44	C

Comments
A copy of the visit report was emailed to the provider. An exit conference was completed virtually.

Plan of Improvement: Developed This Date 12/10/2021

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

QUALITY RATED CHILD CARE

CAPS CHILDCARE AND PARENT SERVICES

Important New Deadlines:

Due to the ongoing COVID restrictions, the deadline to become Quality Rated for programs who want to continue to receive Childcare and Parent Services (CAPS), has been extended to at least December 31, 2021.

Get started today! Sign up by completing a short online application: https://qualityrated.decal.ga.gov/
Request free technical assistance to help you earn your star rating by contacting the Quality Rated help desk at 855-800-7747 or qualityrated@decal.ga.gov

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), e-mail the following information to CCSRefutations@decal.ga.gov.

1) Facility name, license number and visit date
2) Your name, title/relationship to the facility, e-mail address & up to two phone number(s) where you can be reached
3) Specific rule number(s) that you are refuting, along with your concerns or questions regarding the rule citation

Refutations must be submitted to Child Care Services (CCS) within 10 business days of the completion date.

A sample form for submitting a refutation can be found at: http://decal.ga.gov/ChildCareServices/RefutationInformation.aspx

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)

Patricia Pressley, Program Official Date

Kaycee Purvis, Consultant Date

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Findings Report

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

Activities and Equipment

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

Technical Assistance
591-1-1-.12(1) - The Consultant and Provider discussed the Consumer Product Safety guide and how to search recalled products.

Correction Deadline: 12/10/2021

Facility

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 a pair of gloves and jar of petroleum jelly were left on the shelf accessible to children in Classroom D on this date.

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: 12/10/2021

Food Service

591-1-1-.15 Food Service & Nutrition **Not Met**

Finding
591-1-1-.15(5) requires that the Center provide a menu listing all meals and snacks to be served during the current week except for School-age Centers where the food may be provided by the Parent(s) by agreement between the School-age Center and the Parent(s). Substitutions shall be recorded on the posted menu and menus shall be retained at the Center for six (6) months. It was determined based upon observation that the center failed to record substitutions served during lunch.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
The Center will list all of the current week's meals and snacks and all substitutions on the menu and keep past menus on file for six months and will implement a system to monitor this.

Correction Deadline: 12/10/2021

Health and Hygiene

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

Finding
591-1-1-.10(8) requires that Center Staff with diaper changing responsibilities to not be simultaneously assigned to kitchen food preparation duties. It was determined based on observation that a staff member that prepared and served lunch also changed a child's diaper during the Consultant's visit.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
The Center will institute and follow procedures that ensure Staff responsible for diaper changing are not simultaneously assigned to kitchen food preparation duties.

Correction Deadline: 12/10/2021

Policies and Procedures

591-1-1-.21 Operational Policies & Procedures **Not Met**

Finding
591-1-1-.21(3) requires that the Center conduct drills for fire, tornado and other emergency situations. The fire drills will be conducted monthly and tornado and other emergency situation drills will be conducted every six months. The Center shall maintain documentation of the dates and times of these drills for two years. It was determined based on a review of records that center staff failed to conduct tornado drills and other emergency drills every six months as required.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
The Center will hold the drills as required and keep the documentation of the drills on file for two years.

Correction Deadline: 12/31/2021

Recited on 12/10/2021

Safety

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

Comment
Age-appropriate discussion and/or redirection observed.

591-1-1-.36 Transportation(CR) **N/A**

Comment
Center does not provide routine transportation.

Sleeping & Resting Equipment

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

Finding
591-1-1-.30(2)(c) requires that infants shall not sleep in equipment other than safety-approved cribs, such as, but not limited to, a car safety seat, bouncy seat, highchair, or swing. Infants who arrive at the Center asleep or fall asleep in such equipment, on the floor or elsewhere, shall be transferred to a safety-approved crib. It was determined based on staff statements that staff allowed an infant to sleep on the floor in Classroom D.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
The Center will only place infants in safe cribs to sleep and will transfer them to a safe crib when the infants are asleep in other equipment.

Correction Deadline: 12/10/2021

Staff Records

Records Reviewed: 4 **Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 1**

Staff # 1 Met

Staff # 2 Met
Date of Hire: 11/06/2020

Staff # 3 Met
Date of Hire: 11/06/2020

Staff # 4 Not Met
Date of Hire: 07/07/2021

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(4)-Food Prep Training Missing 4 hrs.,.09-Criminal Records Check Missing

Staff Credentials Reviewed: 4

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 upon a review of records that the center failed to electronically port the most recent determination letter for Staff #4 hired on July 7, 2021.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
IMMEDIATE CORRECTION - The Center will watch the videos to ensure that only the most recently issued determination letter is electronically ported for Directors, Employees and Provisional Employees, excluding Students-in-Training. 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. The program's owner or an officer/member of the corporation must view the A to Z Background Check video units pertaining to this records check rule and return the signed affidavit within one week from this visit date. The Center will watch the videos to ensure CRC rules are maintained.

Correction Deadline: 12/21/2021

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

Finding
591-1-1-.33(3) requires each Staff member with direct care responsibilities to complete health and safety orientation training within the first 90 days of employment. The state-approved training hours obtained will count toward required first year training hours. The training must address the following health and safety topics: prevention and control of infectious diseases (including immunizations); prevention of sudden infant death syndrome and use of safe sleeping practices; administration of medication, consistent with standards for parental consent; prevention of and response to emergencies due to food and allergic reactions; building and physical premises safety, including identification of and protection from hazards that can cause bodily injury such as electrical hazards, bodies of water, and vehicular traffic; prevention of shaken baby syndrome, abusive head trauma and child maltreatment; emergency preparedness and response planning for emergencies resulting from a natural disaster or a human-caused event (such as violence at a child care facility); handling and storage of hazardous materials and the appropriate disposal of bio contaminants; precautions in transporting children; recognition and reporting of child abuse and neglect; and child development. It was determined based on a review of records that Staff #2 did not have evidence of health and safety orientation training on this date.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
The Center will develop and implement a plan to schedule and track this training for all employees based on their hire dates and will ensure that the training includes all required components as required.

Correction Deadline: 12/31/2021

Recited on 12/10/2021

Finding
591-1-1-.33(4) requires within the first year of employment, the Director and person with primary responsibility for food preparation shall have four clock hours of training in food nutrition planning, preparation, serving, proper dish washing and food storage. It was determined based on a review of records that Staff #2 and Staff #4 did not obtain four hour nutrition training as required.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
The Center will schedule food preparation training, as required, and follow up to ensure the training is completed.

Correction Deadline: 12/31/2021

Recited on 12/10/2021

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) **Not Met**

Finding
591-1-1-.32(2) requires the Center maintain Staff:child ratios in mixed-age groups based on the age of the youngest group of children that includes more than twenty percent of the total number of children in the mixed-age group. It was determined based on observation that the center had a ratio of 1:7 in Classroom D when a ratio of 2:7 was required.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
The Center will provide adequate staff when there is a mixed-age group.

Correction Deadline: 12/10/2021

Finding
591-1-1-.32(4) requires that children under three years old be housed in separate physical areas from older children and cannot be mixed with older children except at specified times and circumstances. It was determined based upon observation that one infant, two one-year-olds, and one two-year-old were housed in the same physical area as three three-year-old children in Classroom D.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
The Center will maintain separation of these children under three years old.

Correction Deadline: 12/10/2021

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

Comment
Discussed combining children of mixed ages.