



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: 6/17/2024 **VisitType:** Monitoring Visit

Arrival: 11:00 AM **Departure:** 2:05 PM

CCLC-37121

Best Buddies at Oakland

129 Oakland Parkway Leesburg, GA 31763 Lee County
(229) 903-9191 bestbuddies1004@att.net

Regional Consultant

Angela Williams-Jackson

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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.
06/17/2024	Monitoring Visit	Good Standing	
04/15/2024	Complaint Closure	Good Standing	
03/05/2024	Complaint Investigation Follow Up	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	Room 10-J (4 Yrs)	Three Year Olds	2	10	C	20	C	NA	NA	Outside
Main	Room 11-K (School Age)	Three Year Olds	1	10	C	12	C	NA	NA	Art
Main	Room 12- L (School Age)	Two Year Olds	1	9	C	13	C	NA	NA	Free Play
Main	Room 13-M (School Age)		0	0	C	14	C	NA	NA	
Main	Room 1-A (6 wks-12 Mos)	Infants	1	5	C	11	C	NA	NA	Nap
Main	Room 2-B (6 wks-12 Mos)	Infants	2	5	C	11	C	NA	NA	Nap
Main	Room 3-C (1 Yrs.)	One Year Olds	1	5	C	12	C	NA	NA	Lunch
Main	Room 4-D (2 Yrs)	One Year Olds	1	8	C	13	C	NA	NA	Lunch
Main	Room 5-E (3 Yrs)	Two Year Olds	2	15	C	20	C	NA	NA	Lunch
Main	Room 6-F (3 Yrs)	Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds	2	14	C	22	C	31	C	Transitioning, Lunch
Main	Room 7-G (3-4 Yrs)	Three Year Olds	2	8	C	12	C	NA	NA	Lunch
Main	Room 8-H (3-4 Yrs)	One Year Olds	1	6	C	14	C	NA	NA	Nap
Main	Room 9-I (4 Yrs-PreK)	Four Year Olds	2	21	C	20	NC	NA	NA	Outside

Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 194

Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 248

Total # Children this Date: 116

Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 194

Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 248

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	Playground A (6 Wks-4 Yrs)	92	C
Main	Playground B (3 Yrs & Up)	197	C

Comments

The purpose of this visit was to conduct a monitoring visit.

Plan of Improvement: Developed This Date 06/17/2024

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.state.ga.us/CCS/Regulations.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 Monitoring Visit:

Activities and Equipment

591-1-1.12 Equipment & Toys(CR)

Met

Comment

Equipment and furniture observed to be properly secured, as applicable.

591-1-1.35 Swimming Pools & Water-related Activities(CR)

N/A

Comment

Center does not provide swimming activities.

Facility

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 classroom 9I was over capacity by one child. The maximum capacity is 20 and there were 21 children present.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will limit the number of children in this space to the licensed capacity.

Correction Deadline: 6/17/2024

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 posed a hazard to children and were accessible to children:

Classroom 6F: One grocery bag inside a cubby.

Classroom 7G: One box of disposable vinyl gloves and baby wipes on top of the changing table.

Classroom 11K: A box of disposable vinyl gloves on top of the changing table and a white trash bag on the floor on the left side of the changing table.

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: 6/17/2024

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 based on observation that the following were in need of repair and posed a hazard to children: Classroom 6F: Had three stained ceiling tiles in the children's bathroom. Classroom 11K: Had five stained ceiling tiles over the table near the classroom door.

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: 7/1/2024

591-1-1-.26 Playgrounds(CR)**Not Met****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 the following posed a hazard to children on the playground:

Playground A: Trash on the ground and the grass needed to be cut.

Playground B: The wood border on the right side of the green and brown play equipment was loose and lifted with exposed screws and the grass needed to be cut.

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: 6/17/2024

Health and Hygiene

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

Staff stated proper knowledge of diapering procedures.

591-1-1-.17 Hygiene(CR)**Not Met****Finding**

591-1-1-.17(8) requires staff to wash their hands with liquid soap and warm running water upon arrival for the day, when moving from one child care group to another, upon re-entering the child care area after outside play, before and after diapering each child, dispensing medication, applying topical medications, handling and preparing food, eating, drinking, preparing bottles, feeding each child, assisting children with eating and drinking, after toileting or assisting children with toileting, using tobacco products, handling garbage and organic waste, touching animals or pets, handling bodily fluids and after contamination by any means. It was determined based on observation that in classroom 4D a teacher wiped a child's nose and did not wash her hands before wiping another child's nose.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will ensure liquid soap and warm running water are available for handwashing, train Staff on the handwashing requirements, review the requirements with Staff periodically, and monitor handwashing.

Correction Deadline: 6/17/2024

591-1-1-.20 Medications(CR)**N/A****Comment**

The Provider currently does not dispense or administer medication.

Safety

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

Correction Deadline: 4/22/2024

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

Met

Comment

A current and completed inspection was observed for vehicle with license plate number PVD1090 used in transporting children on this date.

Comment

The vehicle had an approved fire extinguisher and first aid kit on this date.

Sleeping & Resting Equipment

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

Not Met

Finding

591-1-1-.30(1)(b)1 requires that cots and mats are of sound construction and of sufficient size to accommodate comfortably the size and weight of the child; and that mats are in good repair, washable, covered with a waterproof material and at least two inches (2") thick. It was determined based on observation that there were mats with tears in classroom 4D and 8H.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will ensure that cots and mats are of sound construction and of sufficient size to accommodate the size and weight of the child and mats are in good repair, washable, covered with a waterproof material and is at least two inches thick.

Correction Deadline: 6/17/2024

Staff Records

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

Not Met

Comment

Director provided two files for employees hired since the last visit.

Finding

591-1-1-.09(1)(c) requires the Center to ensure that every Employee has a valid and current satisfactory Comprehensive Records Check Determination on file prior to being present at the Center while any child is present for care or before an individual age 17 or older resides in the Center. The Comprehensive Records Check Determination must have a Records Check Clearance Date that is no older than the preceding 12 months of the hire date; provided, however, if the Employee has had a lapse of employment from the child care industry that lasted for 180 days (6 months) or longer, a new satisfactory Comprehensive Records Check Determination is required. It was determined based on a review of records that staff #2, #7, and #13 were without having submitted both a Records Check Application to the Department and Fingerprints to an authorized fingerprinting site. Staff member #2 was last on the center premises a few weeks ago. Staff member #7 entered the building and was present in the front office. Staff member #13 was present on site in classroom 5E during lunch time with 15 children.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

IMMEDIATE CORRECTION - The Center will ensure that every Employee has a valid and current satisfactory Comprehensive Records Check Determination on file prior to being present at the Center while any child is present for care or before an individual age 17 or older resides in the Center. The Comprehensive Records Check Determination must have a Records Check Clearance Date that is no older than the preceding 12 months of the hire date; provided, however, if the Employee has had a lapse of employment from the child care industry that lasted for 180 days (6 months) or longer, a new satisfactory Comprehensive Records Check Determination is required. 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 ensure the CRC rules are maintained.

Correction Deadline: 6/17/2024

Finding

591-1-1-.09(1)(l)3. requires the Center to immediately require a new Comprehensive Records Check Determination for a Director, Employee or Provisional Employee at least once every five years. It was determined based on a review of records that staff #2, #7, and #13 were without having submitted both a Records Check Application to the Department and Fingerprints to an authorized fingerprinting site. Staff member #2 was last on the center premises a few weeks ago. Staff member #7 entered the building and was present in the front office. Staff member #13 was present on site in classroom 5E during lunch time with 15 children.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

IMMEDIATE CORRECTION - The Center will ensure that each Director, Employee and Provisional Employee has a Comprehensive Records Check Determination on file that has been issued within the past five years. 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 ensure CRC rules are maintained.

Correction Deadline: 6/17/2024

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

Adequate supervision observed on this date.