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: 9/23/2024 **VisitType:** Licensing Study **Arrival:** 11:05 AM **Departure:** 4:00 PM

CCLC-1444
Cherokee Academy At Clayton
1205 Upper Burris Rd. Canton, GA 30114 Cherokee County
(770) 479-4404 cherokeeacademy1@gmail.com

Regional Consultant
Randy Gaytan
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randy.gaytan@decal.ga.gov

Mailing Address
Same

Quality Rated: ★

Compliance Zone Designation		
09/23/2024	Licensing Study	Good Standing
08/01/2024	Complaint Closure	Good Standing
08/01/2024	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
Main	A- left side hall-1st left - Pre-K 2	Four Year Olds	2	11	C	20	C	NA	NA	Outside
Main	B- left side hall-2nd right- 3 yr old	Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds	2	11	C	13	C	NA	NA	Outside
Main	C- left side hall-1st right -Infants	Infants	2	2	C	12	C	NA	NA	Feeding
Main	D- Middle Back - Toddlers	One Year Olds	3	8	C	16	C	NA	NA	Floor Play
Main	E- right side hall-2nd right- Front Room-2 yr old	Two Year Olds and Three Year Olds	3	14	C	21	C	NA	NA	Centers
Main	F- right side hall- 2nd right- back room-3 yrs.	Three Year Olds	2	10	C	14	C	NA	NA	Art
Main	G- Right side 1st right -Pre-K 1	Four Year Olds	3	12	C	26	C	NA	NA	Transitioning
		Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 122			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0					
Total # Children this Date: 68		Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 122			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0					

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	Playground A- Left Side	20	C
Main	Playground B- Rear	94	C

Main	Playground C- Right Side	58	C

Enrolled Children						
Under 1 years	**1 years**	**2 years**	**3 years**	**4 years**	**5 years (Prekony)**	**5 years and older**
8	8	17	25	27	1	20

Comments
The purpose of this visit was to conduct a Licensing Study.

Plan of Improvement: Developed This Date 09/23/2024

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:

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-.12 Equipment & Toys(CR) **Met**

Comment
A variety of equipment and toys were observed throughout the center.

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.

Children's Records

Records Reviewed: 5 **Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 4**

Child # 1 Not Met
"Missing/Incomplete Components"
.08(2)-Immunization

Child # 3 Not Met
"Missing/Incomplete Components"
.08(2)-Immunization

Child # 4 Not Met
"Missing/Incomplete Components"
.08(2)-Immunization

Child # 5 Not Met
"Missing/Incomplete Components"
.08(2)-Immunization

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

Technical Assistance
591-1-1-.08(1) - Spoke to Director regarding ensuring blank lines are marked with "N/A".

Correction Deadline: 9/23/2024

Finding
591-1-1-.08(2) requires Center Staff to maintain a file for each child that includes evidence of age-appropriate immunizations or a signed affidavit against such immunizations for each child enrolled in the center on a form approved by the Department, and to allow no child to continue enrollment in the Center for more than thirty (30) days without such evidence. It was determined based on a review of records that four out of five students (#1,3,4, and 5) did not have current immunization forms on file.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
Center staff will have and use a plan to track immunization forms for all enrolled children and to ensure the form or affidavit are obtained from the parent or guardian within 30 days of enrollment. Parents will be informed their child cannot remain enrolled in the center without this documentation.

Correction Deadline: 10/3/2024

Facility

591-1-1-.06 Bathrooms **Met**

Comment
Bathrooms observed to be clean and well maintained.

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
591-1-1-.25(13) - Discussed proper storage of items with Director.

Correction Deadline: 9/23/2024

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 there was chipping paint in the following locations: Room B - blue portion of the left and back walls, Room E - right white wall, Room G - -restroom door frames and far back wall.

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: 9/30/2024

591-1-1-.26 Playgrounds(CR) **Met**

Comment
Playground observed to be clean and in good repair.

Food Service

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

Comment
Bottles were covered and fully labeled with child's full name.

Comment
Center menu meets USDA guidelines.

591-1-1-.18 Kitchen Operations **Met**

Comment
Discussed proper steps for dishwashing.

Comment
Kitchen appears clean and well organized.

Health and Hygiene

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

Comment
Staff state proper knowledge of diapering procedures.

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

Technical Assistance
591-1-1-.17(11) - Discussed placement of soiled clothing with Director.

Correction Deadline: 9/23/2024

Finding
591-1-1-17(7) requires that children wash their hands with liquid soap and warm running water upon arrival for care, when moving from one child care group to another, upon re-entering the child care area after outside play, before and after eating meals and snacks, handling or touching food, playing in water; after toileting and diapering, playing in sand, touching animals or pets, and contact with bodily fluids and after contamination by any other means. It was determined based on observation that the children in Room B did not wash their hands after returning from outside play.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
The Center will train Staff on required handwashing for children and Staff will ensure children's hands are washed when required. The Director will monitor for compliance.

Correction Deadline: 9/23/2024

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 the staff in Room B did not wash their hands after returning from outside play.

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: 9/23/2024

591-1-1-.20 Medications(CR) **Not Met**

Finding
591-1-1-.20(1) requires Personnel to obtain specific written authorization from the child's physician or parent in order to dispense prescription or non-prescription medications, except for first aid. Such authorization will include when applicable, date; full name of the child; name of the medication; prescription number, if any; dosage; the dates to be given; the time of day to be dispensed; and signature of parent. It was determined based on a review of records that one child has an expired authorization form and one child has one form for two separate medications, one is dispensed in the office and the other is dispensed in the classroom. The classroom did not have a copy of the authorization form.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
The Center will train Staff to obtain and review parental authorizations to ensure the authorization contains complete information. The designated person(s) will monitor daily.

Correction Deadline: 9/23/2024

Technical Assistance
591-1-1-.20(5) - Discussed return or disposal of medication procedures with the Director.

Correction Deadline: 9/23/2024

Policies and Procedures

591-1-1-.29 Required Reporting **Met**

Correction Deadline: 8/1/2024

Corrected on 9/23/2024
.29(3) - The previous citation of not filing a required report was observed to be corrected in that all known closure days have been input in DECAL KOALA.

Safety

591-1-1-.05 Animals **Met**

Comment
Animals maintained clean and appropriately caged.

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-.13 Field Trips(CR) **N/A**

Comment
Center does not participate in field trips at this time.

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

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

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 based on observation that there was a broom and dust pan in the front of the bus, and two 12 inch lengths of the decorative cording that is sewn into the seat seams, hanging down from one seat.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
The center will maintain that all transportation vehicles are clean, in safe repair, and free from hazards.

Correction Deadline: 9/24/2024

Finding
591-1-1-.36(7)(a) requires that each vehicle contains current information including: the full names of all children to be transported, each child's pick-up location, pick-up time, delivery location, alternate delivery location if a Parent is not at home and name of person authorized to receive each child. In addition, the vehicle shall contain current information identifying the Center's name, telephone number and the name of the driver of the vehicle. It was determined based on a review of records that 11 out of 11 children did not have a current information form on the bus.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
The Center will ensure that the Center's information and the children's information is included on each vehicle.

Correction Deadline: 9/24/2024

Finding
591-1-1-.36(7)(b) requires that an emergency medical information record be maintained in the vehicle for each child being transported. The emergency medical information record for each child shall include a listing of the child's full name, date of birth, allergies, special medical needs and conditions, current prescribed medications that the child is required to take on a daily basis for a chronic condition, the name and telephone number of the child's doctor, the local medical facility that the Center uses in the area where the Center is located and the telephone numbers where the Parents can be reached. It was determined based on a review of records that 11 out of 11 did not have emergency medical information on the bus.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
The Center will obtain a complete emergency medical information record for each child that is transported and maintain a copy on the vehicle.

Correction Deadline: 9/24/2024

Sleeping & Resting Equipment

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

Comment
Discussed SIDS and infant sleeping position.

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) **Not Met**

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 #12 was hired on August 14, 2024 and did not have a valid and current satisfactory comprehensive records check determination on file. Staff member # 12 was not present at the facility.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
IMMEDIATE CORRECTION - The Center will routinely review all staff records 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. 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 follow the policies presented in the training videos to ensure the CRC rules are maintained.

Correction Deadline: 9/23/2024

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 #12 did not have a Comprehensive Records Check Determination on file that has been issued within the past five years.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
IMMEDIATE CORRECTION - The Center will routinely review all staff records to 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 follow the procedures presented in the training videos to ensure CRC rules are maintained.

Correction Deadline: 9/23/2024

591-1-1-.09 Criminal Records Check(CR) **Met**

Comment
Director provided 12 file(s) for employees hired since last visit.

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

Comment
Evidence observed of 50% 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
Staff observed to provide direct supervision and be attentive to children's needs.