



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: 12/17/2024 **VisitType:** Complaint Investigation & Monitoring Visit

Arrival: 9:15 AM **Departure:** 4:00 PM

CCLC-47213

Grace Academy

25 County Shop Road Ludowici, GA 31316 Long County
(912) 545-9255 paustin@graceacademykids.com

Regional Consultant

Connie Boatright

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Joint with: Jerica Davis

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.
12/17/2024	Complaint Investigation & Monitoring Visit	Good Standing	
03/18/2024	TA Follow Up	NA	
02/15/2024	Licensing Study	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
Building Four	A	Two Year Olds	2	14	C	20	C	NA	NA	Centers
Building Four	B		0	0	C	20	C	NA	NA	
Building Four	B	Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds	2	12	C	20	C	NA	NA	Art,Centers
Building Four	C	Three Year Olds	1	8	C	20	C	NA	NA	Art
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.:			80		Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0					
Building Three	A	GA PreK	2	18	C	43	C	NA	NA	Centers,Art
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.:			43		Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0					
Building Two	A		0	0	C	18	C	NA	NA	
Building Two	B		0	0	C	23	C	NA	NA	
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.:			41		Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0					
Main	A	Infants	2	9	C	13	C	NA	NA	Nap,Feeding,Floor Play
Main	B	One Year Olds and Two Year Olds	2	9	C	16	C	NA	NA	Free Play,Diapering
Main	C	One Year Olds	1	6	C	19	C	NA	NA	Nap,Floor Play

	Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 46	Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0	Building @35 capacity limited by Fire Marshall Limitations
Total # Children this Date: 76	Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 210	Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0	

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	Playground A	58	C
Main	Playground B	24	C

Enrolled Children						
Under 1 years	1 years	2 years	3 years	4 years	5 years (Prekonly)	5 years and older
14	18	20	24	26	0	52

Comments

An in person Monitoring Visit was conducted on this day. The Monitoring Visit is associated with a complaint.

Plan of Improvement: No Plan Developed

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.decgal.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 Monitoring Visit:

Activities and Equipment

591-1-1-.12 Equipment & Toys(CR)

Technical Assistance

Technical Assistance

Please ensure that all equipment and furniture be free from hazardous conditions such as, but not limited to, sharp rough edges or toxic paint; and be kept clean. Please ensure all rugs are kept clean. Please clean the rugs in classroom B in Building One and classroom B in Building Four.

Correction Deadline: 12/17/2024

Correction Deadline: 2/15/2024

Corrected on 12/17/2024

.12(4) - This citation was observed to be corrected on this date. The cabinet was observed to be secured.

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

Met

Comment

Center does not provide swimming activities.

Children's Records

591-1-1-.08 Children's Records

Met

Correction Deadline: 2/15/2024

Corrected on 12/17/2024

.08(1) - This citation was observed to be corrected on this date. All child records reviewed were complete.

Facility

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)**Met****Comment**

Center appears clean and well maintained.

Correction Deadline: 2/15/2024

Corrected on 12/17/2024

.25(13) - This citation was observed to be corrected on this date. No hazards were observed accessible on this date.

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

Correction Deadline: 2/15/2024

Corrected on 12/17/2024

.26(4) - This citation was observed to be corrected on this date. All gates and fencing were observed to be secured.

Correction Deadline: 2/25/2024

Corrected on 12/17/2024

.26(8) - This citation was observed to be corrected on this date. The playground was observed to have adequate mulch in all fall zones.

Health and Hygiene

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

Proper diapering procedures observed.

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 a staff member in classroom A in building One was observed to wipe an infant's nose and then used hand sanitizer and did not wash her hands with liquid soap and warm running water as required.

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: 12/17/2024

591-1-1-.20 Medications(CR)**Met****Comment**

Documentation for medication dispensing observed complete.

Safety

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**

Correction Deadline: 2/25/2024

Corrected on 12/17/2024

.36(3)(a-b) - This citation was observed to be corrected on this date. The staff member had current Transportation training on file as required.

Sleeping & Resting Equipment

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

Not Met

Correction Deadline: 2/15/2024

Corrected on 12/17/2024

.30(1)(a)2 - This citation was observed to be corrected on this date. All crib mattresses were tight-fitting and free from gaps.

Finding

591-1-1-.30(2) requires the Center to provide a safe sleep environment in accordance with American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) and American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) recommendations as listed in these rules for all infants. Center Staff shall place an infant to sleep on the infant's back in a crib unless the Center has been provided a physician's written statement authorizing another sleep position for that particular infant that includes how the infant shall be placed to sleep and a time frame that the instructions are to be followed. When an infant can easily turn over from back to front and back again, Staff shall continue to put the infant to sleep initially on the infant's back but allow the infant to roll over into his or her preferred position and not re-position the infant. Sleepers, sleep sacks and wearable blankets that fit according to the commercial manufacturer's guidelines and will not slide up around the infant's face may be used when necessary for the comfort of the sleeping infant. Swaddling shall not be used unless the Center has been provided a physician's written statement authorizing its use for a particular infant that includes instructions and a time frame for swaddling the infant. Center Staff shall not place objects or allow objects to be placed in or on the crib with an infant such as but not limited to toys, pillows, quilts, comforters, bumper pads, sheepskins, stuffed toys, or other soft items and shall not attach objects or allow objects to be attached to a crib with a sleeping infant, such as, but not limited to, crib gyms, toys, mirrors and mobiles. It was determined based on observation that a one-year-old child was observed asleep in a safety-approved crib in classroom C in Building One with a pink bib around their neck that posed a potential safe-sleep hazard.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will take all steps necessary to provide a safe sleep environment for infants as listed in these rules; will train Staff to follow these rules; and will monitor for compliance.

Correction Deadline: 12/17/2024

Staff Records

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

Not Met

Correction Deadline: 2/15/2024

Corrected on 12/17/2024

.09(1)(a) - This citation was observed to be corrected on this date. All staff had a Comprehensive Criminal Background Check record on file as required.

Correction Deadline: 2/15/2024

Corrected on 12/17/2024

.09(1)(c) - This citation was observed to be corrected on this date.

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 on a review of records that staff member # 28, who had a background check record on file within the portability window, was present and working in a one-year-old classroom and their background check record had not been ported electronically before being present with children as required.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

IMMEDIATE CORRECTION - The Center will complete the portability request 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 review all records to ensure CRC rules are maintained.

Correction Deadline: 12/17/2024

591-1-1-.14 First Aid & CPR**Not Met**

Correction Deadline: 3/16/2024

Corrected on 12/17/2024

.14(1) - This citation was observed to be corrected on this date. The director had evidence of completed CPR and First Aid training on file as required.

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 members # 12, # 18, # 23, # 31, and #33 did not have evidence of completed CPR and First Aid training within the first 90 days of employment as required.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will develop a schedule to ensure there is always a staff person with current first aid and CPR training present and will develop and implement a plan to ensure all staff members have satisfactorily completed first aid and CPR training by the specified date.

Correction Deadline: 1/17/2025

Recited on 12/17/2024

Technical Assistance

Please ensure that a complete first aid kit be present in each vehicle used by the Center for transportation of children, that contains scissors, tweezers, gauze pads, adhesive tape, thermometer, band-aids, assorted sizes, antibacterial ointment, insect-sting preparation, an antiseptic cleansing solution, triangular bandages, rubber gloves, protective eye wear, a protective face mask, and a cold pack. The first aid kit, together with a first aid instruction manual which must be kept with the kit at all times, shall be stored so that it is not accessible to children but is easily accessible to Staff. Please check the first aid kits on each vehicle to ensure they are complete and all ointments and creams are not expired.

Correction Deadline: 12/27/2024

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 members # 16, # 23, and # 30 did not have evidence of completed health and safety orientation within the first 90 days of employment as required.

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: 1/7/2025

Recited on 12/17/2024

Defer

591-1-1-.33(5)- This citation will be evaluated at the next Licensing Study conducted after January 1, 2025.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will plan and schedule the required 10 hours of annual training each year and follow up to ensure the training is completed.

Correction Deadline: 3/16/2024

591-1-1-.31 Staff(CR)

Met

Correction Deadline: 2/15/2024

Corrected on 12/17/2024

.31(13) - This citation was observed to be corrected on this date. All vehicles had a current tag as required.

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.