



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: 9/17/2024 **VisitType:** Licensing Study

Arrival: 10:00 AM **Departure:** 4:00 PM

CCLC-1114

Growing Room CDC

1200 Manchester Expressway Columbus, GA 31904 Muscogee
County
(706) 596-1234 aholland@growingroomusa.com

Regional Consultant

Penny Svenson

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Mailing Address

PO Box 4216
Columbus, GA 31914-0126

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.
09/17/2024	Licensing Study	Good Standing	
01/24/2024	Licensing Study	Good Standing	
08/15/2023	Monitoring Visit	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 1	Two Year Olds	2	16	C	21	C	NA	NA	Transitioning
Main	Room 10	GA PreK	2	16	C	26	C	36	C	Transitioning
Main	Room 11	GA PreK	2	11	C	21	C	NA	NA	Snack
Main	Room 12	GA PreK	2	15	C	22	C	31	C	Outside
Main	Room 13	One Year Olds	2	13	C	19	C	NA	NA	Lunch
Main	Room 14		0	0	C	16	C	NA	NA	
Main	Room 2	Two Year Olds	2	20	C	21	C	NA	NA	Outside
Main	Room 3	Infants	1	6	C	10	C	NA	NA	Floor Play,Nap
Main	Room 4	Three Year Olds	2	19	C	20	C	NA	NA	Art
Main	Room 5	Four Year Olds	1	12	C	21	C	NA	NA	Art
Main	Room 6	One Year Olds	2	11	C	15	C	NA	NA	Centers,Free Play
Main	Room 7	Infants	4	20	C	23	C	NA	NA	Feeding,Floor Play,Nap
Main	Room 8	Two Year Olds	2	19	C	21	C	NA	NA	Transitioning
Main	Room 9	Three Year Olds	1	14	C	21	C	NA	NA	Art
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 277					Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 296					
Total # Children this Date: 192					Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 296					

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	Playground 1	62	C
Main	Playground 2	76	C

Enrolled Children						
Under 1 years	1 years	2 years	3 years	4 years	5 years (Prekonly)	5 years and older
25	39	55	53	3	46	57

Comments

September 17, 2024--The Licensing Study was conducted on this date. The findings were discussed with the Director.

Plan of Improvement: Developed This Date 09/17/2024

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.al.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!



(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

Correction Deadline: 1/24/2024

Corrected on 9/17/2024

The corrections were observed. The Consultant discussed with the Director to ensure any equipment or furniture that was in need of repair be repaired as needed.

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 Technical Assistance

Technical Assistance

The Consultant discussed with the Director to review all children's documents required to be present in a child's file on Bright from the Start and to have parents complete any missing forms.

Correction Deadline: 9/17/2024

Facility

591-1-1-.06 Bathrooms Technical Assistance

Technical Assistance

The Consultant discussed with the Director if the outside toilet was used to ensure the vent was operable.

Correction Deadline: 10/17/2024

591-1-1-.19 License Capacity(CR) Met

Comment

Licensed capacity observed to be routinely met by center.

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 there was a tube of vaseline petroleum jelly that stated it was considered poisonous and should be kept out of reach of children in an open book bag that was stored on the floor in Room 11. Further, a plastic grocery bag was observed to hang under a cubby in Room 11.

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: 9/17/2024

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 there were several classrooms with chipped paint and spackled areas. Further, the half-door that led to the area where bottles were stored had a piece of the covering missing at the bottom left corner of the half-door in Room 7. Also, the baseboard was falling off the wall in the first bathroom in Room 12. In addition, hardware was observed to be rusted under sinks in classrooms. More so, the wall was exposed under the sink in the second bathroom in Room 9. Lastly, the door stop was cracked in the second bathroom in Room 4 and the bottom of the door had rust and sharp edges present.

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: 9/17/2024

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

Met

Correction Deadline: 1/24/2024

Corrected on 9/17/2024

The correction was observed on this date. New playground equipment was observed to be in the place of where the stump was observed during the last visit.

Food Service

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

Not Met

Finding

591-1-1-.15(4) requires that a feeding chair or similar equipment designed for feeding children shall be provided for the use of each child being fed who is capable of sitting up but who is unable to sit unassisted at a table and must be cleaned with a disinfectant after each use. Such chair or similar equipment shall have a broad base to prevent tipping, a surface that the child cannot raise, a strap or other device which prevents the child from sliding out of the chair, and a feeding surface free of cracks. It was determined based on observation that an infant was placed in a bouncy seat and observed to hold their own bottle, and a feeding chair was not provided for the use to feed the child.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will inspect feeding equipment to ensure it meets each of the listed criteria and to verify a feeding chair or equipment is provided for each child who requires one. The Center will train staff and monitor to ensure that the feeding equipment is cleaned with a disinfectant after each use.

Correction Deadline: 9/17/2024

Finding

591-1-1-.15(7) requires that food be served according to manufacturer's instructions and recommendations. Foods that are associated with young children's choking incidents, such as, but not limited to, peanuts, hot dogs, raw carrots, popcorn, fish with bones, cheese cubes, grapes and any other food that is of similar shape and size of the trachea/windpipe shall not be served to the children less than four (4) years of age. Children older than four (4) years of age may be served these foods provided that the foods are cut in such a way as to minimize choking. Food shall not be accessible or served to children until it has been chopped, diced, cut or mashed and is appropriate for each child's age and individual eating, chewing and swallowing ability. It was determined based on a review of records that meatballs were observed to be on the menu to be served three times in the month of September.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will train Staff and monitor food served and accessible to children to ensure that the food does not present a choking hazard. The center will continue to purchase meatballs, but they will be diced in the kitchen and be reflected as diced meatballs on the menu.

Correction Deadline: 9/17/2024

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

Kitchen appears clean and well organized.

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

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

591-1-1-.17 Hygiene(CR)**Met****Comment**

Staff were observed to remind children to wash hands. Consultant discussed with the Director to discuss proper handwashing procedures for infants through school age children. Further, the Consultant discussed with the Director to put a plan in place with teachers to have children sit at the table after they washed their hands in order to get ready to eat lunch.

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

The Provider currently does not dispense/administer medication.

Policies and Procedures**591-1-1-.21 Operational Policies & Procedures****Met****Comment**

Program observed complete emergency drills

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

Thank you for reporting as required.

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.

591-1-1-.13 Field Trips(CR)	Met
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Comment

Field trip documentation observed to be complete.

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

Complete documentation of transportation observed.

Sleeping & Resting Equipment

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

Pleasant naptime environment observed.

Staff Records

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

Criminal record checks were observed to be complete.

591-1-1-.14 First Aid & CPR	Met
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Correction Deadline: 2/23/2024

Corrected on 9/17/2024

100% of staff required to have first aid and CPR were observed to have the training on this date.

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

Documentation observed of required staff training.

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

Center observed to maintain appropriate staff:child ratios.

591-1-1-.32 Supervision(CR)	Not Met
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Finding

591-1-1-.32(7) requires that children be supervised at all times appropriate to the individual age, needs and capabilities of each child. Such supervision must include, but not be limited to, indoor and outdoor activities, mealtimes, naptime, transportation, field trips, and transitions between activities. "Supervision" means that the appropriate number of Staff members are physically present in the area where children are being cared for and are providing watchful oversight to the children, volunteers and Students-in-Training. The persons supervising in the child care area must be alert, positioned to maximize their ability to hear and see the children at all times, and able to respond promptly to the needs and actions of the children being supervised, as well as the actions of the volunteers and Students-in-Training, and provide timely attention to the children's actions and needs. Staff shall be attentive and participating with all children during mealtimes and shall be seated within an arm's length away from children thirty-six (36) months of age and younger. It was determined based on observation that one-year-old children in Room 13 were eating lunch and staff members were not observed to sit with the children during lunch time. Further, a two-year-old child in Room 8 was observed to pull an outlet cover out of an outlet and replace it back into the outlet multiple times and a staff member did not immediately notice.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will train Staff and monitor to ensure they are providing supervision and watchful oversight to the children at all times.

