



**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:** 6/16/2023    **VisitType:** Complaint Investigation Follow Up    **Arrival:** 12:30 PM    **Departure:** 5:30 PM

**CCLC-52493**

**Special Investigations Unit Sr. Specialist**

**Children Academy 4 Learning**

Lesley Barrett

1606 North Leg Road Augusta, GA 30909 Richmond County  
 (706) 738-2876 fredjeff67@aol.com

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 Fax:  
 lesley.barrett@decal.ga.gov

**Mailing Address**  
 Same

**Quality Rated:** ★

| <u>Compliance Zone Designation</u> |                                            |               | <b>Compliance Zone Designation</b> - 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.<br><br><b>Good Standing</b> - Program is demonstrating an acceptable level of performance in meeting the rules.<br><b>Support</b> - Program performance is demonstrating a need for improvement in meeting rules.<br><b>Deficient</b> - Program is not demonstrating an acceptable level of performance in meeting the rules. |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|---------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 06/16/2023                         | Complaint Investigation Follow Up          | Good Standing |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| 01/05/2023                         | Complaint Investigation & Monitoring Visit | Good Standing |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| 01/05/2023                         | Complaint Closure                          | 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      |
|--------------------------------|------------------|------------------------|--------------------------------|----------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------|------------|--------------|------------|
| Bldg 1                         | A- 1's and 2's   |                        | 0                              | 0        | C                             | 8                             | C            | NA         | NA           | Not In Use |
| Bldg 1                         | B- 6wks- 18 mths | Infants                | 1                              | 5        | C                             | 12                            | C            | NA         | NA           | Nap        |
| Bldg 1                         | C- 1's and 2's   | Two Year Olds          | 1                              | 9        | C                             | 10                            | C            | NA         | NA           | Nap        |
| Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 30 |                  |                        |                                |          | Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0 |                               |              |            |              |            |
| Bldg 2                         | D- 3's - 12's    | Six Year Olds and Over | 2                              | 14       | C                             | 27                            | C            | NA         | NA           | Free Play  |
| Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 27 |                  |                        |                                |          | Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0 |                               |              |            |              |            |
| Total # Children this Date: 28 |                  |                        | Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 57 |          |                               | Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0 |              |            |              |            |

| Building | Playground | Playground Occupancy | Playground Compliance |
|----------|------------|----------------------|-----------------------|
| Bldg 1   | Play yard  | 174                  | C                     |

**Comments**

The investigation remains open on this date, pending additional information. Upon completion the finding will be reviewed with the provider and a final copy of the report will be sent.

The purpose of this visit was to conduct an incident investigation and to follow up the previous visit that was conducted on January 05, 2023.

Plan of Improvement: Developed This Date 06/16/2023

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/RuleAndRegulations.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](http://www.decalkoala.com) with the user id 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.state.ga.us](mailto:qualityrated@dec.state.ga.us) for more information. Free technical assistance is available!**

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Jeffrey Knight, Program Official

Date

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Lesley Barrett, Special Investigations Unit Sr.  
Specialist

Date



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(Findings Report)

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

Children's Records

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

Met

Correction Deadline: 1/13/2023

Corrected on 6/16/2023

.08(1) - Previous citation regarding children's records was corrected on this date.

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 the following potential hazards were observed accessible to children on this date:

- Room C – Three containers of diapering wipes and a medication bottle containing prescription pills was observed to be accessible to the children inside of a child's book bag.

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: 6/16/2023

Recited on 6/16/2023

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.25(9) - Consultant discussed with the provider to ensure that children's protection and safety by restricting anyone from the center's premises unless the person has a legitimate reason to be there. Friends and family members of staff persons should not linger at the center.

Correction Deadline: 6/16/2023

## Health and Hygiene

591-1-1-.07 Children's Health

Met

Correction Deadline: 1/5/2023

Corrected on 6/16/2023

.07(5) - Previous citation was corrected on this date. Specialist did not observe any hazardous items attached to children's clothing or hanging around the necks of the children present at the center.

591-1-1-.20 Medications(CR)

Not Met

### Finding

591-1-1-.20(4) requires the Center to keep medication in a cabinet or container that is locked or otherwise not accessible to the children and to be stored separate from cleaning chemicals, supplies or poisons. Medications requiring refrigeration shall be placed in a leak-proof container in a refrigerator that is not accessible to the children. It was determined based on an observation that a medical prescription bottle containing pills was found accessible to children inside of a child's book bag in classroom C.

### POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will train Staff on the safe and proper storage of medication and monitor to ensure that the rule is met.

Correction Deadline: 6/16/2023

## Safety

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

Met

Correction Deadline: 1/6/2023

Corrected on 6/16/2023

.36(7)(c) - Previous citation regarding the transportation checklist was corrected on this date.

## Staff Records

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

Met

Correction Deadline: 2/4/2023

Corrected on 6/16/2023

.14(2) - Previous citation regarding first aid and cpr certifications were corrected on this date.

**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 review of records, that Staff # 4, were lacking evidence of completing Health and Safety Training on this date, which was required within 90 days of hire 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: 6/30/2023**

**Recited on 6/16/2023**

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**591-1-1-.31 Staff(CR)****Not Met****Finding**

591-1-1-.31(2)(a) requires the Center to ensure there is a designated teacher/lead caregiver for each group of children. It was determined based on observation that there were no designated lead teacher for each group of children in classroom B, C, and D as required.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

The Center will designate a qualified lead staff for this group.

**Correction Deadline: 6/16/2023**

**Defer**

591-1-1-.31(2)(b)2.- center does not have a designated lead teacher at this time.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

A teacher/lead caregiver will be hired that meets the minimum academic requirements and qualifying work experience. The identified lead caregiver will enroll in a program to obtain an approved education credential within six months and will complete the program, earning the credential within 18 months.

**Correction Deadline: 6/5/2023**