



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: 8/4/2021 **VisitType:** Complaint Investigation Follow Up **Arrival:** 9:30 AM **Departure:** 2:00 PM

CCLC-49489

Kids Town Learning Center

3700 Martha Berry Hwy. Rome, GA 30165 Floyd County
 (706) 234-5948 tblack11363@gmail.com

Mailing Address

PO Box 856
 Armuchee, GA 30105

Regional Consultant

Chasity Baugh

Phone: (770) 357-1717

Fax: (770) 357-1720

chasity.baugh@decal.ga.gov

Joint with: Karyn Presley

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.
08/04/2021	Complaint Investigation Follow Up	Good Standing	
05/27/2021	Monitoring Visit	Good Standing	
12/09/2020	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
Main	A-1R-Three's	Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds and Five Year Olds and Six Year Olds and Over	2	23	C	23	C	NA	NA	Transitioning
Main	B- 2R-Pre-K		0	0	C	19	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
Main	C- 1L-Two's	Two Year Olds and Three Year Olds	2	17	C	19	C	NA	NA	Outside
Main	D- 2L-One's	One Year Olds and Two Year Olds	2	14	C	17	C	NA	NA	Free Play
Main	E -3L-Infants	One Year Olds	1	6	C	17	C	NA	NA	Floor Play
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 95			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0							
Total # Children this Date: 60			Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 95							
			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0							

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	Playground	48	C

Comments

A Virtual Visit was conducted due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

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.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), e-mail the following information to CCSRefutations@dec.state.ga.us.

- 1) Facility name, license number and visit date
- 2) Your name, title/relationship to the facility, e-mail address & up to two phone number(s) where you can be reached
- 3) Specific rule number(s) that you are refuting, along with your concerns or questions regarding the rule citation

Refutations must be submitted to Child Care Services (CCS) within 10 business days of the completion date.

A sample form for submitting a refutation can be found at: <http://dec.state.ga.us/ChildCareServices/RefutationInformation.aspx>

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 New Deadlines:

Your program must be Quality Rated by December 31, 2020 in order to continue to receive Childcare and Parent Services (CAPS).

Get started today! Sign up by completing a short online application: <https://qualityrated.dec.state.ga.us/>
Request free technical assistance to help you earn your star rating by contacting the Quality Rated help desk at 855-800-7747 or qualityrated@dec.state.ga.us

Tina Black, Program Official	Date
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Karyn Presley, Consultant	Date
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Chasity Baugh, Consultant	Date
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Findings Report

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

Activities and Equipment

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

Not Met

Finding

591-1-1-.12(2) requires 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. It was determined based on observation that in the third classroom on the left, the large play mat under the infant swings was observed to be peeling.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will ensure that equipment and furniture are used by the age-appropriate group of children.

Correction Deadline: 8/4/2021

Facility

591-1-1-.06 Bathrooms

Not Met

Finding

591-1-1-.06(7) requires Center Staff to ensure bathrooms are cleaned daily with a disinfectant. It was determined based on observation that the restroom in the first right classroom, urine covered toilet paper was observed on the floor and the bathroom had a strong scent of urine. Additionally, build up of grime around the inside of the toilet bowls.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will develop and implement a plan to ensure that bathrooms are cleaned and disinfected daily and that this is monitored daily.

Correction Deadline: 8/4/2021

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 in the first class room on the right, the cabinet under the sink was unlocked with Windex accessible to children. Additionally hand Sanitizer was sitting on the child sized shelf, located on the right of the door when you walk into the classroom. Additionally, exposed screws at the base of the toilet were observed in the restroom located in the first left classroom. A plunger was observed to be accessible to children.

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: 8/4/2021

591-1-1-.26 Playgrounds(CR)**Not Met****Finding**

591-1-1-.26(4) requires that playgrounds be protected from traffic or other hazards by a (4) four foot high fence or other barrier approved by this Department. Fencing material shall not present a hazard to children and shall be maintained so as to prevent children from leaving the playground area by any means other than through an approved access route. Fence gates shall be kept closed except when persons are entering or exiting the area. It was determined based upon observation that the bottom of the fence on the left side is exposing a metal rod, approximately seven inches long. Additionally, the fence on the back on the left side at the bottom is unattached to the fence poles.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will routinely check the fence to determine if it is in good repair and remains at least 4 feet high, and will repair any hazards. The Center will train Staff to identify and report any fence hazards and to keep the fence gates closed when not in use.

Correction Deadline: 8/4/2021**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 upon observation the black plastic barrier around the resilient surfacing was cracked, exposing sharp edges and was loose, posing as a tripping hazard.

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: 8/4/2021

Health and Hygiene

591-1-1-.10 Diapering Areas & Practices(CR)**Not Met****Finding**

591-1-1-.10(4) requires that if diapers are changed on a diaper changing surface, the surface shall be smooth, nonporous, and equipped with a guard or rails to prevent falls. Between each diaper change, the diaper changing surface shall be cleaned with a disinfectant and dried with a single-use disposable towel. It was determined based on observation there was broken plexiglass, exposing sharp edges on the diaper changing station in the first left classroom. Additionally, in the third left classroom, the plexiglass was placed on top of a mat with a sheet on it. The plexiglass was being used as a diaper changing surface however did not cover the entire area of the mat, therefore making the changing station porous and not able to be properly cleaned between each diaper change.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will ensure there is a smooth, nonporous changing surface that has a guard or rails for safety in each classroom that houses children wearing diapers. Center Staff will be trained and have adequate supplies to properly clean the diaper changing surface between each diaper change.

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 upon observation, a staff member did not wash their hands upon returning to a classroom after using the restroom in the front office. There was no sink located in the front office staff restroom.

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: 8/4/2021

Sleeping & Resting Equipment

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

Not Met

Finding

591-1-1-.30(1)(a)2 requires that a crib mattress is firm, tight-fitting without gaps, at least 2 inches thick and covered with a waterproof, washable material. Before a change of occupant, each mattress shall be cleaned with a disinfectant. It was determined based on observation that in the third left classroom, the mattresses in the cribs had tears on them, making them porous. Additionally, mattresses were observed to be less than two inches thick.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The center will ensure that a crib mattress is firm, tight fitting non porous and at least two inches thick.

Correction Deadline: 8/4/2021

Staffing and Supervision

591-1-1-.32 Staff:Child Ratios and Group Size(CR)

Not Met

Finding

591-1-1-.32(1) requires the Center to maintain the required Staff:child ratios as follows: under 1 year or under 18 months if not walking = 1:6; 1 year and walking = 1:8; 2 years = 1:10; 3 years = 1:15; 4 years = 1:18; 5 years = 1:20; and 6 years and older = 1:25. A Center must establish groupings of children for care with maximum group sizes as follows: under 1 year = 12; under 18 months/not walking = 12; 1 year and walking = 16; 2 years = 20; 3 years = 30; 4 years = 36; 5 years = 40; and 6 years and older = 50. It was determined based upon observation a staff member walked out of the first right classroom, leaving the classroom out of ratio. The staff member was observed to use the restroom in the front office area, leaving the classroom at a 1:23 ratio, where a 1:15 ratio was required. Additionally, a staff member was observed to walking one child from the playground to the front office to receive first aid due to a fall, leaving the first right classroom on the playground at a 1:22 ratio, where a 1:15 was required.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will hire additional Staff or reschedule current Staff to meet required Staff:child ratios and will organize children into groups that meet requirements.

Correction Deadline: 8/4/2021