



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: 6/4/2024 **VisitType:** Monitoring Visit

Arrival: 9:30 AM **Departure:** 1:30 PM

CCLC-50331
Helping Hands Learning Center
2115 Windsor Spring Road, Suite 24 Augusta, GA 30906
Richmond County
(706) 748-7599 dewaynas33@gmail.com

Regional Consultant
Ashley Richards
Phone: (229) 584-1482
Fax:
ashley.richards@decal.ga.gov

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.
06/04/2024	Monitoring Visit	Good Standing	
01/31/2024	Licensing Study	Good Standing	
03/30/2023	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 2	Main		0	0	C	18	C	NA	NA	
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 18			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0			Building @35 capacity limited by Fire Marshall Limitations				
Main	Room A		0	0	C	19	C	NA	NA	
Main	Room B	Infants and One Year Olds	3	22	NC	21	NC	NA	NA	Feeding,Centers
Main	Room C	Two Year Olds	3	24	NC	21	NC	NA	NA	Centers
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 40			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0			Building @35 capacity limited by Playground Limitations				
Suite 16	Left Classroom	Five Year Olds and Six Year Olds and Over	1	13	C	21	C	NA	NA	Music,TV,Free Play,Centers
Suite 16	Right Classroom	Four Year Olds	1	27	NC	21	NC	NA	NA	Music,Centers
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 40			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0			Building @35 capacity limited by Fire Marshall Limitations				
Total # Children this Date: 86			Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 98			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0				

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Building 2	Back Playground	17	C
Main	Playground A	13	C
Suite 16	Suite 16 Playground	14	C

Comments

The purpose of this visit was to conduct a Monitoring Visit.

Plan of Improvement: Developed This Date 06/04/2024

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!



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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-.03 Activities

Technical Assistance

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.03(3) - The Consultant and the Director discussed ensuring that all centers within each classroom are open and available to children for independent activity choices.

Correction Deadline: 6/4/2024

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

Not Met

Finding

591-1-1-.12(4) requires that equipment and furniture is secured if it is of a weight or mass that could cause injury from tipping, falling, or being pulled or pushed over. It was determined based on observation that the following equipment hazards were present on this date:

Suite 16 - Left Classroom

- The television located on the center shelving was unsecured on this date.

Main – Room C

- Two speakers were located on top of the kitchenette within the Dramatic Play area.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will ensure that the identified equipment or furniture and any other such existing or future items are secured adequately and will have a system for checking these for stability.

Correction Deadline: 6/4/2024

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

N/A

Comment

Center does not provide swimming activities.

Facility

Finding

591-1-1-.19(1) requires a Center to provide 35 square feet of usable space per child, which will determine the Center's License capacity. It was determined based on observation that:

- 22 children were observed in classroom Main Room B , which was licensed for 21 on this date.
- 24 children were observed in classroom Main Room C, which was licensed for 21 on this date.
- 27 children were observed in classroom Suite 16 – Right Classroom, which was licensed for 21 on this date.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will limit the number of children in this space to the licensed capacity.

Correction Deadline: 6/4/2024

591-1-1-.25 Physical Plant - Safe Environment(CR)**Not Met****Comment**

Please be mindful to keep diaper changing storage cabinets locked.

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 the flooring on the left side of the toilet in Suite 16 - Right Classroom had water damage on this date. It was further determined that the walls in Suite 16 - Right and Left Classrooms had chipping paint on this date.

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: 7/17/2024

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

The Consultant and the Director discussed the following on this date:

- An amendment will be created in order to remove Building 2 Back Playground.
- An amendment will be created in order to add a new playground behind Suite 16.
- The due date for these amendments is July 17, 2024.
- A playground guide has been e-mailed to the Director on this date.

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.26(4) - Please ensure that the black fencing that blocks electrical boxes located against the concrete wall on Main Playground A is anchored and secured.

Correction Deadline: 6/4/2024

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.26(6) - Please ensure that the picnic table on Main Playground A is put back together according to manufacturer's directions. Please ensure that the broken adult chair is removed from Main Playground A.

Correction Deadline: 6/14/2024

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****Comment**

Staff were observed to remind children to wash hands.

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 Main Room B did wash their hands with warm running water and liquid hand soap after wiping children's noses on this date.

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: 6/4/2024**591-1-1-.20 Medications(CR)****N/A****Comment**

The Provider currently does not dispense/administer medication.

Safety**591-1-1-.11 Discipline(CR)****Met****Comment**

Age-appropriate discussion and/or redirection observed.

591-1-1-.36 Transportation(CR)**N/A****Comment**

Center does not provide routine transportation.

Sleeping & Resting Equipment**591-1-1-.30 Safe Sleeping and Resting Requirements(CR)****Not 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.

Finding

591-1-1-.30(4). requires that if cots and mats are stored in the children's activity room or area, they shall be stored to prevent children's access to them and to allow maximum use of play space. When storage is available and used for the storage of cots and mats that allows the cots, mats and any bedding to be stored without touching any other cots, mats or bedding, the bedding may be left on the cot or mat. When such storage is not available for the cots and mats, each child's bedding shall be kept separate from other children's bedding and stored in containers marked for individual use, such as, but not limited to, bins, cubbies, or bags. It was determined based on observation that cots and mats were not inaccessible to children on this date:

Suite 16

- Left Classroom
- Right Classroom

Main

- Room B
- Room C

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will store cots and mats so children do not have access to them and they don't take up play space and will store them so each child's bedding is separate from the others.

Correction Deadline: 6/21/2024

Staff Records**591-1-1-.09 Criminal Records and Comprehensive Background Checks(CR)****Not Met****Finding**

591-1-1-.09(1.) (b) requires the Center to ensure that every Director 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 Director 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 #10 had an expired Comprehensive Records Check Determination which dated March 01, 2024.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

IMMEDIATE CORRECTION - The Center will view A to Z Background Check video units to ensure that the Director 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 Director 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 ensure the CRC rules are maintained.

Correction Deadline: 6/4/2024

Correction Deadline: 1/31/2024

Corrected on 6/4/2024

.09(1)(c) - Correction of previous citation in that every Employee has a valid and current satisfactory Comprehensive Records Check Determination on file on this date.

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 #10 had an expired Comprehensive Records Check which dated March 01, 2024.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

IMMEDIATE CORRECTION - The Center will watch the Criminal Background Check Video Units 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 ensure CRC rules are maintained.

Correction Deadline: 6/4/2024

Recited on 6/4/2024

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

Staff observed to be compliant with applicable laws and regulations.

Staffing and Supervision

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.32(1) - Center Staff immediately reconciled ratios in Suite 16 - Right Classroom. The first Staff:Child ratio was 1:27 and then immediately reconciled to 2:27 on this date. During the first head count, children entered the facility with their parents.

Correction Deadline: 6/4/2024

591-1-1-.32 Supervision(CR)**Met****Comment**

Adequate supervision observed on this date.