



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: 8/21/2024 **VisitType:** Monitoring Visit

Arrival: 10:30 AM **Departure:** 3:30 PM

CCLC-58549
Bethesda Early Learning Center
1700 Osceola Avenue Waycross, GA 31503 Ware County
(912) 285-1024 Bethesdaearlylearning@gmail.com

Regional Consultant
Rebecca Owsley
Phone: (229) 238-2130
Fax:
rebecca.owsley@decal.ga.gov
Joint with: Connie Boatright

Mailing Address
Same

Quality Rated: No

<u>Compliance Zone Designation</u>			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.
08/21/2024	Monitoring Visit	Good Standing	
09/18/2023	Initial 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: Infant (first left)	Infants	1	4	C	8	C	NA	NA	Nap,Feeding
Main	B: Ones (Back Left)	One Year Olds	1	6	C	7	C	NA	NA	Free Play
Main	C: Twos (First Right)	Two Year Olds	2	7	C	17	C	NA	NA	Outside,Transiti oning,Centers
Main	D: Threes (Second Left)	Three Year Olds	1	3	C	18	C	NA	NA	Clean Up,Transitioning ,Art
Main	E: Fours (End Right)		0	0	C	10	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
Main	F: MultiPurpose/ After School (End)		0	0	C	79	C	NA	NA	
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.:			139		Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.:		0			
Total # Children this Date: 20			Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.:		Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.:		0			

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	Playground A (Right)	13	C
Main	Playground B (Left)	13	C

Enrolled Children						
Under 1 years	1 years	2 years	3 years	4 years	5 years (Prekonly)	5 years and older
5	8	7	2	2	0	2

Comments

An in person monitoring visit was conducted on this date. The provider stated they do not administer medication and they do not offer routine transportation, field trips, or swimming activities.

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/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 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)

Met

Comment

A variety of equipment and toys were observed throughout the center.

591-1-1.35 Swimming Pools & Water-related Activities(CR)

N/A

Comment

The provider stated the center does not provide swimming activities.

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)

Technical Assistance

Technical Assistance

591-1-1.25(13) - Please ensure that potentially hazardous equipment, materials and supplies be stored in a locked area inaccessible to children. A broom, dust pan, and toilet brush were accessible in the bathroom in the two-year-old room. The staff stated the bathroom was only used for washing hands and the staff and the consultant discussed having the kids use the sink near the changing table in the classroom instead of the bathroom and getting a stool so the kids could access this sink.

Correction Deadline: 8/21/2024

591-1-1.26 Playgrounds(CR)

Technical Assistance

Technical Assistance

591-1-1.26(6) - Please ensure that playground equipment provide an opportunity for the children to engage in a variety of experiences and shall be age-appropriate. For example, toddlers shall not be permitted to swing in swings designed for School-age Children. The outdoor equipment shall be free of lead-based paint, sharp corners and shall be regularly maintained in such a way as to be free of rust and splinters that could pose significant safety hazard to the children. All equipment shall be arranged so as not to obstruct supervision of children. Please replace, repair, or remove the following items:

- The pink cozy coupe car: gas cap is missing, exposing a hazard for children's fingers
- The blue play car: steering wheel is broken off leaving sharp plastic exposed to children

Correction Deadline: 8/31/2024

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.26(9) - Please ensure 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. Please cut back plants and weeds growing over the top of the fence and the thorny weeds growing from beneath the fence. The rain spout tube cover presents a hazard to children who can put their hand or arm inside of it. The black stripping used as a border was loose and presents a tripping hazard for children. The gated area for infants was covered in sticks and leaf debris but not in use. No children were present in that play area. The consultant spoke to the infant teacher who stated they had used it months ago when children needed to be separated by age outside, but they have changed schedules and have not used the area for a couple months and planned to remove it.

Correction Deadline: 8/21/2024

Food Service

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

Technical Assistance

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.15(2) - Please ensure the center requires that a signed written feeding plan for children less than one (1) year of age shall be obtained from Parent(s) and that instructions from the Parent(s) shall be updated regularly as new foods are added or other dietary changes are made. The feeding plan shall be posted in the child's assigned room and must include the child's feeding schedule, the amount of formula or breast milk to be given, instructions for the introduction of solid foods, the amount of food to be given and notation of any type(s) of commercially premixed formula which may not be used in an emergency because of food allergies.

Correction Deadline: 8/21/2024

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.15(3) -Please ensure the center requires baby bottles and formula to be labeled with the individual child's name; supplied by the Parent daily in bottles; and refrigerated at a temperature of forty (40) degrees Fahrenheit or less. Only the current day's formula or breast milk shall be served. If formula must be provided by the Center, only commercially prepared, ready-to-feed formula shall be used. Bottles that were in the fridge in a basket labeled with the children's names must each be labeled with the individual child's name.

Correction Deadline: 8/21/2024

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.15(6)(b) - The center will require that food and beverages be served in individual plates or bowls and with individual glasses or cups. Baby food fed to infants should not be fed from the original container, but served from a separate individual bowl.

Correction Deadline: 8/21/2024

Health and Hygiene

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

Technical Assistance

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.07(5) - Please ensure that Center Staff do to not permit children to wear around their necks or attach to their clothing pacifiers or other hazardous items.

Correction Deadline: 8/21/2024

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

Met

Comment

Staff state proper knowledge of diapering procedures.

Finding

591-1-1-17(7) requires that children wash their hands with liquid soap and warm running water upon arrival for care, when moving from one child care group to another, upon re-entering the child care area after outside play, before and after eating meals and snacks, handling or touching food, playing in water; after toileting and diapering, playing in sand, touching animals or pets, and contact with bodily fluids and after contamination by any other means. It was determined based on observation that the two-year-old children came back inside the classroom after outside play and sat down at a table for water and did not wash their hands.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will train Staff on required handwashing for children and Staff will ensure children's hands are washed when required. The Director will monitor for compliance.

Correction Deadline: 8/21/2024

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

The provider stated the center does not provide routine transportation.

Sleeping & Resting Equipment

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

Not Met

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 one six-week-old infant was sleeping in a crib that had a bottle, bib, and pacifier with clip in the corner of the crib. Additionally, another six-week-old infant was sleeping in a crib with a second fitted sheet bunched beneath them and a bottle, bib, and pacifier with clip were in the crib as well.

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: 8/21/2024

Staff Records

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

591-1-1-.09(1)(c) requires the Center to ensure that every Employee 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 Employee 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 #8 was present working at the Center on August 19, 2024 when the "as of" date in the satisfactory Comprehensive Records Check Determination letter was August 20, 2024.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

IMMEDIATE CORRECTION - The Center will immediately ensure that every Employee 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 Employee 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 immediately ensure the CRC rules are maintained.

Correction Deadline: 8/21/2024

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

Center observed to maintain appropriate staff:child ratios.

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

Adequate supervision observed on this date.