



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: 10/21/2024 VisitType: Licensing Study

Arrival: 11:15 AM Departure: 2:00 PM

CCLC-50717

Stepping Stones Child Learning Center

1267 Noel C. Conaway Road Guyton, GA 31312 Effingham County
(912) 728-8942 steppingstoneschildlearning@gmail.com

Regional Consultant

Lakeidra Lee

Phone: (770) 357-7070

Fax:

lakeidra.lee@decal.ga.gov

Joint with: Lisa Pitts

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.
10/21/2024	Licensing Study	Good Standing	
03/27/2024	Complaint Investigation Follow Up	Good Standing	
08/01/2023	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
I	A, infants	Infants	1	6	C	7	C	NA	NA	Nap
I	B, Toddlers	One Year Olds	1	6	C	9	C	NA	NA	Nap
I	C	One Year Olds	1	0	C	15	C	NA	NA	Nap
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 31					Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0					
II	D	Two Year Olds	1	8	NC	12	C	NA	NA	Nap
II	E	Two Year Olds	1	10	C	17	C	NA	NA	Nap
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 29					Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0					
III	F	Three Year Olds	1	13	C	15	C	22	C	Nap
III	G	Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds	1	13	C	16	C	23	C	Nap, Transitioning
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 31					Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0					
Total # Children this Date: 56			Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 91			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0				

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
I	A	7	C
I	Playground B	42	C

Enrolled Children						
Under 1 years	1 years	2 years	3 years	4 years	5 years (Prekonly)	5 years and older
6	13	18	19	6	0	1

Comments

The purpose of the visit was licensing study. Center does not provide transportation, field trips and swimming activities. The Center's Director was present during the study.

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 Licensing Study:

Activities and Equipment

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

Technical Assistance

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.12(2) - Consultant discussed with Director to ensure that the wicker baskets stacked on top of the shelf in Classroom C where children nap is secured or removed.

Correction Deadline: 10/21/2024

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

N/A

Comment

Center does not provide swimming activities.

Children's Records

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

Met

Comment

Parent authorizations obtained/completed.

Comment

Records were observed to be complete and well organized.

Facility

591-1-1-.06 Bathrooms

Met

Comment

Bathrooms observed to be clean and well maintained.

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

Met

Comment

Licensed capacity observed to be routinely met by center on this noted date.

Comment

Consultant discussed with Director to ensure that Staff's personal items (Room C) are to be kept out of reach and inaccessible to children.

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.25(8) - Consultant discussed with Director to ensure protective caps in Classroom E on all unused electrical outlets within children's reach and requires that electrical outlets in use be made inaccessible to children.

Correction Deadline: 10/21/2024

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

Playground observed to be clean and in good repair.

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)**Met****Comment**

Staff stated proper hand washing procedures and the importance of reminding children to wash hands.

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

Documentation for medication dispensing observed complete.

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

Age-appropriate discussion and/or redirection observed.

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

Center does not provide routine transportation.

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

Discussed SIDS and infant sleeping position.

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

Director provided three file(s) for employees hired since last visit.

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

Staff observed to be compliant with applicable laws and regulations.

Staffing and Supervision

Finding

591-1-1-.32(5) requires that during day-time rest or sleeping periods, at least one Staff person is in each room providing direct supervision of the children and all Staff required by these rules relating to Staff: child ratios are in the Center and available to assure safe evacuation in an emergency. Staff: child ratios may be doubled for children three (3) years and older provided these requirements are met. It was determined based on Consultant's observation that there was not a staff present in Room C for a brief time during nap time.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will rearrange staff schedules to ensure the required number of staff are in each room and available.

Correction Deadline: 10/21/2024

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 Consultant's observation that Classroom C teacher was not present for a brief amount of time during the children's nap.

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.

Correction Deadline: 10/21/2024