



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: 9/15/2022 **VisitType:** Licensing Study

Arrival: 1:10 PM

Departure: 4:10 PM

CCLC-45874

The Elite Academy of Excellence

1722 Oak Street Marietta, GA 30060 Cobb County
 (678) 275-2171 eliteacademyofexcellence@gmail.com

Mailing Address
 Same

Regional Consultant

Evelyn McBurne

Phone: (770) 405-7958

Fax: (404) 591-5186

evelyn.mcburne@dec.al.ga.gov

Joint with: Stacy Whitten

Quality Rated: ★ ★

<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.
09/15/2022	Licensing Study	Good Standing	
03/16/2022	Monitoring Visit	Good Standing	
09/07/2021	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 - 1L		0	0	C	22	C	NA	NA	
Main	B - 2L		0	0	C	23	C	NA	NA	
Main	C - 1R	Infants and One Year Olds	0	4	NC	11	C	NA	NA	Nap
Main	D - 2R	Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds	1	5	C	20	C	NA	NA	Nap
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 76			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0							
Total # Children this Date: 9			Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 76							
			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0							

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	Infant	8	C
Main	Older	50	C

Comments

The purpose of this visit was to conduct a licensing study.

Plan of Improvement: Developed This Date 09/15/2022

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



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 for more information. Free technical assistance is available!

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)

Carmen Brooks, Program Official

Date

Evelyn McBurse, Consultant

Date

Stacy Whitten, Consultant

Date



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Findings Report

Date: 9/15/2022 VisitType: Licensing Study

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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 - Please ensure the white shelf in Classroom C-1R is secured to prevent a tipping hazard for children.

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

Not Evaluated

Comment

Center does not provide swimming activities.

Children's Records

Records Reviewed: 5

Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 0

Child # 1	Met
Child # 2	Met
Child # 3	Met
Child # 4	Met
Child # 5	Met

591-1-1.08 Children's Records

Met

Comment

Records were observed to be complete and well organized.

Facility

591-1-1-.06 Bathrooms**Technical Assistance****Technical Assistance**

591-1-1-.06 - Please ensure to place a shield over the bathroom lightbulb in Classroom C-1R.

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)**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 the following hazards were observed accessible to children:

Classroom D -2R - a staff purse was on a low hook, and the cabinet under the diaper table was unlocked containing cleaning products

Classroom D-2R- hanging cords were observed under the window AC unit

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: 9/15/2022

Recited on 9/15/2022

Correction Deadline: 9/23/2022

Corrected on 9/15/2022

.25(3) - Correction of the previous citation in that consultant observed outdoor ramp to playground to be repaired and the wood panel in Classroom D-2R to be repaired.

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.25(3) - Please ensure to repair chipping paint on the ceiling in Classroom C and Classroom D.

Correction Deadline: 9/15/2022

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.25(3) - Please monitor for any hazards in Classroom A before use.

Correction Deadline: 9/15/2022

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 on observation that there was a four inch gap on the bottom of the older playground fence on the right side causing a potential entrapment hazard and a broken wooden slat on the older playground fence. Additionally, the wood present on the bottom of the infant playground was leaning posing as a tripping hazard to children.

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: 9/15/2022

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 on observation the following hazards were present:

- *Pine cones and tree limbs were present on the infant playground
- *A broken bicycle was present on the infant playground
- *Two tarps were present on the older playground
- *Several pieces of plywood dispersed on the older playground
- *Weeds and overgrown grass was present on the older playground
- *There was a grill, hose, and climbing jungle gym present on the deck of the older playground

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: 9/30/2022

Recited on 9/15/2022

Food Service**591-1-1-.15 Food Service & Nutrition****Met****Comment**

Center menu meets USDA guidelines.

591-1-1-.18 Kitchen Operations**Technical Assistance****Technical Assistance**

591-1-1-.18 - Please ensure to remove any rust on the bottom of kitchen refrigerator door.

Health and Hygiene**591-1-1-.10 Diapering Areas & Practices(CR)****Met****Comment**

Staff stated proper knowledge of diapering procedures.

591-1-1-.17 Hygiene(CR)**Met****Comment**

Staff stated proper hand washing and hygiene procedures.

591-1-1-.20 Medications(CR)**Not Met****Comment**

The Provider currently does not dispense/administer medication.

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 observation Nyquil, infant soothing tablets, and saline nose spray were stored in a child's bag on a low hanging hook in Classroom D-2R.

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: 9/15/2022

Policies and Procedures

591-1-1-.21 Operational Policies & Procedures**Met****Comment**

Observed complete emergency drills.

591-1-1-.27 Posted Notices**Met****Comment**

Observed all required posted notices.

Safety

591-1-1.11 Discipline(CR)**Met****Comment**

Staff stated age-appropriate discussion and redirection as a form of discipline.

591-1-1-.36 Transportation(CR)**Not Evaluated****Comment**

Center does not provide routine transportation.

Sleeping & Resting Equipment

591-1-1-.30 Safe Sleeping and Resting Requirements(CR)**Not Met****Correction Deadline: 3/26/2022****Corrected on 9/15/2022****.30(1)(a) - Correction of the previous citation in that consultant observed two cribs to be in the infant classroom.****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 an enrolled infant was observed to be sleeping in a crib with a blanket.

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: 9/15/2022**Correction Deadline: 3/16/2022**

Corrected on 9/15/2022

.30(2)(c) - Correction of the previous citation in that consultant observed all enrolled infants to sleep in safety-approved cribs.

Staff Records

Records Reviewed: 5

Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 0

Staff # 1 Met

Staff # 2 Met

Date of Hire: 06/01/2022

Staff # 3 Met

Date of Hire: 08/01/2022

Reminder - Health & Safety training is required within 90 calendar days of hired

Staff # 4 Met

Date of Hire: 03/01/2022

Staff # 5 Met

Date of Hire: 09/24/2021

Staff Credentials Reviewed: 3

591-1-1-.09 Criminal Records and Comprehensive Background Checks(CR)

Met

Comment

Director provided four files for employees hired since last visit March 16, 2022.

Comment

Satisfactory comprehensive criminal record checks were observed to be complete for all staff on this date.

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

Technical Assistance

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.14 - Please ensure that all applicable staff complete CPR and First Aid training from an accredited agency or personnel. Online only training is not accepted.

Comment

Complete first aid kits observed in center.

591-1-1-.33 Staff Training

Met

Comment

Documentation observed of required staff training.

Comment

Discussed: Health and Safety Training is required for each staff member with direct care responsibilities within 90 calendar days of their hire date.

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(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 by observation that Classroom D-2R had one infant and three one-year-old children present with no supervising staff.

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: 9/15/2022

591-1-1-.32 Supervision(CR)**Not Met****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 observation that one staff member was observed to be responsible for supervising the children in Classroom C and Classroom D and was observed walking back and forth between the two classrooms.

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: 9/15/2022