



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: 9/10/2024 **VisitType:** Monitoring Visit

Arrival: 9:00 AM **Departure:** 12:30 PM

CCLC-39611

First Steps Child Development Center

3714 Salem Rd Covington, GA 30016 Newton County
(770) 788-8555 tawanbridg@aol.com

Regional Consultant

Jessica Johnson

Phone: (770) 357-5090

Fax:

jessica.johnson@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.
09/10/2024	Monitoring Visit	Good Standing	
07/28/2023	Licensing Study	Good Standing	
03/24/2023	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
Main	1LRt Hall Cookie Monster's		0	0	C	16	C	NA	NA	
Main	Count's Castle Rt Side	GA PreK	2	19	C	22	C	31	C	Centers
Main	Left Hall 1L Baby Bear's Crib	One Year Olds	1	4	C	10	C	NA	NA	Breakfast
Main	Left Hall 1R Big Birs's Nest	Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds	1	8	C	16	C	NA	NA	Circle Time
Main	Left Hall Oscars Cove 2L	Two Year Olds	2	12	C	21	C	29	C	Transitioning, Outside
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 85			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 102							
Total # Children this Date: 43			Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 85							
			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 102							

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	A- 6Wks-5 Yrs	24	C
Main	B- 6 Wks -12 yrs	7	C

Enrolled Children						
Under 1 years	1 years	2 years	3 years	4 years	5 years (Prekonly)	5 years and older
0	5	12	10	20	0	24

Comments

An on-site inspection was conducted on September 10, 2024 with the Director Tawanna Bridges. Background checks were all reviewed on September 10, 2024.

Plan of Improvement: Developed This Date 09/10/2024

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.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-.12 Equipment & Toys(CR)

Technical Assistance

Comment

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

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.12(4) - The Consultant discussed securing and removing the broken TV base from classroom 1LRT Hall Cookie Monster's. No children were present in the classroom.

Correction Deadline: 9/10/2024

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

Met

Comment

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.

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 the following hazards were observed:

1LRT Hall Cookie Monster's (No children were present in the classroom).

- Plastic grocery bags in an unlocked gray cabinet on the left side.
- A plunger in an unlocked sink cabinet.
- Hanging TV cords on the left wall.

Count's Castle RT Side

- Two plastic grocery bags in the cubby.
- A hanging TV cord on the back wall.
- Diaper wipes on the printer.
- A plastic bag on top of the back shelf next to the mats.
- Cleaning supplies stored in an unlocked gray cabinet on the right side.

Left Hall 1L Baby Bear's Crib

- Fabric spray, gloves, and diaper wipes stored in an unlocked cabinet under the diapering table.

Left Hall Oscars Cove 2L

- A hanging bluetooth cord on the right side.

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: 9/10/2024

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.25(3) - The Consultant discussed with the Director replacing the damaged ceiling tile in the classroom and restroom in Left Hall 1R Big Birs's Nest.

Correction Deadline: 9/10/2024

591-1-1-.26 Playgrounds(CR)

Met

Comment

Playground observed to be clean and in good repair.

Comment

591-1-1-.26(8) - The Consultant discussed with the Director adding a copy of the ASTM certification to the centers files. The Consultant discussed that a 6 to 9-inch deep resilient ground cover (sand, pea, gravel, or shredded wood) must be under all swings, merry-go-rounds, slides, and climbing equipment.

Correction Deadline: 9/20/2024

Health and Hygiene

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

Technical Assistance

Comment

Staff state proper knowledge of diapering procedures.

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.10(9) - The Consultant discussed with the Director that Center Staff must not use the diapering table as a preparation area.

Correction Deadline: 9/10/2024

591-1-1-.17 Hygiene(CR)

Met

Comment

Please ensure lids remain on trash containing organic waste.

Comment

Proper hand washing of children and staff was discussed with the director on this date.

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

A current/completed inspection was observed for all vehicles used in transporting children this date.

Comment

Complete documentation of transportation observed.

Comment

The vehicle had an approved fire extinguisher and first aid kit on this date.

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

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

591-1-1-.09(1)(a) requires that a Center ensure that every actual and potential Director, Employee and Provisional Employee of a Child Care Learning Center submit both a Records Check Application to the Department and Fingerprints to an authorized fingerprinting site. It was determined based on review of records that staff #3 did not submit both a Records Check Application to the Department and Fingerprints to an authorized fingerprinting site as of this date.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

IMMEDIATE CORRECTION - The Center will check to ensure that every actual and potential Director, Employee and Provisional Employee of a Child Care Learning Center submit both a Records Check Application to the Department and Fingerprints to an authorized fingerprinting site as 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 check to ensure the CRC rules are maintained.

Correction Deadline: 9/10/2024

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 member #3 did not have 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 on this date.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

IMMEDIATE CORRECTION - The Center will check 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. 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 check to ensure the CRC rules are maintained.

Correction Deadline: 9/10/2024

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.