



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: 12/19/2023 **VisitType:** Monitoring Visit

Arrival: 10:30 AM **Departure:** 2:15 PM

CCLC-54749

High Hope Academy

2732 South Central Ave. Tifton, GA 31794 Tift County
(229) 387-0687 highhopetifton@gmail.com

Regional Consultant

Charlene Story

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Mailing Address

2321 Main Street
Tucker, GA 31794

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.
12/19/2023	Monitoring Visit	Good Standing	
11/16/2023	Complaint Closure	Good Standing	
10/11/2023	Complaint Investigation Follow Up	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 1	Room A	One Year Olds and Two Year Olds and Three Year Olds	1	8	C	19	C	NA	NA	Circle Time
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 19					Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 101					
Building 2	Room B	Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds	2	8	C	19	C	27	C	Centers
Building 2	Room C	Six Year Olds and Over	1	17	C	17	C	24	C	Transitioning
Building 2	Room D		0	0	C	31	C	NA	NA	
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 51					Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 101			Building @35 capacity limited by Zoning		
Total # Children this Date: 33		Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 70			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 101					

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Building 1	Playground - A (Large)	35	C

Comments

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

Transportation records and new staff records were available for the consultant to review.

An exit conference discussing the monitoring report was conducted with the director on this date. Consultant emailed signed copy of the monitoring report to the director on this date.

Consultant discussed the director, that an amendment was needed due to having two playgrounds and not only one that is listed in KOALA.

Plan of Improvement: Developed This Date 12/19/2023

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.decgal.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)

Met

Comment

Equipment and furniture observed to be properly secured on this date.

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

N/A

Comment

Center does not provide swimming activities.

Facility

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

Met

Comment

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

591-1-1-.25 Physical Plant - Safe Environment(CR)

Met

Comment

Please be mindful to keep items that pose a hazard inaccessible to children.

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

Not Met

Comment

Discussed maintenance of resilient surface. Please fluff and redistribute.

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 gap measuring five inches in height at the bottom of the fencing panel on the right side of the playground.

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: 1/19/2024

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)**Met****Comment**

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

591-1-1-.20 Medications(CR)**N/A****Comment**

The Provider currently does not dispense/administer medication.

Policies and Procedures

591-1-1-.29 Required Reporting**Met****Correction Deadline: 11/22/2023****Corrected on 12/19/2023****.29(3) - This citation was observed to be corrected on this date. Director stated to consultant when a required report is needed and the time frame in which an incident must be reported.**

Safety

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

Staff were observed to maintain a positive learning environment on this date.

Positive redirection and discussion in Classroom A was observed during circle time.

591-1-1-.36 Transportation(CR)**Not Met****Technical Assistance**591-1-1-.36 - Please remember to have a fire extinguisher and first aid kit on the buses.
Ensure you the bus is cleaned and vacuumed.

Finding

591-1-1-.36(7)(c)2. requires that the driver or other designated person shall immediately document in writing, with a check or other mark/symbol to account for each child listed on the passenger transportation checklist each time a child enters and exits the vehicle. The driver or other designated staff person shall document in writing with a different mark/symbol to account for each child listed on the passenger transportation checklist who was not present on the vehicle for any reason. An explanation shall be documented in writing whenever a child is transported to a field trip site but is not present on the return trip to the Center. It was determined based on a review of transportation records that children were not marked for loading/unloading.

During the week of December 4, 2023 through the 8, 2023:

On December 8, 2023, during the afternoon route from J.T Reddick Elementary to the center, four of five children were missing a mark for unloading at the center. On December 4, 5, 6, and 8, 2023 during the afternoon route from R.L Mack Elementary, one of one child was missing a mark for unloading at the center. On December 8, 2023, during the afternoon route from R.L. Mack Elementary one of one child was missing a mark for loading at the school. On December 8, 2023, during the afternoon route from G.O Bailey Elementary to the center, two of three children were missing a mark for unloading at the center. On December 4, 5, and 6, 2023 during the afternoon route from Northside Elementary to the center, two of two children were missing a mark for unloading at the center. On December 4, 5, and 6, 2023, during the afternoon route from Annie Bell Clark Elementary to the center, seven of seven children were missing a mark for unloading at the center. On December 6, 2023, during the afternoon route from Annie Bell Clark Elementary to the center, one of seven children was missing a mark for loading at the school. On December 6, 2023, during the afternoon route from Matt Wilson Elementary to the center, one of three children was missing a mark for loading at the school and unloading at the center.

During the week of December 11- December 15, 2023:

On December 11, 12, 13 and 14, 2023, during the afternoon route from Matt Wilson Elementary to the center, three of three children were missing a mark for unloading at the center. On December 15, 2023, during the afternoon route from Matt Wilson Elementary to the center, one of three children was missing a mark for unloading at the center. On December 11 and 12, 2023, during the afternoon route from R.L Mack Elementary to the center, one of one child being transported was missing a mark for unloading at the center. On December 13, 14 and 15, 2023, during the afternoon route from R. L Mack Elementary to the center, one of one child being transported was missing a mark for loading at the school and unloading at the center. On December 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 2023, during the afternoon route from Northside Elementary to the center, two of two children were missing a mark for unloading at the center. On December 15, 2023, during the Northside Elementary route to the center, one of two children was missing a mark for loading at the school. On December 11, 12, 13, 14, and 15, 2023, during the afternoon route from Len Lastinger Elementary, one of one child being transported was missing a mark for unloading at the center. On December 15, 2023, during the afternoon route from Len Lastinger Elementary, one of one child being transported was missing a mark for loading at the school. On December 11, 12, 13, and 15, 2023, during the afternoon route from Annie Bell Clark Elementary to the center, seven of seven children being transported were missing a mark for unloading at the center. On December 11, 2023, during the afternoon route from Annie Bell Clark to the center, one of seven children was missing a mark for loading at the school. On December 15, 2023, during the route from Annie Bell Clark to the center, five of seven children were missing a mark for loading the bus at the school. On December 14, 2023, during the route from Annie Bell Clark to the center, six of seven children were missing a mark for unloading at the center.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The driver/other designated person will immediately document in writing with a check/mark/symbol each time a child gets on and off the vehicle.

Correction Deadline: 12/20/2023**Finding**

591-1-1-.36(7)(d)1. requires that the first check be conducted immediately upon unloading the last child at any location including, but not limited to, a field trip destination, arrival at the Center, and the last stop during transportation to home or school. The responsible person on the vehicle shall physically walk through the entire vehicle; visually inspect all seat surfaces, under all seats and in all compartments or recesses in the vehicle's interior; sign the passenger transportation checklist (s), indicating all of the children have exited the vehicle; and give the passenger transportation checklist(s) to the second designated Staff person. It was determined based on a review of transportation records that on December 14, 2023, and December 15, 2023, the first check was not conducted during transportation for R.L. Mack Elementary. On December 15, 2023, the first check was not conducted during transportation for O. Bailey Elementary.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will train Staff who are or may be involved in transporting children in how to thoroughly inspect a vehicle and properly complete transportation documentation. The Center will review and monitor.

Correction Deadline: 12/20/2023

Finding

591-1-1-.36(7)(d)2. requires that the second designated Staff person conduct a check of the vehicle immediately upon the completion of the first check of the vehicle. The responsible person shall physically walk through the entire vehicle; visually inspect all seat surfaces, under all seats and in all compartments or recesses in the vehicle's interior; and sign the passenger transportation checklist(s), indicating all of the children have exited the vehicle. There shall be continuous watchful oversight of the vehicle between the first check and second check. It was determined based on a review of transportation records that during the week of December 11, 2023 through December 15, 2023 the center did not complete a second check during transportation from Matt Wilson Elementary, R. L. Mack Elementary, Northside Elementary, Len Lastinger Elementary, and Annie Bell Clark Elementary.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will train Staff who are or may be involved in transporting children in how to thoroughly inspect a vehicle and properly complete transportation documentation. The Center will review and monitor.

Correction Deadline: 12/19/2023

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.

Consultant also discussed with the director to ensure that cots stored in the classroom are covered so they are not accessible to the children.

Staff Records

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

Met

Comment

Criminal record checks were observed to be complete.

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

Correction Deadline: 11/15/2023

Corrected on 12/19/2023

.32(7) - This citation was observed to be corrected on this date. Consultant observed staff to be attentive to supervising the children and their needs.