



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: 5/13/2024 **VisitType:** Licensing Study

Arrival: 9:00 AM **Departure:** 5:00 PM

CCLC-56451

Little Angels Academy Inc

78 Citizens Square Road Dallas, GA 30157 Paulding County
(770) 445-4344 laacadinc@gmail.com

Regional Consultant

Kaiyah Werts

Phone: ()

Fax:

kaiyah.werts@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.
05/13/2024	Licensing Study	Good Standing	
03/02/2023	Complaint Closure	Good Standing	
02/28/2023	Complaint Investigation & Monitoring Visit	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	1L-A-Front Left	Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds	2	10	C	21	C	NA	NA	Outside
Main	1L-B-Left	Three Year Olds	2	11	C	23	C	NA	NA	Free Play
Main	1R-A-Front Right	Infants	1	6	C	15	C	NA	NA	Free Play
Main	1R-B- Back Right	One Year Olds	2	8	C	15	C	NA	NA	Free Play
Main	2L-A- Front Pre-K	GA PreK	2	14	C	23	C	NA	NA	Centers
Main	2L-B-Afterschool		0	0	C	22	C	NA	NA	
Main	2R-A- Front Right	One Year Olds and Two Year Olds	1	7	C	21	C	NA	NA	Centers
Main	2R-B-Back Right	Two Year Olds	2	11	C	20	C	NA	NA	Free Play
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 160			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0							
Total # Children this Date: 67			Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 160							
			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0							

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	Left Side Toddler	24	C
Main	Right Side - Afterschool	44	C

Comments

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

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.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-.03 Activities

Technical Assistance

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.03(2) - Please ensure lesson plans are updated and available daily.

Correction Deadline: 5/13/2024

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

Not Met

Comment

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

Comment

Equipment and furniture observed to be properly secured, as applicable.

Finding

591-1-1-.12(2) requires that all equipment and furniture be free from hazardous conditions such as, but not limited to, sharp rough edges or toxic paint; and be kept clean. It was determined it was determined based on observation the following hazards were observed:

-classroom 1R-B-Back Right had soft climbing equipment and soft blocks with small tears and exposed foam.

-classroom 1L-B- Left had soft cushion child sized chairs with tears and exposed foam.

-classroom 1L-A-Front Left a child sized couch with tears and exposed foam.

-classroom 2L-A-Front had torn bean bag with exposed foam.

-classroom 2-R-B- had a child sized couch with tears and exposed foam.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will ensure that equipment and furniture are used by the age-appropriate group of children.

Correction Deadline: 5/13/2024

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

N/A

Comment

Center does not provide swimming activities.

Children's Records

Comment

Parent agreements observed obtained/completed.

Comment

Records were observed to be complete and well organized.

Facility**591-1-1-.06 Bathrooms****Not Met****Comment**

Bathrooms observed to be clean and well maintained.

Finding

591-1-1-.06(1) requires the center to provide a specified minimum number of flush toilets and hand washing sinks with running water for the use of all children, at least one flush toilet for children being potty-trained and to not substitute nursery potty chairs for a required flush toilet. It was determined based on observation classroom 2-R-Back Right had children using potty seats in the classroom, no flushed toilets was provided or available.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The center will add the required number of flush toilets and/or sinks or decrease the licensed capacity.

Correction Deadline: 6/12/2024

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:

- classroom 1R-A Front Right had an unlocked cabinet with plastic bags accessible to children.
- classroom 1R-B Back Right had an unlocked cabinet with teacher supplies such as a stapler, adult scissors and stapler remover.
- classroom 2R-A Front Right had an unlocked diapering table with Aquaphor labeled keep out of reach of children and exposed wires accessible to children.
- classroom 2L-A Front Pre-k had an unlocked cabinet with teacher supplies such as adult scissors, plastic zip lock bags and an unlocked storage closet with brooms and other storage accessible to children.
- classroom 2R-B Back Right had unlocked cabinets with teacher supplies such as a stapler, plastic bags and adult scissors accessible to children.

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: 5/13/2024

Finding

591-1-1-.25(17) requires that the Center premises be free of plants and shrubs which are poisonous or hazardous. It was determined based on observation the preschool playground had overgrown shrubs that came through the fence and were accessible to children.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

Assistant director stated the overgrown shrubs were unknown to be poisonous. The harmful item will be removed.

Correction Deadline: 5/13/2024

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 the toddler playground had a four inch gap on the right side of the fence gate that caused an entrapment hazard.

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: 5/24/2024

Food Service**591-1-1-.15 Food Service & Nutrition****Not Met****Finding**

591-1-1-.15(2) 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. It was determined based on observation infants did not have infant feeding plans on file or posted at the time of the visit.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center Director will develop and implement a plan to obtain and post the completed feeding plan as part of the enrollment process and to have parents update the plans on a regular basis that will include center staff involved with enrollment and those working in the infant classrooms.

Correction Deadline: 5/13/2024

Finding

591-1-1-.15(3) 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. Refrigerated or frozen breast milk shall only be heated or thawed under warm running water or in a container of warm water. It was determined based on observation and staff statements that parents brought in canned formula for the staff to mix and prepare bottles daily. Staff members mixed and prepared bottles without name and date labels. Upon consultant arrival, three bottles were sitting on the counter with no name label or date and staff member was not sure which bottle belonged to which child.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will train Staff to follow the required procedures, ensure that parents are fully informed, and will review and monitor regularly.

Correction Deadline: 5/13/2024

Finding

591-1-1-.15(7) requires that food be served according to manufacturer's instructions and recommendations. Foods that are associated with young children's choking incidents, such as, but not limited to, peanuts, hot dogs, raw carrots, popcorn, fish with bones, cheese cubes, grapes and any other food that is of similar shape and size of the trachea/windpipe shall not be served to the children less than four (4) years of age. Children older than four (4) years of age may be served these foods provided that the foods are cut in such a way as to minimize choking. Food shall not be accessible or served to children until it has been chopped, diced, cut or mashed and is appropriate for each child's age and individual eating, chewing and swallowing ability. It was determined based on observation that turkey legs with small bones were served to children for lunch. Provider stated they purchased their meat from a butcher and had the butcher chop up the meat without removing the bones.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

Provider stated meat with bones would no longer be purchased and served. The Center will train Staff and monitor food served to children to ensure that the food does not present a choking hazard.

Correction Deadline: 5/13/2024

Comment

Discussed proper steps for dishwashing with kitchen staff.

Comment

Kitchen appears clean and well organized.

Finding

591-1-1-.18(3) requires ventilation to be provided either by mechanical or natural means so as to provide fresh air and control of unpleasant odors in the food preparation area. It was determined based on observation there was no ventilation in the kitchen or food prep area.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will ensure there is an adequate working ventilation system in the food preparation area.

Correction Deadline: 5/23/2024

Finding

591-1-1-.18(5) requires the refrigeration of all perishable and potentially hazardous foods at 40 degrees Fahrenheit or below and served promptly after cooking. Freezer temperature shall be maintained at zero (0) degrees Fahrenheit or below. It was determined based on observation the freezer was left open, that contained stored food and the food was slightly defrosted. The temperature in the freezer was six degrees when zero degrees was required.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will refrigerate foods as required, will train Staff on proper refrigerator and freezer temperature settings and monitor the settings. Food will be served promptly after cooking.

Correction Deadline: 5/13/2024

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

Not Met

Finding

591-1-1-.10(4) requires that if diapers are changed on a diaper changing surface, the surface shall be smooth, nonporous, and equipped with a guard or rails to prevent falls. Between each diaper change, the diaper changing surface shall be cleaned with a disinfectant and dried with a single-use disposable towel. It was determined based on observation the following classrooms had diapering mats with exposed foam:

- classroom 1R-A-Front Right
- classroom 1R-B-Back Right
- classroom 2R-A-Front Right
- classroom 2R-B-Back Right

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will ensure there is a smooth, nonporous changing surface that has a guard or rails for safety in each classroom that houses children wearing diapers. Center Staff will be trained and have adequate supplies to properly clean the diaper changing surface between each diaper change.

Correction Deadline: 5/20/2024

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

Met

Comment

Proper hand washing observed throughout the center.

591-1-1-.20 Medications(CR)

Met

Comment

Discussed proper medication documentation and procedures with director on this date. Director stated medication was currently not dispensed.

Policies and Procedures

Comment

Program observed complete emergency drills

Safety**591-1-1-.05 Animals****N/A****Comment**

Center does not keep animals on premises.

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

Age-appropriate discussion and/or redirection observed.

591-1-1-.13 Field Trips(CR)**N/A****Comment**

Center does not participate in field trips at this time.

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

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

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.36(4)(c) - Please ensure vehicles have an updated fire extinguisher. Director stated the fire extinguishers for both vehicles were ordered.

Correction Deadline: 5/13/2024

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 review of records for the week of May 13, 2024 through May 17, 2024 the load and unload times for the afternoon transportation route were not noted on the transportation form for Dallas Elementary. The transportation form for the week of May 6, 2024 through May 10, 2024, the load and unload times were not noted on the afternoon transportation route on the transportation form for Allgood Elementary at the time of the visit.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The driver and or 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: 5/14/2024

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 checklists to the second designated Staff person. It was determined based on review of records the first check was not noted and signed on the afternoon transportation route for Dallas Elementary and Allgood Elementary for the of week of May 13 through May17, 2024.

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: 5/14/2024

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 review of records the second check was not noted and signed by the designated staff on the transportation form for the week of May 13, 2024 through May17, 2024 on the transportation document for Dallas Elementary, Roberts Elementary and Allgood 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: 5/13/2024

Sleeping & Resting Equipment

591-1-1-.30 Safe Sleeping and Resting Requirements(CR)**Not Met****Comment**

Discussed SIDS and infant sleeping position.

Finding

591-1-1-.30(1)(a)3 requires that each crib shall have only an individual, tight-fitting sheet which is changed daily or more often as needed and prior to a change of occupant. It was determined based on observation, upon consultant arrival a baby was sleep in a crib without a crib sheet.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The center will ensure that each crib has an individual, tight-fitting sheet which is changed daily or more often as needed and prior to a change of occupant.

Correction Deadline: 5/13/2024

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 staff stated babies are placed on their backs and stomachs. Upon arrival, consultant observed an infant sleep 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: 5/13/2024

Staff Records

Comment

Director provided 16 files for employees hired since last visit.

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 number five, an employee, and staff number thirteen, a therapist, were both present and caring for children without an completed application for fingerprints. Fingerprint application was submitted for staff number five at the time of the visit.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

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

Correction Deadline: 5/13/2024

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 review of records that staff number five, an employee, and staff number thirteen, a therapist, was present and caring for children without a valid and current satisfactory Comprehensive Records Check Determination on file prior to being present at the center.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

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

Correction Deadline: 5/13/2024

591-1-1-.14 First Aid & CPR**Not Met****Finding**

591-1-1-.14(2) requires a Staff member who is trained in CPR and first aid to be on the premises and on any field trip whenever any child is present. In addition, Staff who provide direct care to children must satisfactorily obtain certification in first aid and CPR by December 29, 2016 if employed prior to September 30, 2016 and within 90 days of their hire date if employed after September 30, 2016. It was determined based on review of records five staff were not CPR Certified.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will develop a schedule to ensure there is always a staff person with current first aid and CPR training present and will develop and implement a plan to ensure all staff members have satisfactorily completed first aid and CPR training by the specified date.

Correction Deadline: 6/12/2024

591-1-1-.33 Staff Training**Technical Assistance****Technical Assistance**

591-1-1-.33(3) - Please ensure staff complete Health and Safety Orientation with 90 days of their hire date.

Correction Deadline: 6/12/2024

Comment

Staff observed to be compliant with applicable laws and regulations.

Staffing and Supervision

Comment

Center observed to maintain appropriate staff:child ratios.

Comment

Adequate supervision observed on this date.