



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: 7/25/2024 **VisitType:** Licensing Study

Arrival: 10:20 AM **Departure:** 12:20 PM

CCLC-39274

First Steps Childcare of Braselton

9234 Hwy 124 W Braselton, GA 30517 Jackson County
(706) 658-4075 cathyamartinez@gmail.com

Regional Consultant

Lynn Schnitzer

Phone: (678) 717-5720

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lynn.schnitzer@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.
07/25/2024	Licensing Study	Good Standing	
08/31/2023	Licensing Study	Good Standing	
03/09/2023	LS POI 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
Main	A Right	Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds	1	6	C	10	C	NA	NA	Clean Up
Main	B Left		0	0	C	8	C	NA	NA	
Main	C- Middle	One Year Olds and Two Year Olds	1	10	NC	14	C	NA	NA	Free Play
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 32			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0							
Total # Children this Date: 16			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0							

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	Playground	53	C

Comments

The purpose of today's visit was to conduct a licensing study and to follow up from the previous visit conducted on August 31, 2023.

Plan of Improvement: Developed This Date 07/25/2024

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.decal.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@decal.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)

Met

Comment

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

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

Not Evaluated

Comment

Center does not provide swimming activities.

Children's Records

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

Not Met

Finding

591-1-1-.08(1) requires the Center Staff to maintain a file for each child while such child is in care and for one year after that child is no longer enrolled. In order for the file to be complete, the file shall contain the following: child's name, birth date, sex, address, living arrangement, name of school if applicable; names of both Parents, home and work addresses, and home and work telephone numbers; name(s) and addresses of the person(s) to whom the child may be released including address, telephone numbers, relationship to child and to Parent(s), and other identifying information; name(s) and telephone number(s) of person(s) to contact in emergencies when the Parent cannot be reached; name and telephone number of the child's primary source of health care; and a statement regarding known allergies, physical problems, mental health disorders, intellectual disabilities or developmental disabilities which limit the child's participation in the program. It was determined based on a review of records that the file for child #1 did not have the parents' work address and number, the release to persons' names and address, and doctor's telephone number. Further, the file for child #5 did not have the allergy/medical information.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

Center staff will develop a plan that includes how to obtain all required information for currently enrolled children and how to ensure this is done for future enrollees as well. The plan will also include how and where to maintain files for the required amount of time. The plan will be implemented and followed.

Correction Deadline: 7/25/2024

Facility

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

Comment

Licensed capacity observed to be met by center.

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

Comment

Center appears clean and well maintained.

Comment

No hazards observed accessible to children on this date.

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

Comment

Playground observed to be clean and in good repair.

Food Service

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

Comment

Center menu meets USDA guidelines.

591-1-1-.18 Kitchen Operations Met

Comment

Kitchen appears clean and well organized.

Health and Hygiene

591-1-1-.07 Children's Health Not Met

Finding

591-1-1-.07(5) requires Center Staff to not permit children to wear around their necks or attach to their clothing pacifiers or other hazardous items. It was determined based on observation that a one-year-old child had a pacifier clipped to their clothes in classroom C-Middle.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will instruct Staff regarding this safety requirement.

Correction Deadline: 7/25/2024

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 procedures,

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

Comment

Documentation for medication dispensing observed complete.

Policies and Procedures

Finding

591-1-1-.21(3) requires that the Center conduct drills for fire, tornado and other emergency situations. The fire drills will be conducted monthly and tornado and other emergency situation drills will be conducted every six months. The Center shall maintain documentation of the dates and times of these drills for two years. It was determined based on review of records that the center did not have evidence of fire drills conducted January 2024, February 2024, March 2024, April 2024, May 2024, and June 2024.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will hold the drills as required and keep the documentation of the drills on file for two years.

Correction Deadline: 7/30/2024

Finding

591-1-1-.21(1)(p) requires the Center to have a written plan for handling emergencies, including but not limited to severe weather, loss of electrical power or water and death, serious injury or loss of a child, a threatening event, or natural disaster which may occur at the Center; to have in place procedures for evacuation, relocation, shelter-in-place, lock-down, communication and reunification with families, and continuity of operations. The plan must apply to all children in care and include specific accommodations for infants and toddlers, children with disabilities, and children with chronic medical conditions and shall include assurance that no Center Personnel will impede in any way the delivery of emergency care or services to a child by licensed or certified emergency health care professionals. It was determined based on review of records that the center did not have a written plan for handling emergencies. The consultant will provide a template for the emergency plan.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will write or revise an emergency plan that includes all of the required items.

Correction Deadline: 7/30/2024

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

Observed all required posted notices.

Safety**591-1-1-.05 Animals****Not Evaluated****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)**Not Evaluated****Comment**

Center does not participate in field trips at this time.

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)****Met****Comment**

Center does not provide care for infants.

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)****Met****Comment**

Consultant requested to view all Criminal Record checks for employees hired after last visit. Director stated that there have been no new hires since last visit August 31, 2023.

591-1-1-.14 First Aid & CPR**Met****Comment**

Complete first aid kits observed in center.

Comment

Evidence observed of 100% of center staff certified in First Aid and CPR.

591-1-1-.33 Staff Training**Not Met****Finding**

91-1-1-.33(5) requires that every calendar year after the first year of employment, all supervisory and caregiver Personnel, except independent contractors, Students-in-Training and volunteers shall attend ten (10) clock hours of diverse training which is task-focused in on-going health, safety and early childhood or child development related topics and which is offered by an accredited college, university or vocational program or other Department-approved source. The annual ten (10) clock hours of training shall be chosen from the following fields: child development, including discipline, guidance, nutrition, injury control and safety; health, including sanitation, disease control, cleanliness, detection and disposition of illness; child abuse and neglect, including identification and reporting, and meeting the needs of abused and/or neglected children; and business related topics, including parental communication, recordkeeping, etc.; provided however that such business related training shall be limited to no more than two (2) of the required ten (10) clock hours of training. Records of completion of such training shall be maintained, as required by these rules. It was determined based on review of records staff #1, date of hire September 3, 2019, and staff #2, date of hire January 5, 2010, did not have documentation of ten hours of training for 2023.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will plan and schedule the required 10 hours of annual training each year and follow up to ensure the training is completed.

Correction Deadline: 12/31/2024

Recited on 7/25/2024

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)****Not Met****Finding**

591-1-1-.32(2) requires the Center maintain Staff:child ratios in mixed-age groups based on the age of the youngest group of children that includes more than twenty percent of the total number of children in the mixed-age group. It was determined based on observation that the ratio was 1:10 (4 one-year-old children and 6 two-year-old children) in Classroom C-Middle. A ratio of 2:10 was required.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will provide adequate staff when there is a mixed-age group.

Correction Deadline: 7/25/2024

591-1-1-.32 Supervision(CR)**Met****Comment**

Adequate supervision observed on this date.