



**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

**Cover Sheet**

**Date:** 7/7/2022      **VisitType:** Monitoring Visit      **Arrival:** 9:30 AM      **Departure:** 2:30 PM

**CCLC-47213**

**Grace Academy**

25 County Shop Road Ludowici, GA 31316 Long County  
 (912) 545-9255 paustin@graceacademykids.com

**Regional Consultant**

Jerica Davis

Phone: (478) 314-9452  
 Fax: (478) 314-9443  
 jerica.davis@decal.ga.gov

**Mailing Address**  
 Same

**Quality Rated:** ★ ★ ★

<b>Compliance Zone Designation</b>			<b>Compliance Zone Designation</b> - 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.
07/07/2022	Complaint Investigation & Monitoring Visit	Good Standing	
02/15/2022	Incident Investigation Closure	Good Standing	
02/07/2022	Incident Investigation/Licensing Study	Good Standing	

**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.

**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 Three	A	Six Year Olds and Over	3	32	C	43	C	NA	NA	Transitioning, Nap, Field Trip
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.:			43		Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0					
Building Two	A	Three Year Olds	1	9	C	18	C	NA	NA	Transitioning, Outside, Lunch
Building Two	B	Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds	2	16	C	23	C	NA	NA	Outside, Transitioning, Lunch
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.:			41		Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0					
Main	A	Infants and One Year Olds	2	8	C	13	C	NA	NA	Diapering, Nap, Floor Play
Main	B	One Year Olds and Two Year Olds	2	11	C	16	C	NA	NA	Centers
Main	C	Two Year Olds	2	20	C	19	NC	NA	NA	Centers, Transitioning
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.:			46		Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0		Building @35 capacity limited by Fire Marshall Limitations			
Total # Children this Date: 96			Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 130		Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0					

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	Playground A	58	C
Main	Playground B	24	C

**Comments**

An in-person Monitoring Visit was conducted on July 7, 2022. All criminal background checks were reviewed during the visit. The visit report was completed on July 12, 2022 and emailed to the director on this date.

Plan of Improvement: Developed This Date 07/07/2022

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](mailto: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](http://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.'





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**Findings Report**

**Date:** 7/7/2022      **VisitType:** Monitoring Visit      **Arrival:** 9:30 AM      **Departure:** 2:30 PM

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The following information is associated with a Monitoring Visit:

**Activities and Equipment**

**591-1-1-.03 Activities**

**Technical Assistance**

**Technical Assistance**

Please ensure that center provides at least one and one-half hours of outdoor activity per day, weather permitting, for each child who is not an infant and at least one hour daily for infants. Please ensure to follow the Weather Watch Chart and limit outdoor time if the weather does not permit.

**Correction Deadline: 7/7/2022**

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

**Met**

**Comment**

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

**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)**

**Not Met**

**Finding**

591-1-1-.19(1) requires a Center to provide 35 square feet of usable space per child, which will determine the Center's License capacity. It was determined based on observation that classroom C in the main building had 20 children present in a space that was licensed for 19 children.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

The Center will limit the number of children in this space to the licensed capacity.

**Correction Deadline: 7/7/2022**

**Recited on 7/7/2022**

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

**Not Met**

**Technical Assistance**

Please be mindful to keep items that pose a hazard inaccessible to children. Please ensure to keep all brooms, dust pans, vacuums, toilet plungers, and toilet brushes inaccessible to children.

**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 indoor storage hazards were observed:

-In classroom C of building one, a staff purse was observed stored on the floor next to the sink accessible to children.

-In classroom A of building two, a staff purse was stored on a low table accessible to children. Additionally, a glass shelf from the refrigerator was stored on the floor 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: 7/7/2022**

**Correction Deadline: 2/7/2022**

**Corrected on 7/7/2022**

**.25(3) - This citation was observed to be corrected on this date. No flies, roaches, or other vermin were observed at the facility.**

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

**Not Met**

**Correction Deadline: 2/17/2022**

**Corrected on 7/7/2022**

**.26(6) - This citation was observed to be corrected on this date. No playground equipment hazards were observed.**

**Finding**

591-1-1-.26(8) requires climbing and swinging equipment to have a resilient surface beneath the equipment and the fall zone from such equipment must be adequately maintained by the Center to assure continuing resiliency. It was determined based on observation that the following playground equipment were in need of resilient surfacing:

-On playground A, there was one inch of mulch at the end of the two slides where three inches is required.

-On playground A, there was two inches of mulch where six inches is required.

-On playground A, there was one inch of mulch at the bottom of the rock wall where six inches is required.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

The Center will add additional resilient surfacing to the fall zones where needed and check daily, adding resilient surfacing as needed to maintain adequate resiliency.

**Correction Deadline: 7/17/2022**

**Correction Deadline: 2/7/2022**

**Corrected on 7/7/2022**

**.26(9) - This citation was observed to have been corrected on this date. No playground hazards were observed on this date.**

**Food Service**

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

**Met**

**Comment**

Please ensure that bottles are covered and fully labeled with child's full name.

**Health and Hygiene**

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

Proper diapering procedures observed.

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**591-1-1-.17 Hygiene(CR)****Not Met****Finding**

591-1-1-.17(8) requires staff to wash their hands with liquid soap and warm running water upon arrival for the day, when moving from one child care group to another, upon re-entering the child care area after outside play, before and after diapering each child, dispensing medication, applying topical medications, handling and preparing food, eating, drinking, preparing bottles, feeding each child, assisting children with eating and drinking, after toileting or assisting children with toileting, using tobacco products, handling garbage and organic waste, touching animals or pets, handling bodily fluids and after contamination by any means. It was determined based on observation that a staff member in classroom C of building A assisted a child in wiping their bottom and did not wash her hands before assisting the next child with liquid soap and warm running water as required.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

The Center will ensure liquid soap and warm running water are available for handwashing, train Staff on the handwashing requirements, review the requirements with Staff periodically, and monitor handwashing.

**Correction Deadline: 7/7/2022**

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

The Provider currently does not dispense/administer medication.

**Safety**

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

Age-appropriate discussion and/or redirection observed.

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**591-1-1-.13 Field Trips(CR)****Met****Comment**

Field trip documentation observed to be complete.

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**591-1-1-.36 Transportation(CR)****Met****Comment**

Complete documentation of transportation observed.

**Comment**

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

**Sleeping & Resting Equipment**

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**591-1-1-.30 Safe Sleeping and Resting Requirements(CR)****Technical Assistance****Comment**

Discussed SIDS and infant sleeping position.

**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.

**Technical Assistance**

Please ensure there is a minimum of twenty-four inch (24") corridor between each row of sleeping or resting equipment. There shall be a minimum of twelve inches (12") between each piece of sleeping or resting equipment in each row of equipment. Children shall be placed on cots and mats so that one child's head is toward another child's feet in the same row.

**Correction Deadline: 7/7/2022**

<b>Staff Records</b>
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<b>Records Reviewed: 28</b>	<b>Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 0</b>
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Staff # 1 Date of Hire: 09/08/2020	Met
Staff # 2 Date of Hire: 08/01/2019	Met
Staff # 3 Date of Hire: 11/15/2021	Met
Staff # 4 Date of Hire: 08/11/2018	Met
Staff # 5 Date of Hire: 05/17/2022	Met <u>Reminder - Health &amp; Safety training is required within 90 calendar days of hired</u>
Staff # 6 Date of Hire: 06/04/2021	Met
Staff # 7 Date of Hire: 03/15/2021	Met
Staff # 8 Date of Hire: 07/26/2021	Met
Staff # 9 Date of Hire: 06/07/2022	Met <u>Reminder - Health &amp; Safety training is required within 90 calendar days of hired</u>
Staff # 10 Date of Hire: 02/07/2027	Met <u>Reminder - Health &amp; Safety training is required within 90 calendar days of hired</u>
Staff # 11 Date of Hire: 03/30/2021	Met
Staff # 12 Date of Hire: 07/31/2020	Met

Staff # 13 Date of Hire: 04/07/2021	Met
Staff # 14 Date of Hire: 01/27/2027	Met <u>Reminder - Health &amp; Safety training is required within 90 calendar days of hired</u>
Staff # 15 Date of Hire: 10/01/2021	Met
Staff # 16 Date of Hire: 06/15/2022	Met <u>Reminder - Health &amp; Safety training is required within 90 calendar days of hired</u>
Staff # 17 Date of Hire: 06/15/2022	Met <u>Reminder - Health &amp; Safety training is required within 90 calendar days of hired</u>
Staff # 18 Date of Hire: 11/02/2021	Met
Staff # 19 Date of Hire: 03/30/2022	Met
Staff # 20 Date of Hire: 06/15/2020	Met
Staff # 21 Date of Hire: 08/24/2021	Met
Staff # 22 Date of Hire: 08/14/2017	Met
Staff # 23 Date of Hire: 01/01/2017	Met
Staff # 24 Date of Hire: 12/07/2021	Met
Staff # 25 Date of Hire: 08/23/2019	Met
Staff # 26 Date of Hire: 09/23/2020	Met
Staff # 27	Met



**Records Reviewed: 28**

**Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 0**

Date of Hire: 10/13/2021

Staff # 28

Met

Date of Hire: 04/26/2022

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

**Staff Credentials Reviewed: 8**

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

**Met**

**Comment**

Director provided 8 files for employees hired since the last visit.

**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.

**Correction Deadline: 2/7/2022**

**Corrected on 7/7/2022**

**.32(1) - This citation was observed to have been corrected on this date. Appropriate ratios were observed throughout the center.**

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

**Met**

**Comment**

Adequate supervision observed on this date.