



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: 2/7/2022 **VisitType:** Incident Investigation/Licensing Study **Arrival:** 9:00 AM **Departure:** 1:00 PM

CCLC-47213

Grace Academy

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

Regional Consultant

Jerica Davis

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Mailing Address
 Same

Quality Rated: ★ ★

<u>Compliance Zone Designation</u>			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.
02/07/2022	Incident Investigation/Licensing Study	Good Standing	
11/17/2021	Monitoring Visit	Good Standing	
04/21/2021	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
Building Three	A	GA PreK	2	21	C	43	C	NA	NA	Centers
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 43			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0							
Building Two	A	Three Year Olds	1	13	C	18	C	NA	NA	Circle Time
Building Two	B	Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds	2	19	C	23	C	NA	NA	Circle Time
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 41			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0							
Main	A	Infants and One Year Olds	2	12	C	13	C	NA	NA	Floor Play,Nap
Main	B	One Year Olds	1	9	NC	16	C	NA	NA	Lunch,Centers
Main	C	Two Year Olds	2	20	C	19	NC	NA	NA	Circle Time
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 46			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0		Building @35 capacity limited by Fire Marshall Limitations					
Total # Children this Date: 94			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 Licensing Study was conducted on February 7, 2022. Information for the Virtual Administrative Review was left with the director. All Administrative Review documents must be uploaded to DECAL KOALA by February 14, 2022.

An administrative Review was completed on February 14, 2022. The visit report was completed and emailed to the director on this date.

Plan of Improvement: Developed This Date 02/07/2022

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.al.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



Important New Deadlines:

Due to the ongoing COVID restrictions, the deadline to become Quality Rated for programs who want to continue to receive Childcare and Parent Services (CAPS), has been extended to at least December 31, 2021.

Get started today! Sign up by completing a short online application: <https://qualityrated.dec.al.ga.gov/>
Request free technical assistance to help you earn your star rating by contacting the Quality Rated help desk at 855-800-7747 or qualityrated@dec.al.ga.gov

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), e-mail the following information to CCSRefutations@dec.al.ga.gov.

- 1) Facility name, license number and visit date
- 2) Your name, title/relationship to the facility, e-mail address & up to two phone number(s) where you can be reached
- 3) Specific rule number(s) that you are refuting, along with your concerns or questions regarding the rule citation

Refutations must be submitted to Child Care Services (CCS) within 10 business days of the completion date.

A sample form for submitting a refutation can be found at: <http://dec.al.ga.gov/ChildCareServices/RefutationInformation.aspx>

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)

Patricia Austin, Program Official

Date

Jerica Davis, Consultant

Date



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Findings Report

Date: 2/7/2022 **VisitType:** Incident Investigation/Licensing Study **Arrival:** 9:00 AM **Departure:** 1:00 PM

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The following information is associated with a Licensing Study Visit:

Activities and Equipment

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.

Children's Records

Records Reviewed: 5

Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 0

Child # 1	Met
Child # 2	Met
Child # 3	Met
Child # 4	Met
Child # 5	Met

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

Met

Comment

Records were observed to be complete and well organized.

Facility

591-1-1-.06 Bathrooms**Met****Comment**

Bathrooms observed to be clean and well maintained.

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: 2/7/2022

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 if air fresheners are used, they are inaccessible to children.

Finding

591-1-1-.25(3) requires the Center and surrounding premises to be kept clean, free of debris and in good repair. Hygienic measures such as, but not limited to, screened windows and proper waste disposal procedures shall be utilized to minimize the presence of rodents, flies, roaches and other vermin at the Center. It was determined based on observation that a live roach was observed in the refrigerator containing bottles in classroom A.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will ensure that regular pest control is conducted and the company is notified if additional treatments are needed.

Correction Deadline: 2/7/2022

591-1-1-.26 Playgrounds(CR)**Not Met****Technical Assistance**

Discussed maintenance of resilient surface. Please fluff and redistribute.

Technical Assistance

Please ensure that the playground has shaded areas. Please replace the sun shade that was recently torn due to weather.

Correction Deadline: 3/9/2022**Finding**

591-1-1-.26(6) requires that playground equipment provide an opportunity for the children to engage in a variety of experiences and shall be age-appropriate. For example, toddlers shall not be permitted to swing in swings designed for School-age Children. The outdoor equipment shall be free of lead-based paint, sharp corners and shall be regularly maintained in such a way as to be free of rust and splinters that could pose significant safety hazard to the children. All equipment shall be arranged so as not to obstruct supervision of children. It was determined based on observation that the base of the funnel ball game had exposed concrete accessible to the children. Additionally, on the small playground the green, blue, and white climber was missing the door leaving a one inch hole accessible with jagged edges posing a potential hazard.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will provide a variety of age-appropriate equipment that is arranged so as not to obstruct supervision of children. Staff will check the equipment daily to ensure that the equipment is free of hazards, rust and splinters.

Correction Deadline: 2/17/2022

Finding

591-1-1-.26(9) requires the playground to be kept clean, free from litter and free of hazards, such as but not limited to rocks, exposed tree roots and exposed sharp edges of concrete. It was determined based on observation that the green turf under the swings was torn and posed a trip hazard to the children in care.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will remove any litter and fix or remove hazards from the playground and will routinely monitor the playground and remove litter and hazards.

Correction Deadline: 2/7/2022

Food Service

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

Met

Comment

Center menu meets USDA guidelines.

Health and Hygiene

591-1-1-.07 Children's Health

Technical Assistance

Technical Assistance

Please ensure center staff do not permit children to wear items around their necks or attach to their clothing including pacifier clips or other hazardous items.

Correction Deadline: 2/7/2022

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 observed throughout the center.

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

Technical Assistance

Please ensure that 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.

Correction Deadline: 2/7/2022

Technical Assistance

Please ensure that if cots and mats are stored in the children's activity room or area, they shall be stored to prevent children's access to them and to allow maximum use of play space. Please ensure the cots in classroom C are covered to prevent access.

Correction Deadline: 2/7/2022

Staff Records

Records Reviewed: 26

Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 0

Staff # 1	Met
Date of Hire: 09/08/2020	
Staff # 2	Met
Date of Hire: 08/01/2019	
Staff # 3	Met
Date of Hire: 11/15/2021	
Staff # 4	Met
Date of Hire: 08/11/2018	
Staff # 5	Met
Date of Hire: 12/15/2021	<u>Reminder - Health & Safety training is required within 90 calendar days of hired</u>
Staff # 6	Met
Date of Hire: 06/04/2021	
Staff # 7	Met
Date of Hire: 03/15/2021	
Staff # 8	Met
Date of Hire: 08/17/2021	
Staff # 9	Met
Date of Hire: 07/26/2021	
Staff # 10	Met
Date of Hire: 02/07/2027	<u>Reminder - Health & Safety training is required within 90 calendar days of hired</u>
Staff # 11	Met

Date of Hire: 07/31/2020

Staff # 12 Met

Date of Hire: 11/02/2021

Staff # 13 Met

Date of Hire: 04/07/2021

Staff # 14 Met

Date of Hire: 01/27/2027

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

Staff # 15 Met

Date of Hire: 10/01/2021

Staff # 16 Met

Date of Hire: 11/02/2021

Staff # 17 Met

Date of Hire: 09/16/2020

Staff # 18 Met

Date of Hire: 02/07/2022

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

Staff # 19 Met

Date of Hire: 06/15/2020

Staff # 20 Met

Date of Hire: 08/24/2021

Staff # 21 Met

Date of Hire: 08/14/2017

Staff # 22 Met

Date of Hire: 01/01/2017

Staff # 23 Met

Date of Hire: 12/07/2021

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

Staff # 24 Met

Date of Hire: 02/23/2021

Staff # 25 Met

Date of Hire: 08/23/2019

Staff # 26

Met

Date of Hire: 09/23/2020

Staff Credentials Reviewed: 8

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

Met

Correction Deadline: 11/17/2021

Corrected on 2/7/2022

.09(1)(a) - This citation was observed to be corrected on this date. All staff members had a current comprehensive records check on file as required.

Correction Deadline: 11/17/2021

Corrected on 2/7/2022

.09(1)(c) - This citation was observed to be corrected on this date. All staff members had a current comprehensive records check on file as required.

591-1-1-.14 First Aid & CPR

Met

Comment

Evidence observed of 50% of center staff certified in First Aid and CPR.

591-1-1-.33 Staff Training

Met

Comment

Documentation observed of required staff training.

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(1) requires the Center to maintain the required Staff:child ratios as follows: under 1 year or under 18 months if not walking = 1:6; 1 year and walking = 1:8; 2 years = 1:10; 3 years = 1:15; 4 years = 1:18; 5 years = 1:20;and 6 years and older = 1:25. A Center must establish groupings of children for care with maximum group sizes as follows: under 1 year = 12; under 18 months/not walking = 12; 1 year and walking = 16; 2 years = 20; 3 years = 30; 4 years = 36; 5 years = 40; and 6 years and older = 50. It was determined based on observation that there were 9 one-year-old children in classroom B with one staff member when two staff members were required.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will hire additional Staff or reschedule current Staff to meet required Staff:child ratios and will organize children into groups that meet requirements.

Correction Deadline: 2/7/2022

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

Met

Comment

Adequate supervision observed on this date.