



**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:** 6/15/2023    **VisitType:** LS POI Follow Up    **Arrival:** 1:30 PM    **Departure:** 4:30 PM

**CCLC-32497**

**Grace Learning Academy**

3981 Glenwood Road Decatur, GA 30032 DeKalb County  
 (404) 228-2175 gracelearningacademy@yahoo.com

**Regional Consultant**

Jessica Johnson

Phone: (770) 357-5090

Fax:

jessica.johnson@decal.ga.gov

**Mailing Address**

Same

**Quality Rated:** ★ ★

<b>Compliance Zone Designation</b>		
06/15/2023	LS POI Follow Up	Good Standing
05/10/2023	TA Follow Up	Good Standing
04/05/2023	TA Follow Up	Good Standing

**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.

**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	1st right	Four Year Olds and Five Year Olds	1	9	C	12	C	NA	NA	Nap	
Main	1st left	One Year Olds and Two Year Olds	1	5	C	14	C	NA	NA	Nap	
Main	2nd left		0	0	C	9	C	NA	NA		
Main	2nd right	Six Year Olds and Over	1	7	C	13	C	NA	NA	Free Play	
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.:			48			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.:			0		
Total # Children this Date: 21			Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.:			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.:			0		

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	Play	25	C

**Comments**

An on-site inspection was conducted on June 15, 2023 with the Director Valorie Brown. Staff files, children's files, training, and background checks were all reviewed.

Plan of Improvement: To Be Submitted 06/30/2023

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.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](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.

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](mailto:qualityrated@decal.ga.gov) for more information. Free technical assistance is available!**

Valorie Brown, Program Official

Date

Jessica Johnson, Regional Consultant

Date



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**(Findings Report)**

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Same

The following information is associated with a LS POI Follow Up:

**Activities and Equipment**

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

**Not Met**

**Finding**

591-1-1-.03(2) requires the Center to keep current lesson plans on site that reflect appropriate instruction practices and activities to support children's development The Center shall have sufficient and varied play and learning equipment and materials to support the above program of activities in all developmental areas. It was determined based on observation that classroom 2nd right did not have a lesson plan accessible on this date.

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**Correction Deadline: 6/15/2023**

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

**Met**

**Comment**

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

**Correction Deadline: 3/10/2023**

**Corrected on 6/15/2023**

**.12(4) - Citation corrected. No hazards observed.**

**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: 4**

Child # 1 Not Met

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.08(1)-Doctor, Clinic, Phone Numbers

Child # 2 Not Met

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.08(1)-Doctor, Clinic, Phone Numbers

Child # 4 Not Met

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.08(1)(a)-Work Number Missing

Child # 5 Not Met

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.08(1)-Doctor, Clinic, Phone Numbers

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**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 four out of five children were missing the parent work number and the name and or telephone number of the child's primary source of health care on this date.

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**Correction Deadline: 6/29/2023**

<b>Facility</b>
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**591-1-1-.06 Bathrooms**

**Met**

**Correction Deadline: 2/24/2023**

Corrected on 6/15/2023

.06(6) - Citation corrected. Paper towels observed in the restroom.

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 that the following hazards were observed:

1st Right

- Two plastic grocery bags in the cubby.
- Broom and the dust pan accessible to children in care.

Restroom

- Toilet brush cleaner next to the first toilet.

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**Correction Deadline: 6/15/2023**

**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 there was a missing toilet seat on third toilet in the restroom. It was further determined that the left facet(hot water) handle at the sink was broken.

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**Correction Deadline: 6/29/2023**

Recited on 6/15/2023

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

Technical Assistance

**Correction Deadline: 3/11/2023**

Corrected on 6/15/2023

.26(6) - Citation corrected. No hazards observed.

**Technical Assistance**

591-1-1-.26(9) - The Consultant discussed with the Director to be mindful of developing ant piles on the playground.

**Correction Deadline: 6/15/2023**

**Food Service**

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

**Comment**

CACFP Meal Pattern Requirements effective October 1, 2017 will be implemented October 1, 2018: 3 Components for breakfast: Grains, Vegetables, Fruits or both, Milk  
5 Components for lunch – Grains, Meat/Meat alternates, Fruits, Vegetable, and Milk OR Grains, Meat/Meat alternates, 2 different types of vegetables, and Milk  
2 of 5 Components for snack

Provided Updated CACFP Infant Meal pattern and Child/Adult Meal pattern flyers.

The Crediting Handbook for the CACFP can be located on DECAL and USDA's website:

DECAL

<http://dec.al.ga.gov/CACFP/Handbook.aspx>

USDA

<http://www.fns.usda.gov/cacfp/cacfp-handbooks>

**591-1-1-.18 Kitchen Operations** **Met**

**Comment**

Discussed proper steps for dishwashing.

**Health and Hygiene**

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

**Correction Deadline: 2/24/2023**

**Corrected on 6/15/2023**

**.10(5) - Citation corrected. Correct diapering procedure observed.**

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

**Correction Deadline: 2/24/2023**

**Corrected on 6/15/2023**

**.17(7) - Citation corrected. Handwashing observed.**

**Correction Deadline: 2/24/2023**

**Corrected on 6/15/2023**

**.17(8) - Citation corrected. Handwashing observed.**

**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-.13 Field Trips(CR)**

**Met**

**Comment**

Center does not participate in field trips at this time.

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

**Not Met**

**Comment**

Complete documentation of transportation observed.

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**Finding**

591-1-1-.36(3)(a-b) requires any Center that provides any type of transportation to obtain two (2) hours of state-approved or state-accepted transportation training, biannually, for the Director and for each person responsible for or who participates in the transportation of children. The training shall include, but is not limited to, a review of the transportation rules, a review of approved transportation forms and procedures, and instruction on the usage and completion of the forms and procedures. This training may be counted as part of the annual training requirements for Staff. It was determined based on a review of records that Staff #3 did not obtain the biannually two hours of state-approved transportation training as of this date.

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**Correction Deadline: 6/29/2023**

**Sleeping & Resting Equipment**

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

**Technical Assistance**

**Technical Assistance**

591-1-1-.30(1)(b)4 - The Consultant discussed with the Director that a light cover be available for each child's use on a cot or mat and shall be marked for individual use or laundered daily. If marked for individual use, they must be laundered weekly or more frequently if needed.

**Correction Deadline: 6/15/2023**

**Staff Records**

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

**Met**

**Comment**

Criminal record checks were observed to be complete.

**Correction Deadline: 2/24/2023**

**Corrected on 6/15/2023**

**.09(1)(a) - Citation corrected. The Consultant observed the criminal records checks complete.**

**Correction Deadline: 2/24/2023**

**Corrected on 6/15/2023**

**.09(1)(c) - Citation corrected. The Consultant observed the criminal records checks complete.**

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**591-1-1-.09 Criminal Records Check(CR)**

**Met**

**Comment**

Criminal records checks were observed to be complete.

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**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 a review of records that staff #5 did not have the certification for CPR and first aid as of this date.

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**Correction Deadline: 7/15/2023**

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

**Not Met**

**Finding**

591-1-1-.33(3) requires each Staff member with direct care responsibilities to complete health and safety orientation training within the first 90 days of employment. The state-approved training hours obtained will count toward required first year training hours. The training must address the following health and safety topics: prevention and control of infectious diseases (including immunizations); prevention of sudden infant death syndrome and use of safe sleeping practices; administration of medication, consistent with standards for parental consent; prevention of and response to emergencies due to food and allergic reactions; building and physical premises safety, including identification of and protection from hazards that can cause bodily injury such as electrical hazards, bodies of water, and vehicular traffic; prevention of shaken baby syndrome, abusive head trauma and child maltreatment; emergency preparedness and response planning for emergencies resulting from a natural disaster or a human-caused event (such as violence at a child care facility); handling and storage of hazardous materials and the appropriate disposal of bio contaminants; precautions in transporting children; recognition and reporting of child abuse and neglect; and child development. It was determined based on a review of records that staff # 5 did not complete the health and safety orientation training within the first 90 days of employment.

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**Correction Deadline: 7/6/2023**

**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 a review of records that staff #5 did not complete the required 10 clock hours of annual training for 2022.

**Correction Deadline: 12/31/2023**

**591-1-1-.31 Staff(CR)**

**Not Met**

**Comment**

Discussed that all lead staff must enroll in an approved education program within 6 months of hire and complete degree within 18 months.

**Finding**

591-1-1-.31(2)(b)2. requires teachers and lead caregivers to meet minimum academic requirements and qualifying experience at the time of employment. It was determined based on a review of records that staff #5 did not meet the lead caregivers academic requirements as of this date.

**Correction Deadline: 7/14/2023**

## Staffing and Supervision

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**591-1-1-.32 Staff:Child Ratios and Group Size(CR)**

**Met**

**Comment**

Center observed to maintain appropriate staff:child ratios.

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

**Met**

**Correction Deadline: 6/15/2023**

**Corrected on 6/15/2023**

**.32(7) - Citation corrected. The Consultant discussed supervision with the Director.**