



**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: 12/1/2022 **VisitType:** Monitoring Visit **Arrival:** 2:30 PM **Departure:** 5:30 PM

CCLC-32497

Grace Learning Academy

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

Regional Consultant

Jessica Johnson

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Fax:

jessica.johnson@decal.ga.gov

Mailing Address

Same

Quality Rated: ★ ★

Compliance Zone Designation		
12/01/2022	Monitoring Visit	Support
06/15/2022	Licensing Study	Good Standing
12/14/2021	Monitoring Visit	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		0	0	C	12	C	NA	NA	
Main	1st left	Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds and Six Year Olds and Over	1	10	C	14	C	NA	NA	Centers
Main	2nd left	Infants and One Year Olds	1	7	C	9	C	NA	NA	Free Play, Diapering
Main	2nd right		0	0	C	13	C	NA	NA	

Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 48

Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0

Total # Children this Date: 17

Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 48

Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	Play	25	C

Comments

An on-site inspection was conducted on December 1, 2022 with the Director Valorie Brown. Background checks were all reviewed on December 1, 2022.

Plan of Improvement: To Be Submitted 12/15/2022

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

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 1 855-800-7747 or qualityrated@dec.state.ga.us for more information. Free technical assistance is available!

Valorie Brown, Program Official

Date

Jessica Johnson, Consultant

Date



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(Findings Report)

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The following information is associated with a Monitoring Visit:

Activities and Equipment

591-1-1-.03 Activities

Not Met

Finding

591-1-1-.03(1) requires the Center to provide a daily planned program of varied and developmentally appropriate activities to promote social, emotional, physical, cognitive, language and literacy growth. Center Staff shall use a variety of teaching methods to accommodate the needs of the children's different learning styles. It was determined based on review of records that lesson plans in the 1st right class room and the 2nd left classroom were not accessible for the Consultant to review on this date.

Correction Deadline: 12/5/2022

Recited on 12/1/2022

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

Not Met

Finding

591-1-1-.12(4) requires that equipment and furniture is secured if it is of a weight or mass that could cause injury from tipping, falling, or being pulled or pushed over. It was determined based on observation that the shelf next to the exit door, in the infant classroom 2nd left, was not stable and wobbled. It was further determined based on observation that the shelf next to the back wall, in the second right classroom was not stable and wobbled. It was also determined based on observation that the sink in the back restroom across from 2nd left classroom was not secured to the wall.

Correction Deadline: 12/15/2022

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

Comment

Center does not provide swimming activities.

Children's Records

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

Correction Deadline: 6/15/2022

Corrected on 12/1/2022

.08(1) - Citation correct. Consultant observed children records complete.

Facility

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

Finding

591-1-1-.06(6) requires Center Staff to equip bathrooms with soap, toilet tissue and single-use towels or cloth towels used only once between launderings. It was determined based on observation that the bathroom located across from the 2nd left classroom was not equipped with single-use towels.

Correction Deadline: 12/2/2022

Recited on 12/1/2022

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(12) requires heating and cooling equipment to be protected to prevent children from touching it. Fans, space heaters, etc. shall be positioned or installed so as to be inaccessible to the children. It was determined based on observation that there was a small heater accessible to children in care next to the green table in the second right classroom.

Correction Deadline: 12/1/2022

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 there was a hanging light cord on the left wall in the second left classroom. It was further determined that bleach solution in a spray bottle was observed on the table in the second left classroom.

Correction Deadline: 12/2/2022

Recited on 12/1/2022

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 the toilet in the restroom in back of the center across from the 2nd left classroom would not flush on this date. It was further determined that the large white pipe on the ceiling in the hallway was leaking water on the floor.

Correction Deadline: 12/15/2022

Recited on 12/1/2022

591-1-1-.25 Physical Plant-Structural/Mechanical **Not Met**

Finding

591-1-1-.25(14) requires the Center to be lighted with a minimum of twenty-five foot candles of illumination except during rest periods. Areas used for napping shall be lit dimly. It was determined based on observation that not all rooms were appropriately illuminated when the lights in the 2nd left classroom were not working.

Correction Deadline: 12/15/2022

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

Not Met

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 that the back fence gate on the concrete had a gap that measured at four inches between the gate and the fence.

Correction Deadline: 12/15/2022

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 following hazards were observed on the playground:

- Rust observed on the red tricycle.
 - A broken bell on the right handle bar of the red tricycle.
 - A broken blue chair.
 - A broken right front table leg on the blue rectangle table.
 - A broken metal pole near the left side fence.
- -----

Correction Deadline: 12/15/2022

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 following hazards were observed on the playground:

- Active ant pile in the center of the playground.
- Plastic grocery bags hanging from the entrance fence gate.
- Exposed tarp throughout the playground.
- A black edging liner next to the right fence.
- Uncovered trash can with food inside.

Correction Deadline: 12/15/2022

Food Service

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

Correction Deadline: 6/15/2022

Corrected on 12/1/2022
.15(5) - Citation corrected. Consultant observed the current menu.

Health and Hygiene

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

Technical Assistance
591-1-1-.10 - Consultant discussed proper diapering procedure with staff.

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

Finding

591-1-1-17(7) requires that children wash their hands with liquid soap and warm running water upon arrival for care, when moving from one child care group to another, upon re-entering the child care area after outside play, before and after eating meals and snacks, handling or touching food, playing in water; after toileting and diapering, playing in sand, touching animals or pets, and contact with bodily fluids and after contamination by any other means. It was determined based on observation that there was no warm running water available for children to wash their hands properly in the first left, second left, and the rear bathroom sinks. It was also determined based on observation that a one-year-old child did not wash their hands after diapering.

Correction Deadline: 12/15/2022

Recited on 12/1/2022

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 there was no warm running water available for staff to wash their hands properly in the first left, second left, and the rear bathroom sinks. It was further determined that there was no hot water available in the kitchen. It was also determined based on observation that staff did not wash their hands after diapering a one-year-old child.

Correction Deadline: 12/15/2022

Recited on 12/1/2022

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

Comment

The Provider currently does not dispense/administer medication.

Policies and Procedures

591-1-1-.21 Operational Policies & Procedures Not Met

Correction Deadline: 6/20/2022

Corrected on 12/1/2022

.21(3) - Citation corrected. Consultant reviewed fire and tornado drill form complete.

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 evidence of a completed written emergency preparedness plan on file on this date.

Correction Deadline: 12/15/2022

Recited on 12/1/2022

Safety

591-1-1-.11 Discipline(CR)

Met

Comment

Please be mindful of voice tone in redirecting children.

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

Not Met

Finding

591-1-1-.36(4)(c) requires that each vehicle be equipped with a fire extinguisher maintained in working order and kept inaccessible to children. It was determined based on observation that there were no fire extinguishers located in vehicle #1 and vehicle #2.

Correction Deadline: 12/2/2022

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.36(7)(b) - Consultant discussed with Director updating emergency medical information forms.

Correction Deadline: 12/2/2022

Sleeping & Resting Equipment

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

Correction Deadline: 6/15/2022

Corrected on 12/1/2022

.30(1)(a)3 - Citation corrected. Crib sheets were observed clean. Staff stated crib sheets were washed daily.

Staff Records

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

Correction Deadline: 6/15/2022

Corrected on 12/1/2022

.09(1)(a) - Citation corrected. Consultant observed current criminal records checks.

Correction Deadline: 6/15/2022

Corrected on 12/1/2022

.09(1)(c) - Citation corrected. Consultant observed current criminal records checks.

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

Finding

591-1-1-.14(3) requires the Center to have a first aid kit in each building of the Center and in any vehicle used by the Center for transportation of children, that contains scissors, tweezers, gauze pads, adhesive tape, thermometer, band-aids, assorted sizes, antibacterial ointment, insect-sting preparation, an antiseptic cleansing solution, triangular bandages, rubber gloves, protective eye wear, a protective face mask, and a cold pack. The first aid kit, together with a first aid instruction manual which must be kept with the kit at all times, shall be stored so that it is not accessible to children but is easily accessible to Staff. It was determined based on observation that vehicle # 1 and vehicle # 2 did not have a first aid kit located in the vehicles on this date.

Correction Deadline: 12/2/2022

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

Staffing and Supervision

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

Center observed to maintain appropriate staff:child ratios.

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

Adequate supervision observed on this date.