



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: 8/3/2022 **VisitType:** Complaint Investigation & Monitoring Visit **Arrival:** 10:30 AM **Departure:** 4:00 PM

CCLC-47907

First Academy Early Learning Center

3979 Covington Highway Decatur, GA 30032 DeKalb County
 CCLC-47907 firstacademy@yahoo.com

Regional Consultant

Jessica Johnson

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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.
08/03/2022	Complaint Investigation & Monitoring Visit	Good Standing	
07/19/2022	Complaint Investigation & Monitoring Visit	Support	
04/20/2022	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
Main	A - End		0	0	C	13	C	NA	NA	Centers
Main	B - Center	Infants and Two Year Olds and Three Year Olds and Five Year Olds and Six Year Olds and Over	1	19	NC	25	C	NA	NA	Centers
Main	C - Left		0	0	C	34	C	NA	NA	
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.:			72			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0				
Total # Children this Date: 19			Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.:			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0				

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	A - Back	49	C

Comments

A on-site inspection was conducted on August 3, 2022 with the Director Shemika White. Background checks were all reviewed on August 3, 2022.

Plan of Improvement: Developed This Date 08/03/2022

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.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!

Shemika White, Program Official

Date

Jessica Johnson, Regional 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

Defer

591-1-1-.03(2)- The previous citation will be reviewed during the next regulatory visit.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will keep current lesson plans on site that include appropriate instruction practices and activities and will have sufficient and varied play and learning equipment and materials to support the activities.

Correction Deadline: 8/23/2022

Recited on 1/1/0001

Finding

591-1-1-.03(6) requires Center Staff to ensure children less than three years of age do not spend more than one-half hour of time consecutively in confining equipment, such as swings, highchairs, jump seats, carriers or walkers. Children shall use such equipment only when they are awake. Such children shall be allowed time to play on the floor daily. Infants shall have supervised tummy time on the floor daily when they are awake. It was determined based on observation that a one-year-old child was confined to a walker for more than 30 minutes.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will train Staff to use confining equipment appropriately, to provide supervised floor play daily for children under three years of age, including infants, and will monitor regularly.

Correction Deadline: 8/3/2022

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.

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

Met

Correction Deadline: 8/23/2022

Corrected on 8/3/2022

.08(1) - Citation observed corrected.

Correction Deadline: 8/26/2022

Corrected on 8/3/2022

.08(1)(b) - Citation observed corrected.

Facility

591-1-1-.06 Bathrooms

Defer

Defer

591-1-1-.06(1)- The previous citation will be reviewed during the next regulatory visit.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The center will add the required number of flush toilets and/or sinks or decrease the licensed capacity.

Correction Deadline: 8/17/2022

Recited on 1/1/0001

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)

Defer

Defer

591-1-1-.25(13)-The previous citation will be reviewed during the next regulatory visit.

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: 8/17/2022

Recited on 1/1/0001

Defer

591-1-1-.25(3)- The previous citation will be reviewed during the next regulatory visit.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will have the Center and surrounding areas cleaned, make repairs where needed, and remove all debris is removed. The Center will implement a plan to keep areas clean and in good repair that includes regular monitoring.

Correction Deadline: 8/17/2022

Recited on 1/1/0001

591-1-1-.26 Playgrounds(CR)**Not Met****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 equipment did not have resilient surface beneath it. Three inches of resilient surface was 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: 8/13/2022**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:

- Discarded poles and fence material on the left side of playground.
- Styrofoam cups throughout playground.
- High grass.
- Exposed tree roots on the right side.
- Vines growing through the fence on the left side.

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: 8/3/2022

Food Service

591-1-1-.15 Food Service & Nutrition**Not Met****Finding**

591-1-1-.15(2)(a) requires Center Personnel to hold and feed infants less than six months of age and older children who cannot hold their own bottles or sit alone. Baby bottles shall never be propped; the infant's head shall be elevated while feeding. It was determined based on observation that an eight-month-old infant was feed while in the bouncy chair.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will train Staff to hold infants less than six months old or who can not hold their own bottle, to never prop bottles and to elevate infant's heads during feeding. The director will monitor Staff to ensure appropriate feeding procedures are followed.

Correction Deadline: 8/3/2022**Correction Deadline: 8/26/2022****Corrected on 8/3/2022****.15(7) - Citation observed corrected. Consultant reviewed center menu.**

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

Kitchen appears clean and well organized.

Health and Hygiene

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

Hand washing requirements for diapering were discussed with the director on this date.

591-1-1-.17 Hygiene(CR)**Technical Assistance****Technical Assistance**

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.

Correction Deadline: 8/3/2022

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

The Director stated that center does not currently dispense/administer medication.

Organization

591-1-1-.16 Governing Body & License**Not Met****Finding**

591-1-1-.16(g) requires the application for a License or Permit, including the Records Check Application, must be truthfully and fully completed. In the event that the Department has reason to believe that the application has not been completed truthfully, it may require additional verification of the facts alleged. The Department may refuse to issue a License or Permit where false statements have been made in connection with the application or any other documents required by the Department. It was determined based on a conversation with the Director that the center provided transportation to a student. The center did not provide previous transportation documentation.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The required additional verification will be submitted by the Center.

Correction Deadline: 8/3/2022

Policies and Procedures

591-1-1-.21 Operational Policies & Procedures**Met****Correction Deadline: 8/26/2022****Corrected on 8/3/2022**

.21(p) - Citation observed corrected. Consultant viewed the emergency preparedness plan during administrative review.

Safety

591-1-1-.05 Animals**Met****Comment**

Center does not keep animals on premises.

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

Please be mindful of voice tone in redirecting children.

Comment

Center does not participate in field trips at this time.

591-1-1-.36 Transportation(CR)**Technical Assistance****Comment**

Checklist, permission forms, annual inspection form, and child safety seats were discussed during the visit. A proper check of the vehicle was conducted with the Director.

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.36(7)(c)2. requires that the driver or other designated person shall immediately document in writing, with a check or other mark/symbol to account for each child listed on the passenger transportation checklist each time a child enters and exits the vehicle. The driver or other designated staff person shall document in writing with a different mark/symbol to account for each child listed on the passenger transportation checklist who was not present on the vehicle for any reason. An explanation shall be documented in writing whenever a child is transported to a field trip site but is not present on the return trip to the Center. It was determined based on observation that on August 9, 2022, the load and unload mark/symbol was missing to account for each child listed on the passenger transportation checklist.

Correction Deadline: 8/4/2022

Sleeping & Resting Equipment

591-1-1-.30 Safe Sleeping and Resting Requirements(CR)**Not Met****Comment**

Discussed SIDS and infant sleeping position.

Finding

591-1-1-.30(1)(b) requires that cots and mats are provided for each child who is two (2) years of age or older and who is required to take a nap. and for each child under the age of two (2) years who can climb out of a crib. It was determined based on observation that three children were observed sleeping on the floor. It was further determined that children cots did not have sheets.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The center will ensure that cots and mats are provided for each child who is two (2) years of age or older and who is required to take a nap. and for each child under the age of two years who can climb out of a crib.

Correction Deadline: 8/3/2022

Finding

591-1-1-.30(2) requires the Center to provide a safe sleep environment in accordance with American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) and American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) recommendations as listed in these rules for all infants. Center Staff shall place an infant to sleep on the infant's back in a crib unless the Center has been provided a physician's written statement authorizing another sleep position for that particular infant that includes how the infant shall be placed to sleep and a time frame that the instructions are to be followed. When an infant can easily turn over from back to front and back again, Staff shall continue to put the infant to sleep initially on the infant's back but allow the infant to roll over into his or her preferred position and not re-position the infant. Sleepers, sleep sacks and wearable blankets that fit according to the commercial manufacturer's guidelines and will not slide up around the infant's face may be used when necessary for the comfort of the sleeping infant. Swaddling shall not be used unless the Center has been provided a physician's written statement authorizing its use for a particular infant that includes instructions and a time frame for swaddling the infant. Center Staff shall not place objects or allow objects to be placed in or on the crib with an infant such as but not limited to toys, pillows, quilts, comforters, bumper pads, sheepskins, stuffed toys, or other soft items and shall not attach objects or allow objects to be attached to a crib with a sleeping infant, such as, but not limited to, crib gyms, toys, mirrors and mobiles. It was determined based on a conversation with the staff member that infants are placed on their side to sleep.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will take all steps necessary to provide a safe sleep environment for infants as listed in these rules; will train Staff to follow these rules; and will monitor for compliance.

Correction Deadline: 8/3/2022

Staff Records

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

Comment

Criminal record checks were observed to be complete.

591-1-1-.33 Staff Training Met

Correction Deadline: 8/10/2022

Corrected on 8/3/2022

.33(4) - Citation corrected on this date Consultant reviewed documentation.

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

Correction Deadline: 8/23/2022

Corrected on 8/3/2022

.31(2)(b)2. - Citation observed corrected. Director submitted a PLP for current staff in classroom B.

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 a staff:child ratio of 1:19 was observed in classroom B. Which included two infants,three two-year-olds, four three-year-olds, five five-year-olds and five six and up children in classroom B. A staff:child ratio of 2:19 was required.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

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

Correction Deadline: 8/3/2022

Finding

591-1-1-.32(4)(a) requires that during the early morning times of arrival and late afternoon times of departure, infants and children younger than three (3) years may be grouped with older children so long as Staff: child ratios and group size are met based on the age of the youngest child in the group. It was determined based on observation that children younger than three-years-old were grouped with older children at a time other than the first and last hour of operation in classroom B.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will maintain Staff:child ratios based on the youngest child in the group during early morning and late afternoon times when children younger than three years of age may be grouped with older children.

Correction Deadline: 8/3/2022

Comment

Adequate supervision observed on this date.