



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: 8/3/2023 **VisitType:** Licensing Study **Arrival:** 9:15 AM **Departure:** 1:10 PM

CCLC-17259

Big Apple Learning Center

514 N. Franklin Street Dublin, GA 31021 Laurens County
 (478) 272-5472 bigapplelearning@bellsouth.net

Regional Consultant

Laura Johnson

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Mailing Address

P.O. Box 4344
 Dublin, GA 31040

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.
08/03/2023	Licensing Study	Good Standing	
02/23/2023	Monitoring Visit	Good Standing	
07/26/2022	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	
One	A-Front left		0	0	C	16	C	NA	NA		
One	B- Back left	Infants and One Year Olds	2	9	C	11	C	NA	NA	Nap,Free Play,Feeding	
One	C-Back right	Two Year Olds	2	14	C	25	C	NA	NA	Breakfast,Transi- tioning,Music	
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.:			52			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.:			0		
Two	D- Building Two		0	0	C	22	C	NA	NA		
Two	E-Building Two Left	Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds	2	20	C	36	C	NA	NA	Transitioning,Br- eakfast,Outside	
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.:			58			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.:			0		
Total # Children this Date: 43			Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 110			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.:			0		

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
One	Infant-Toddler	13	C
Two	School age	169	C

Comments

The purpose of this visit was to complete a Licensing Study. The Director stated that the program does not administer medications or provide swimming activities. The program had not conducted any transportation since last school year. The annual inspection and bus were evaluated on this date. Criminal Record Checks were observed complete.

Plan of Improvement: Developed This Date 08/03/2023

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.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

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@dec.al.ga.gov for more information. Free technical assistance is available!

Frankie Jackson, Program Official

Date

Laura Johnson, Regional Consultant

Date



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(Findings Report)

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The following information is associated with a Licensing Study:

Activities and Equipment

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

Technical Assistance

Comment

Discussed rotating toys to support the procedures of daily disinfecting.

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.12(5) requires Center Staff to provide table space for each child who is able to sit at a table unassisted and an appropriately sized chair or bench for each child who is not an infant and who is able to use a chair or bench.

The consultant spoke with center staff about ensuring that tables and chairs are compatible with the size of the child who is using the equipment. When seated at a table, children's feet should touch the floor and their arms should rest comfortably on top of the table. Several children were seated at the table in Classroom E and their feet did not touch the floor. The consultant suggested the center obtain a smaller table for that classroom.

Correction Deadline: 9/2/2023

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

Not Evaluated

Comment

Center does not provide swimming activities.

Children's Records

Records Reviewed: 6

Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 1

Child # 5

Not Met

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.08(1)-Allergies and Disabilities

Technical Assistance

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.

The consultant spoke with the Director about ensuring that all children's enrollment forms include a statement regarding known allergies, physical problems, mental health disorders, intellectual disabilities or developmental disabilities which limit the child's participation in the program.

Correction Deadline: 8/3/2023

Evening Care

591-1-1-.32 Staffing/Supervision(CR) **Met**

Comment

No evening care hours provided

Facility

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

Comment

Bathrooms observed to be clean and well maintained.

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) **Met**

Comment

Center appears clean and well maintained.

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 following fence hazards were observed:

- On the Infant/Toddler Playground in the back left corner across from the building there was a seven and one half inch by four and one half inch gap on the fence panel posing a potential entrapment hazard to the children in care.
- On the Infant/Toddler Playground in the back right corner the second fence panel from the right had a five inch by 18 inch gap along the bottom of the panel posing a potential entrapment hazard to the children in care.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will routinely check the fence to determine if it is in good repair and remains at least 4 feet high, and will repair any hazards. The Center will train Staff to identify and report any fence hazards and to keep the fence gates closed when not in use.

Correction Deadline: 8/31/2023

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.26(6) - The consultant spoke with the Director about removing the green and orange sand buckets that were cracked with rough edges posing a hazard to the children in care.

Correction Deadline: 8/13/2023

Correction Deadline: 3/2/2023

Corrected on 8/3/2023

.26(9) - This citation was corrected on this date. No hazards were observed during a visit on this date.

Food Service

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

Not Met

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.15(2) requires that a signed written feeding plan for children less than one (1) year of age shall be obtained from Parent(s) and that instructions from the Parent(s) shall be updated regularly as new foods are added or other dietary changes are made. The feeding plan shall be posted in the child's assigned room and must include the child's feeding schedule, the amount of formula or breast milk to be given, instructions for the introduction of solid foods, the amount of food to be given and notation of any type(s) of commercially premixed formula which may not be used in an emergency because of food allergies.

The consultant spoke with center staff about ensuring that infant feeding plans are updated as feeding instructions from the parent change for the enrolled infants.

Correction Deadline: 8/3/2023

Finding

591-1-1-.15(7) requires that food be served according to manufacturer's instructions and recommendations. Foods that are associated with young children's choking incidents, such as, but not limited to, peanuts, hot dogs, raw carrots, popcorn, fish with bones, cheese cubes, grapes and any other food that is of similar shape and size of the trachea/windpipe shall not be served to the children less than four (4) years of age. Children older than four (4) years of age may be served these foods provided that the foods are cut in such a way as to minimize choking. Food shall not be accessible or served to children until it has been chopped, diced, cut or mashed and is appropriate for each child's age and individual eating, chewing and swallowing ability. It was determined based on observation that all children in the center were served hotdogs and baked beans for lunch on this date. This included children in the two-year-old classroom.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will train Staff and monitor food served and accessible to children to ensure that the food does not present a choking hazard.

Correction Deadline: 8/3/2023

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

Proper diapering procedures observed.

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

Met

Comment

Proper hand washing observed throughout the center.

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

Not Evaluated

Comment

The Provider currently does not dispense/administer medication.

Policies and Procedures

591-1-1-.21 Operational Policies & Procedures

Met

Comment

Program observed complete emergency drills

591-1-1-.27 Posted Notices

Met

Comment

Observed all required posted notices.

Safety

591-1-1-.05 Animals

N/A

Comment

Center does not keep animals on premises.

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

Met

Comment

Staff were observed to maintain a positive learning environment on this date.

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)

Met

Comment

A current/completed inspection was observed for all vehicles used in transporting children this date.

Comment

The center stated that they currently did not have a need for transportation. The center stated that even spots opened up at the Head Start or Pre-K and transportation was needed, then they would provide it.

Comment

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

Sleeping & Resting Equipment

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

Met

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.

Staff Records

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

Criminal record checks were observed to be complete.

Comment

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

591-1-1-.14 First Aid & CPR**Met****Comment**

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

Comment

Please replace/add missing/expired item(s) in first aid kit(s).

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 the program did not have evidence of staff member #3 completing the 10-hour Health and Safety Orientation training within their first 90-days of hire as required.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will develop and implement a plan to schedule and track this training for all employees based on their hire dates and will ensure that the training includes all required components as required.

Correction Deadline: 9/2/2023

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.

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 Classroom B had a staff:child ratio of 1:8 children for approximately two minutes and required a staff:child ratio of 2:8. One staff member was present in the room with six infants and two one-year-old children for approximately two minutes until a second staff member arrived to help in the classroom.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Director will speak with center staff about not leaving their assigned classrooms unless someone comes to relieve them. 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: 8/3/2023

Recited on 8/3/2023

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

Met

Comment

Staff observed to provide direct supervision and be attentive to children's needs.