



**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: 10/21/2021 **VisitType:** Licensing Study

Arrival: 11:00 AM

Departure: 1:00 PM

CCLC-11080

First Steps At Elberton

1638 Washington Highway Elberton, GA 30635 Elbert County
(706) 283-4820 tony_mills@att.net

Regional Consultant

Kelly Jones

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Fax: (770) 357-7061

kelly.jones@decal.ga.gov

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.
10/21/2021	Licensing Study	Good Standing	
02/24/2021	Monitoring Visit	Good Standing	
08/28/2020	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-1L	One Year Olds and Two Year Olds	1	8	C	15	C	NA	NA	Lunch, Transitioning
Main	B-1R	Infants and One Year Olds	1	4	C	6	C	NA	NA	Free Play, Transitioning, Feeding
Main	C-2R	Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds	1	12	C	14	C	NA	NA	Transitioning, Lunch, Centers
Main	D-back		0	0	C	15	C	NA	NA	
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 50						Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0				
Total # Children this Date: 24			Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 50			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0				

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	Playground	115	C

Comments

An Administrative Review was conducted on October 21, 2021. Staff files, children's files, training, and background checks were all reviewed. A virtual inspection was conducted on October 21, 2021 with the(Director. An in-person visit was not conducted due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Plan of Improvement: Developed This Date 10/21/2021

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



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.state.ga.us/>
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.state.ga.us

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.state.ga.us.

- 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.state.ga.us/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 1/2 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)

Michelle Mills, Program Official

Date

Kelly Jones, 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)

Met

Comment

A variety of equipment and toys were observed throughout the center.

Comment

Discussed rotating toys to support the procedures of daily disinfecting.

Comment

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

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**

Parent authorizations obtained/completed.

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.

Comment

Please monitor bathrooms for necessary supplies.

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.

Comment

No hazards observed accessible to children on this date.

591-1-1-.26 Playgrounds(CR)**Met****Comment**

The outside area appears clean and well maintained. Consultant discussed monitoring the playground and fence surrounding the playground area for normal wear and tear (i.e. exposed roots, active ant beds, resilient surface levels, entrapment hazards, etc.) with the director on this date..Discussed maintenance of resilient surface to ensure redistributing and fluffing especially after a heavy rain.

Food Service

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

Center menu meets USDA guidelines.

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

Please ensure that all food items are stored in airtight containers.

Health and Hygiene

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

Staff state proper knowledge of diapering procedures. Hand washing and sanitizing requirements for diapering were discussed with the Director on this date.

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

A Virtual Visit was conducted due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Hand washing was not directly observed during the virtual walk through on this date. Staff stated knowledge of proper hand washing procedures

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**Met****Comment**

Program observed complete emergency drills

591-1-1-.27 Posted Notices**Met****Comment**

Observed all required posted notices.

591-1-1-.29 Required Reporting**Met****Comment**

Thank you for reporting as required.

Safety

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

Center does not keep animals on premises.

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

Age-appropriate discussion and/or redirection observed.

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

Center does not provide routine transportation.

Comment

Complete documentation of transportation observed.

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)**Technical Assistance****Technical Assistance**

591-1-1-.30 - Discussed SIDS and infant sleeping position. Discussed tight fitting sheets with the director on this date.

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

Records Reviewed: 9
Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 4

Staff # 1 Date of Hire: 01/26/2017	Met
Staff # 2 Date of Hire: 07/22/2020	Met
Staff # 3 Date of Hire: 06/19/2019 <u>"Missing/Incomplete Components"</u> .33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training	Not Met
Staff # 4 Date of Hire: 06/11/2019 <u>"Missing/Incomplete Components"</u> .33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training	Not Met
Staff # 5 Date of Hire: 07/22/2020	Met
Staff # 6 Date of Hire: 08/29/2019 <u>"Missing/Incomplete Components"</u> .33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training	Not Met
Staff # 7 Date of Hire: 10/04/2021	Met
	<u>Reminder - Health & Safety training is required within 90 calendar days of hired</u>
Staff # 8 Date of Hire: 04/28/2004 <u>"Missing/Incomplete Components"</u> .33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training	Not Met
Staff # 9 Date of Hire: 01/01/2005	Met

Staff Credentials Reviewed: 7

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

Director provided one file(s) for employees hired since last visit 2/24/2021.

Comment

Nine of nine Criminal record checks were observed to be complete.

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

Met

Comment

Complete first aid kits observed in center and on vehicles.

Comment

Evidence observed of 100% of center staff certified in First Aid and CPR.

591-1-1-.33 Staff Training

Not Met

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 member # 3, hire date,6/19/2019 , staff member # 4 , hire date 6/11/2019, staff member # 6 , hire date 8/29/2019, staff member # 8 , hire date 4/28/2004 staff member # 9 , hire date 1/1/2005 did not have evidence of the approved 10 hours of annual training on file for the year 2020.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will plan and schedule the required 10 hours of annual training each year and follow up to ensure the training is completed.

Correction Deadline: 12/31/2021

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

Met

Comment

Staff observed to be compliant with applicable laws and regulations.

Correction Deadline: 3/31/2022

Corrected on 10/21/2021

.31(2)(b)2. - The previous citation was observed to be corrected on this date. All lead teachers have evidence of credentials on file.

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. Discussed new revision to the supervision rule which states: Staff shall be attentive and participating with all children during meal times and shall be seated within an arm's length away from children thirty-six (36) months of age and younger.