



**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: 7/27/2023 **VisitType:** Monitoring Visit **Arrival:** 11:15 AM **Departure:** 2:15 PM

CCLC-14421

New Era Learning Center

4640 Hiram Lithia Springs Road Powder Springs, GA 30127 Cobb
County
CCLC-14421 onwukaeb@aol.com

Enforcement Unit Consultant

Ashley Shirah

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Joint with: Kaiyah Werts

Mailing Address
Same

Quality Rated: ★ ★ ★

<u>Compliance Zone Designation</u>		
07/27/2023	Monitoring Visit	Good Standing
02/17/2023	Complaint Closure	Good Standing
02/08/2023	Complaint Investigation & Licensing Study	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	A 1st Left	One Year Olds and Two Year Olds	1	7	C	15	C	NA	NA	Nap
Main	B 2nd Left	Infants and One Year Olds	1	5	C	13	C	NA	NA	Nap
Main	C 3rd Left	Five Year Olds and Six Year Olds and Over	2	14	C	20	C	NA	NA	TV
Main	D 3rd Right	Six Year Olds and Over	1	13	C	20	C	NA	NA	Story
Main	E 2nd Right	Four Year Olds	2	20	C	20	C	NA	NA	Nap, Transitioning
Main	F 1st Right	Two Year Olds	1	14	NC	19	C	NA	NA	Nap
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.:			107			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0				
Total # Children this Date: 73			Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.:			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0				

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	infant Toddler Playground	11	C
Main	School Age Playground	33	C

Comments

The purpose of this visit was to conduct a MV.

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!

Ben Onwukaeme, Program Official

Date

Ashley Shirah, Enforcement Unit Consultant

Date

Kaiyah Werts, 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-.12 Equipment & Toys(CR)

Not Met

Finding

591-1-1-.12(2) requires that all equipment and furniture be free from hazardous conditions such as, but not limited to, sharp rough edges or toxic paint; and be kept clean. It was determined based on consultants observation that in classroom A the red vinyl chair had a small tear exposing inner foam. In classroom F, a plastic container was broken and had sharp corners, as well as a torn black vinyl cushion.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will ensure that equipment and furniture are used by the age-appropriate group of children. Staff removed the torn vinyl chair and cushion as well as removed the broken container on this date.

Correction Deadline: 7/27/2023

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

Met

Comment

Center does not provide swimming activities.

Facility

591-1-1-.19 License Capacity(CR)

Met

Comment

Discussed movement of children to maintain capacities.

Comment

Licensed capacity observed to be routinely met by center.

591-1-1-.25 Physical Plant - Safe Environment(CR)

Not Met

Comment

Please be mindful to keep items that pose a hazard inaccessible to children.

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 consultant observations that hazards were observed in the following classrooms:

A 1L- Baby power, Hot Shot insect spray, sunscreen, lotion, and diaper rash ointment accessible to children in an unlocked cabinet under the diaper chaining table. A staff purse and backpack were accessible to children and not kept out of reach.

C 3L- Hand sanitizer observed on a low shelf accessible to children

E 2R- Stapler, loose grocery bags, and staff backpacks were observed accessible to children.

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: 7/27/2023

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

Technical Assistance

Comment

Playground observed to be clean and in good repair. Consultant discussed being observant of the temperature of the equipment during the summer months due to lack of shade on the playground.

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.26(6) - Consultant observed two toddler swings to be wrapped and out of reach of children on the swing bay. Rust was observed on both swings chains. Please replace the swing chains if you plan to use the swings in the future. The swing chains on the preschool playground were observed to have the plastic covering peeling off. Please replace before the chains begin to rust.

Correction Deadline: 8/6/2023

Health and Hygiene

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

Not Met

Comment

Staff state proper knowledge of diapering procedures.

Finding

591-1-1-.10(4) requires that if diapers are changed on a diaper changing surface, the surface shall be smooth, nonporous, and equipped with a guard or rails to prevent falls. Between each diaper change, the diaper changing surface shall be cleaned with a disinfectant and dried with a single-use disposable towel. It was determined based on consultants observed that the classroom B 2L, the diaper changing pad was torn and not non-porous as required.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will ensure there is a smooth, nonporous changing surface that has a guard or rails for safety in each classroom that houses children wearing diapers. Center Staff will be trained and have adequate supplies to properly clean the diaper changing surface between each diaper change.

Correction Deadline: 7/27/2023

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

Met

Comment

Staff stated proper hand washing when asked by the consultant.

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) **Met**

Comment

Center does not provide routine transportation during summer.

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(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 consultant observation that in classroom B 2L one infant was observed asleep in the crib with a bib and pacifier on a clip and an one-year-old child was asleep in the crib with a blanket. Staff also stated that another infant sleeps in the car seat, although a crib was available for use.

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: 7/27/2023

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-.31 Staff(CR) **Met**

Comment

Staff observed to be compliant with applicable laws and regulations.

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 observations that classroom F 1R had a staff:child ratio of 1:14 two-year-old's on this date.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

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: 7/27/2023

591-1-1-.32 Supervision(CR)**Not Met****Finding**

591-1-1-.32(7) requires that children be supervised at all times appropriate to the individual age, needs and capabilities of each child. Such supervision must include, but not be limited to, indoor and outdoor activities, mealtimes, naptime, transportation, field trips, and transitions between activities. "Supervision" means that the appropriate number of Staff members are physically present in the area where children are being cared for and are providing watchful oversight to the children, volunteers and Students-in-Training. The persons supervising in the child care area must be alert, positioned to maximize their ability to hear and see the children at all times, and able to respond promptly to the needs and actions of the children being supervised, as well as the actions of the volunteers and Students-in-Training, and provide timely attention to the children's actions and needs. Staff shall be attentive and participating with all children during mealtimes and shall be seated within an arm's length away from children thirty-six (36) months of age and younger. It was determined based on consultant observation that the staff person in classroom F 1R briefly walked out of the classroom into the hallway to obtain the attention of another staff person. Children were observed to be asleep during the brief lapse in watchful oversight.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will train Staff and monitor to ensure they are providing supervision and watchful oversight to the children at all times.

Correction Deadline: 7/27/2023