



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 Closure

Arrival: 8:45 AM

Departure: 11:00 AM

CCLC-969

Learning Junction Preschool

526 Gibbs Rd. Evans, GA 30809 Columbia County
 (706) 650-0116 suttonlj@comcast.net

Regional Consultant

Melyn Smith

Phone: (706) 855-3455

Fax: (706) 434-7640

melyn.smith@dec.al.ga.gov

Mailing Address
 Same

Quality Rated: No

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 Closure	Good Standing	
07/25/2022	Complaint Investigation & Monitoring Visit	Good Standing	
04/21/2022	Licensing Study	Good Standing	

Comments

A complaint investigation was conducted on this date. Investigative findings were not concluded on this date. Investigative findings were concluded on August 3, 2022. The Consultant completed exit conference virtually and a copy of the visit report was electronically emailed to the Program on August 3, 2022.

Advisement of Potential for Repeated Rule Violations during Pending Investigations

This report shall serve as official notice of potential rule violations. These potential rule violations have been detailed in this report and discussed with you by the consultant. The department shall conduct a thorough investigation to determine if in fact the alleged rule violation(s) should or should not be substantiated. Please be aware that the investigation may take some time to be finalized to ensure fairness and accuracy. During this investigation period, any violations of an identical rule or rules will require the department to treat any and all substantiated rule violations identified in the investigation as repeated rule violation(s).

Further, from time to time the department discovers additional rule violations during the course of an investigation. If there are new rule violation(s), your consultant shall inform you of the violation(s) as soon as possible. However, as stated above, any violations of identical rule(s) will require the department to treat any and all additional rule violations identified in the investigation as repeated rule violations.

All rule violations found in relation to a complaint or incident investigation will be associated with the date the investigation was closed.



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), e-mail the following information to CCSRefutations@dec.al.ga.gov.

- 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.al.ga.gov/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 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)

I have read and understand the Rules and Regulations for Child Care Learning Centers, 591-1-1. I acknowledge that the items noted in this report have been discussed with me and I have agreed to a Plan of Improvement (POI) as indicated in this report. I understand that correction of these deficiencies, while required, will not necessarily prevent DECAL from taking adverse action against this facility. I understand that if I disagree with any of the deficiencies cited, I have the right to refute them on this report or any other form that I choose to send to Child Care Services.

Gene Sutton, Program Official

Date

Melyn Smith , Consultant

Date



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Summary Report

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The following information is associated with a Complaint Closure:

Staff Records

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

Not Met

Finding Associated with Complaint

591-1-1-.09(1)(a) requires that a Center ensure that every actual and potential Director, Employee and Provisional Employee of a Child Care Learning Center submit both a Records Check Application to the Department and Fingerprints to an authorized fingerprinting site. It was determined, based on investigation, that the center did not require a 17 year-old staff member to have a comprehensive criminal background check, while employed at the center. The Center submitted a Records Check Application to the Department on January 10, 2022. The staff member failed to submit Fingerprints to an authorized fingerprinting site.

Correction Deadline: 8/3/2022

Finding Associated with Complaint

591-1-1-.09(1)(c) requires the Center to ensure that every Employee has a valid and current satisfactory Comprehensive Records Check Determination on file prior to being present at the Center while any child is present for care or before an individual age 17 or older resides in the Center. The Comprehensive Records Check Determination must have a Records Check Clearance Date that is no older than the preceding 12 months of the hire date; provided, however, if the Employee has had a lapse of employment from the child care industry that lasted for 180 days (6 months) or longer, a new satisfactory Comprehensive Records Check Determination is required. It was determined, based on investigation, that the center did not require a 17 year-old staff member to have a comprehensive criminal background check, while employed at the center. The staff member was solely responsible for enrolled children in the three-year-old classroom from January, 2022, through July 20, 2022, without a valid and current satisfactory Comprehensive Records Check Determination letter on file.

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Correction Deadline: 8/3/2022

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

Not Met

Finding Associated with Complaint

591-1-1-.14(2) requires a Staff member who is trained in CPR and first aid to be on the premises and on any field trip whenever any child is present. In addition, Staff who provide direct care to children must satisfactorily obtain certification in first aid and CPR by December 29, 2016 if employed prior to September 30, 2016 and within 90 days of their hire date if employed after September 30, 2016. It was determined, based on investigation, that staff did not obtain certification in first aid and CPR within the first 90 days of employment. It was further determined that there were no staff who were trained in first aid and CPR present on the premises while enrolled children were present.

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Correction Deadline: 9/2/2022

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

Not Met

Finding Associated with Complaint

591-1-1-.31(2)(a) requires the Center to ensure there is a designated teacher/lead caregiver for each group of children. It was determined, based on investigation, that on undetermined dates that a 17 year-old caregiver was allowed to work alone with up to 15 three-year-old children in the three-year-old classroom, without a designated lead teacher.

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Correction Deadline: 8/26/2022

Finding Associated with Complaint

591-1-1-.31(2)(b)1 requires teachers/lead caregivers to be at least 18 years of age. It was determined, based on investigation, that on undetermined dates, that 16 and 17 year-old caregivers were allowed to work alone with three-year-old children, without a designated lead teacher.

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Correction Deadline: 8/12/2022

Finding Associated with Complaint

591-1-1-.31(3)(a) requires that caregiver/aides who are 16 or 17 years of age in a Center with a Licensed Capacity of Nineteen (19) or more children not be solely responsible for children. It was determined, based on investigation, that a 17 year-old caregiver was allowed to be solely responsible for up to 15 three-year-old children on undetermined dates.

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Correction Deadline: 8/3/2022

Staffing and Supervision

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

Not Met

Finding Associated with Complaint

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 investigation, that on July 19, 2022, the three-year-old classroom had a staff:child ratio of 0:12 when the caregiver stepped out of the classroom unannounced and walked to the front lobby. The Assistant Director stepped in the classroom and into ratio in less than a minute.

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Correction Deadline: 8/3/2022

Finding Associated with Complaint

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 investigation, that on various undetermined dates, 16 and 17 year-old caregivers were left alone to care for up to 15 three-year-old children, without supervision. It was further determined that there was a brief break in supervision when the staff member exited the three-year-old classroom on July 19, 2022, leaving 12 three-year-old children alone without supervision.

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Correction Deadline: 8/3/2022