



**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:** 4/21/2022    **VisitType:** Monitoring Visit    **Arrival:** 1:40 PM    **Departure:** 3:30 PM

**CCLC-46967**

**Happy Explorer's Learning Academy**

2123 Avalon Road Columbus, GA 31907 Muscogee County  
 (706) 507-4689 bernicerush.db@gmail.com

**Regional Consultant**

Penny Svenson  
 Phone: (470) 346-1037  
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 penny.svenson@decal.ga.gov

**Mailing Address**  
 Same

**Quality Rated:** ★ ★

<b>Compliance Zone Designation</b>			<b>Compliance Zone Designation</b> - 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.
04/21/2022	Monitoring Visit	Good Standing	
10/12/2021	Licensing Study	Good Standing	
01/12/2021	Monitoring Visit	Good Standing	

**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	Infants	1	5	C	10	C	NA	NA	Feeding, Floor Play
Main	A-1	One Year Olds	1	6	C	13	C	NA	NA	Nap
Main	B		0	0	C	14	C	NA	NA	
Main	C	Four Year Olds and Six Year Olds and Over	1	14	C	15	C	NA	NA	Transitioning
Main	D		0	0	C	14	C	NA	NA	
Main	E	Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds	1	22	NC	14	NC	NA	NA	Nap
Main	F	Two Year Olds	1	10	C	16	C	NA	NA	Nap
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 96					Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0					
Total # Children this Date: 57			Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 96			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0				

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	Playground A	10	C
Main	Playground B	170	C

**Comments**

The visit was discussed with the Director on the date of the visit.

Plan of Improvement: Developed This Date 04/21/2022

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.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 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.state.ga.us](mailto:qualityrated@dec.state.ga.us) for more information. Free technical assistance is available!**

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](http://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)

Bernice Rush, Program Official

Date

Penny Svenson, 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)**

**Met**

**Comment**

Discussed rotating toys to support the procedures of daily disinfecting.

**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)**

**Not Met**

**Finding**

591-1-1-.19(1) requires a Center to provide 35 square feet of usable space per child, which will determine the Center's License capacity. It was determined based on the Consultant's observation that there were 22 three and four-year-old children in Room E and the licensed capacity was for 14 children.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

The Center will limit the number of children in this space to the licensed capacity.

**Correction Deadline: 4/21/2022**

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

**Not Met**

**Finding**

591-1-1-.25(3) requires the Center and surrounding premises to be kept clean, free of debris and in good repair. Hygienic measures such as, but not limited to, screened windows and proper waste disposal procedures shall be utilized to minimize the presence of rodents, flies, roaches and other vermin at the Center. It was determined based on the Consultant's observation that there was a ceiling tile that was not present, and a toilet seat that needed to be replaced because the coating was chipped.

**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: 4/21/2022**

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

**Not Met**

**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 the Consultant's observation that there were thorny and other weeds present throughout Playground A and the equipment was coated with dirt and mildew.

**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: 5/9/2022**

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**Health and Hygiene**

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

**Not Met**

**Finding**

591-1-1-.10(9) requires Center Staff to not use the area used for diapering for food preparation and to keep the diapering area clear of formulas, food, food utensils and food preparation items. It was determined based on the Consultant's observation that there was an open jar of baby food on the diaper changing table in Room A that was observed to be fed to an infant and there were sippy cups present on the changing table in Room A-1.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

Center staff will be trained, specified areas will be available for food preparation and placement of food-related items, and the director will monitor.

**Correction Deadline: 4/21/2022**

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

**Technical Assistance**

**Technical Assistance**

The Consultant discussed with the Director each time children were required to 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: 4/21/2022**

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

**Met**

**Comment**

The Provider currently does not dispense/administer medication.

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**Safety**

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

**Met**

**Comment**

Please be mindful of voice tone in redirecting children.

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**591-1-1-.36 Transportation(CR)**

**Met**

**Comment**

Complete documentation of transportation observed.

## Sleeping & Resting Equipment

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

Not Met

#### Finding

591-1-1-.30(1)(b)3 requires that sheets or similar coverings for cots or mats shall either be marked for individual use or laundered daily. If marked for individual use, they must be laundered weekly or more frequently if needed. It was determined based on the Consultant's observation that there were 17 out of 22 children that did not have sheets on their cots in Room E.

#### POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will ensure that sheets are marked for individual use or washed daily and that marked sheets are washed at least weekly.

Correction Deadline: 4/21/2022

## Staff Records

Records Reviewed: 10

Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 0

Staff # 1	Met
Date of Hire: 10/03/2019	
Staff # 2	Met
Date of Hire: 04/18/2017	
Staff # 3	Met
Date of Hire: 06/23/2017	
Staff # 4	Met
Date of Hire: 01/17/2022	
Staff # 5	Met
Date of Hire: 03/27/2017	
Staff # 6	Met
Date of Hire: 03/27/2017	
Staff # 7	Met
Date of Hire: 03/27/2019	
Staff # 8	Met
Date of Hire: 03/27/2017	
Staff # 9	Met
Date of Hire: 10/09/2020	
Staff # 10	Met
Date of Hire: 02/22/2019	

**Staff Credentials Reviewed: 1**

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

**Comment**

Criminal record checks were observed to be complete.

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**591-1-1-.14 First Aid & CPR Technical Assistance**

**Technical Assistance**

The Consultant discussed with the Director that the Center and any vehicle being used for transportation of children were required to have these items: scissors, tweezers, gauze pads, adhesive tape, thermometer, band-aids, assorted sizes, antibacterial ointment, insect-sting preparation, an antiseptic cleansing solution, triangular bandages, rubber gloves, protective eye wear, a protective face mask, and a cold pack. The first aid kit, together with a first aid instruction manual which must be kept with the kit at all times, shall be stored so that it is not accessible to children but is easily accessible to Staff.

**Correction Deadline: 5/1/2022**

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**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.

<b>Staffing and Supervision</b>
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**591-1-1-.32 Staff:Child Ratios and Group Size(CR) Met**

**Comment**

Center observed to maintain appropriate staff:child ratios.

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

**Comment**

Adequate supervision observed on this date.