



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: 3/7/2023 VisitType: Licensing Study Arrival: 11:50 AM Departure: 12:50 PM

CCLC-1923

Stepping Stones Learning Ctr

115 N. Madison Avenue Eatonton, GA 31024 Putnam County
(706) 485-0690 steppingstones@firstbaptisteatonton.org

Regional Consultant

Stacy Whitten

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Joint with: Lisa Pitts

Mailing Address

PO Box 3400
Eatonton, GA 31024

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.
03/07/2023	Licensing Study	Good Standing	
12/14/2022	Monitoring Visit	Good Standing	
04/06/2022	LS POI Follow Up	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- 1 year	One Year Olds and Two Year Olds	2	11	C	11	C	NA	NA	Outside
Main	B-6wks-6months	Infants	2	8	C	10	C	NA	NA	Outside
Main	C-6-12 months	Infants and One Year Olds	2	8	C	11	C	NA	NA	Outside
Main	D-6wks-12months	Infants	1	4	C	6	C	NA	NA	Transitioning
Main	E-3 & 4 years	Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds	2	15	C	18	C	NA	NA	Transitioning
Main	F-2 & 3 years	Two Year Olds and Three Year Olds	2	13	C	15	C	NA	NA	Transitioning
Main	G		0	0	C	7	C	NA	NA	
Main	H		0	0	C	22	C	NA	NA	
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 100			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0							
Total # Children this Date: 59			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0							

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	A Right	20	C
Main	B Left	35	C

Comments

The purpose of this visit was to conduct a Licensing Study. This visit was completed as part of the Child Care Services Quality Assurance Initiative

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 1 855-800-7747 or qualityrated@dec.al.ga.gov for more information. Free technical assistance is available!

Denise Carmichael, Program Official	Date
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Lisa Pitts, Consultant	Date
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Stacy Whitten, 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)

Not Met

Comment

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

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 an observation that the following equipment was not in good repair on this date:

classroom C - two small toy shelves were observed to have areas of chipping wood; one adult rocking chair was observed to have stains present on the fabric cover

classroom D - two adult rocking chairs were observed to have stains present on the fabric seat covers

classroom F - one small table in housekeeping area was observed to have a chipped top ; the kitchen set was observed to have a dirt-like residue and in need of cleaning

classroom E - wooden cubby shelves were observed to have chipping wood

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will ensure that equipment and furniture are used by the age-appropriate group of children.

Correction Deadline: 3/7/2023

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.12(4) - Please ensure the following equipment is secured or removed to prevent tipping hazards:

classroom F : white cubby shelf ; chairs stacked on table

classroom E : fish tank ; wooden shelf cubbies

Correction Deadline: 3/7/2023

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

N/A

Comment

Center does not provide swimming activities.

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

Technical Assistance

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.06(4) - Please ensure the bathroom vents in classroom A, E and F are cleaned / dusted regularly and operable.

Correction Deadline: 4/6/2023

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.06(7) - Please monitor and ensure the bathrooms in classrooms F are cleaned throughout the day.

Correction Deadline: 3/7/2023

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)

Not Met

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 an observation that the following hazards were accessible to children on this date:

- classroom C : plastic bags were hanging low above a crib, accessible to children
- classroom D : one staff bag was hanging on a low shelf, with looped straps, accessible to children
- classroom F : one low cabinet was unlocked by the sink, containing: one bottle of expo marker, one string christmas lights; one bottle of rubber cement; and five bottles of shaving cream ; one fan was on a low shelf 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: 3/7/2023

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.25(3) - Please monitor the classroom walls for chipping paint and repaint or repair as needed. Please ensure classroom walls are also cleaned regularly, especially in high traffic areas, such as sinks and bathrooms.

Correction Deadline: 3/7/2023

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

Not Met

Comment

Discussed maintenance of resilient surface. Please fluff and redistribute.

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.26(4) - Please ensure the fencing on both playgrounds is monitored and repaired where chipping paint is beginning to develop. Please monitor and repair or replace the pole by the gate on the preschool children's playground where a crack is developing to ensure rough edges are not accessible. Also, please monitor the chains between the fencing gates on the preschool playground and repair, repaint or replace, where and at the top of the fencing, where rust is beginning to develop.

Correction Deadline: 3/7/2023

Finding

591-1-1-.26(6) requires that playground equipment provide an opportunity for the children to engage in a variety of experiences and shall be age-appropriate. For example, toddlers shall not be permitted to swing in swings designed for School-age Children. The outdoor equipment shall be free of lead-based paint, sharp corners and shall be regularly maintained in such a way as to be free of rust and splinters that could pose significant safety hazard to the children. All equipment shall be arranged so as not to obstruct supervision of children. It was determined based on observation that the following equipment was not in good repair on this date:

-infant/toddler playground: one plastic toy house was observed to have a crack in the roof, one small blue mailbox was cracked on a toy set; one free standing brown boat toy was observed to have a crack - all exposing rough edges

-preschool playground: the plastic chain covers were observed to be chipping and cracked on three swings

-also discussed - please tighten the canopy to raise it up to prevent adult staff / parents from hitting their heads

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will provide a variety of age-appropriate equipment that is arranged so as not to obstruct supervision of children. Staff will check the equipment daily to ensure that the equipment is free of hazards, rust and splinters.

Correction Deadline: 3/17/2023

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.26(9) - Please monitor and ensure the grass is cut and weeds are removed from the infant/toddler playground regularly.

Correction Deadline: 3/7/2023

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

Center menu meets USDA guidelines.

Comment

Please ensure that bottles are covered and fully labeled with child's full name.

Comment

Please ensure that infant feeding forms are updated regularly.

591-1-1-.18 Kitchen Operations**Technical Assistance****Comment**

Kitchen appears clean and well organized.

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.18(3) - Discussed with provider to ensure the kitchen oven is checked ; a gas smell was present in the kitchen on this date. Provider stated the oven was being repaired on date of visit.

Correction Deadline: 3/17/2023

Health and Hygiene**591-1-1-.10 Diapering Areas & Practices(CR)****Technical Assistance****Comment**

Staff state proper knowledge of diapering procedures.

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.10(4) - Please ensure the diaper table/station in classroom F is cleaned regularly.

Correction Deadline: 3/7/2023

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

Comment

Staff were observed to remind children to wash hands.

591-1-1-.20 Medications(CR) **N/A**

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-.36 Transportation(CR) **N/A**

Comment

Center does not provide routine transportation.

Sleeping & Resting Equipment

591-1-1-.30 Safe Sleeping and Resting Requirements(CR) **Not 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.

Finding

591-1-1-.30(1)(a)1. requires that cribs be in good repair and free of hazards. Stack cribs and cribs with drop sides shall not be used. It was determined based on an observation that the six cribs in classroom C and five cribs in classroom D had chipping wood present on the railings.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will remove cribs that are not in good repair or that are hazardous and will always provide a crib that is in good repair and is free of hazards for each infant. Stack cribs and cribs with drop sides will not be used

Correction Deadline: 3/7/2023

Staff Records

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

Comment

Criminal record checks were observed to be complete. The consultant observed evidence of completed satisfactory comprehensive background checks for all staff on this date.

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

Comment

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

591-1-1-.33 Staff Training	Met
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Comment

Documentation observed of required staff training.

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

Lead staff requirements are met on this date.

Staffing and Supervision

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

Center observed to maintain appropriate staff:child ratios.

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

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