



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: 7/12/2024 **VisitType:** Complaint Investigation & Monitoring Visit **Arrival:** 1:00 PM **Departure:** 4:00 PM

CCLC-47194
Learning Spot for Tots
8350 Veterans Parkway Columbus, GA 31909 Muscogee County
(706) 940-0490 genianga@aol.com

CCS Coordinator
Sondra Paster
Phone: (478) 314-5803
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Joint with: Rukiya Thomas

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.
07/12/2024	Complaint Investigation & Monitoring Visit	Good Standing	
06/18/2024	Monitoring Visit	Good Standing	
09/21/2023	Licensing Study	Support	

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/B - One and Two	One Year Olds and Two Year Olds and Three Year Olds	1	10	C	10	C	NA	NA	Nap
Main	C- Three and Four		0	0	C	18	C	NA	NA	
Main	D-Infant	Infants and One Year Olds and Two Year Olds and Four Year Olds	1	8	C	7	NC	NA	NA	Nap
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 35			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0							
Total # Children this Date: 18			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0							

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	All ages	32	C

Comments

The purpose of the visit is conduct a complaint investigation / monitor visit.

Plan of Improvement: Developed This Date 07/12/2024

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/RuleAndRegulations.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.state.ga.us for more information. Free technical assistance is available!



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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-.03 Activities

Not Met

Finding

591-1-1-.03(6) requires Center Staff to ensure children less than three years of age do not spend more than one-half hour of time consecutively in confining equipment, such as swings, highchairs, jump seats, carriers or walkers. Children shall use such equipment only when they are awake. Such children shall be allowed time to play on the floor daily. Infants shall have supervised tummy time on the floor daily when they are awake. It was determined based on observation that a two-month-old infant was observed be sitting in a saucer for approximately 45 minutes in classroom D.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will train Staff to use confining equipment appropriately, to provide supervised floor play daily for children under three years of age, including infants, and will monitor regularly.

Correction Deadline: 7/12/2024

591-1-1-.12 Equipment & Toys(CR)

Met

Comment

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

Comment

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

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

N/A

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 observation that eight children were observed to be housed in classroom D which had a capacity of seven.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

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

Correction Deadline: 7/12/2024

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 observation that two pair of adult scissors, an adult purse and a portable fan were observed to be sitting on shelves that were accessible to children in classroom D.

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: 7/12/2024

591-1-1-.25 Physical Plant-Structural/Mechanical**Not Met****Finding**

591-1-1-.25(14) requires the Center to be lighted with a minimum of twenty-five foot candles of illumination except during rest periods. Areas used for napping shall be lit dimly. It was determined based on observation that not all rooms were appropriately illuminated when upon arrival classrooms were observed to be dark to where children could not been seen during naptime.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

To ensure that appropriate lighting is provided, the center will ensure there is enough lighting to be able to clearly see children during naptime.

Correction Deadline: 8/11/2024

591-1-1-.26 Playgrounds(CR)**Not Met****Finding**

591-1-1-.26(7) requires that climbing and swinging equipment be anchored. It was determined based on observation that the yellow metal bus was observed to be unsecured on the outdoor play area

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will remove or repair equipment that is not anchored and will regularly inspect the equipment to ensure it remains anchored.

Correction Deadline: 7/22/2024

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 observation that raid and insect repellent were observed to be sitting on the ground which was accessible to children. It was further determined that the yellow metal bus was observed to have chipping paint.

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: 7/12/2024

Food Service

591-1-1-.18 Kitchen Operations**Not Met****Finding**

591-1-1-.18(6) requires that non-disposable dishes, glasses and silverware are properly cleaned by pre-rinsing, or scraping, washing, sanitizing and air drying. A three (3) compartment sink or a dishwasher with a sani-cycle or capability of maintaining a rinse water temperature of a minimum of one hundred fifty (150) degrees Fahrenheit and a two (2) compartment sink shall be available. Dishes, glasses and silverware shall be rinsed in the approved dishwasher or rinsed in a chemical sanitizer and air dried. It was determined based on observation that a staff responsible for kitchen operations stated that the disinfecting process for cleaning/washing dishes was not followed as required.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will train Staff in the required dishwashing methods, will repair or replace any equipment that cannot meet the standards, and will routinely check equipment and monitor dishwashing.

Correction Deadline: 7/12/2024

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

Staff state proper knowledge of diapering procedures.

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

Proper hand washing observed throughout the center.

591-1-1-.20 Medications(CR)**Not Met****Comment**

The Provider currently does not dispense/administer medication.

Finding

591-1-1-.20(1) requires Personnel to obtain specific written authorization from the child's physician or parent in order to dispense prescription or non-prescription medications, except for first aid. Such authorization will include when applicable, date; full name of the child; name of the medication; prescription number, if any; dosage; the dates to be given; the time of day to be dispensed; and signature of parent. It was determined based on observation that no written authorization was observed for all children enrolled for approval to dispense external medications such as insect repellent.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will train Staff to obtain and review parental authorizations to ensure the authorization contains complete information. The designated person(s) will monitor daily.

Correction Deadline: 7/12/2024

Policies and Procedures**591-1-1-.22 Parental Access****Not Met****Finding**

591-1-1-.22 requires the Center to permit the custodial Parent(s) of the child access to all child care areas of the Center at any time the child is in attendance. The custodial Parent(s) shall make his or her presence known to Center Staff prior to removing the child from the Center. It was determined based on observation that parents are not allowed to access the classrooms throughout the center.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will permit unlimited parental access.

Correction Deadline: 7/12/2024

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

Finding

591-1-1-.30(1)(d) requires that all sleeping and resting equipment shall be arranged to avoid obstructing access to exit doors, to provide the caregivers access to each child, and to prevent children's access to cords hanging from window treatments and other hazardous objects. To reduce the transfer of airborne diseases, sleeping and resting equipment shall be arranged as follows. There shall be a minimum of twenty-four inch (24") corridor between each row of sleeping or resting equipment. There shall be a minimum of twelve inches (12") between each piece of sleeping or resting equipment in each row of equipment. Children shall be placed on cots and mats so that one child's head is toward another child's feet in the same row. It was determined based on observation that children in classroom D were not observed to be sleeping head to toe opposite of the other child sleeping next to them.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will arrange and place sleeping and resting equipment according to the requirements in the rule; will train Staff; and will monitor for continued compliance.

Correction Deadline: 7/12/2024

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

Consultant requested to view all Criminal Record checks for employees hired after last visit. Director stated that there have been no new hires since last visit on June 18, 2024.

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.

Staffing and Supervision**591-1-1-.32 Staff:Child Ratios and Group Size(CR)****Not Met****Finding**

591-1-1-.32(4) requires that children under three years old be housed in separate physical areas from older children and cannot be mixed with older children except at specified times and circumstances. It was determined based on observation that one infant, one one-year-old, one two-year-olds and one four-year-old children were observed to be housed together in classroom A/B during naptime. It was further determined that one one-year-old, five two-year-olds and four three-year-olds were observed to be housed together in classroom D.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will maintain separation of these children under three years old.

Correction Deadline: 7/12/2024

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 observation that upon arrival there was no staff in classroom A/B where there were 10 children (one one-year-old, five two-year-olds, and four three-year-olds) present.

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: 7/12/2024