



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: 7/19/2024 **VisitType:** LS POI Follow Up

Arrival: 9:40 AM **Departure:** 3:00 PM

CCLC-25064

Higher Calling Christian Academy

2901 Wesley Chapel Road Decatur, GA 30034 DeKalb County
(404) 288-2494 Hccaadmin@hcfinc.org

Regional Consultant

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Mailing Address

Same

Quality Rated: ★ ★

<u>Compliance Zone Designation</u>			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.
07/19/2024	LS POI Follow Up	Good Standing	
06/20/2024	MV POI Follow Up	Good Standing	
05/17/2024	Incident Investigation Closure	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	201	Infants	1	4	C	10	C	NA	NA	Floor Play,Free Play
Main	203	One Year Olds	1	5	C	12	C	NA	NA	Free Play
Main	204	Three Year Olds	1	8	C	20	C	NA	NA	Centers
Main	205	Two Year Olds	1	6	C	14	C	NA	NA	Free Play,Diapering
Main	208	Five Year Olds	2	11	C	20	C	NA	NA	Centers
Main	210	Six Year Olds and Over	1	10	C	20	C	NA	NA	Transitioning
Main	G	Four Year Olds	1	9	C	20	C	NA	NA	Transitioning
		Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 116			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0					
Total # Children this Date: 53		Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 116			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0					

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	A Outside	15	C
Main	B Outside	29	C

Comments

An on-site inspection was conducted on July 19, 2024 with the Director Levon Howard. Staff files, children's files, training, and background checks were all reviewed.

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!



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(Findings Report)

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The following information is associated with a LS POI Follow Up:

Activities and Equipment

591-1-1-.03 Activities

Technical Assistance

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.03(2) -The Consultant discussed with the Director that the Center must keep current lesson plans on site that reflect appropriate instruction practices and activities to support children's development.

Correction Deadline: 7/19/2024

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

Technical Assistance

Comment

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

Technical Assistance

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. The Consultant discussed with the Director removing the plastic wrapped around the arm of the chair in classroom 202.

Correction Deadline: 7/19/2024

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

Met

Comment

Center does not provide swimming activities.

Facility

591-1-1-.06 Bathrooms

Met

Comment

Bathrooms observed to be clean and well maintained.

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

Comment

Please secure cleaning tools (i.e., broom, plunger) out of reach of 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 observation that the following hazards were observed:

202 (G)

- Diapering wipes on top of the cubby accessible to children in care.
- A plastic bag with diapers in the cubby accessible to children in care.
- A loose radio cord at the sink area accessible to children in care.

204

- Adult scissors on top of the cabinet on the left side of the classroom accessible to children in care.
- Diaper wipes on top of the counter on the left side of the classroom accessible to children in care.
- Sanitizer on top of the counter near the sink on the right side of the classroom accessible to children in care.
- Plastic grocery bag stored in an unlocked cabinet under the sink right side of the classroom accessible to children in care.
- Sanitizing wipes stored in an unlocked cabinet under the sink right side of the classroom accessible to children in care.

205

- A plastic bag wrapped around the cabinet handles accessible to children in care.

208

- A white trash bag hanging from the door accessible to children in care.
- An adult bag hanging from the cubby accessible to children in care.

210

- A hanging cord near the radio on the left side of the classroom accessible to children in care.
- A plastic grocery bag stored in an unlocked cabinet under the sink accessible to children in care.
- Two plastic grocery bags stored in the cubbies accessible to children in care.

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: 7/19/2024

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 observation that the following hazards were observed:

Hallway

- Four damaged ceiling tiles outside of classrooms 207 and 208.

205

- Two tiles missing from the bottom of the wall under the sink in the restroom.
- A damaged ceiling tile above the block area.

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: 8/2/2024

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

Met

Correction Deadline: 7/12/2024

Corrected on 7/19/2024

.26(6) - Citation corrected. No hazards observed.

Food Service

Comment

Center menu meets USDA guidelines.

Finding

591-1-1-.15(4) requires that a feeding chair or similar equipment designed for feeding children shall be provided for the use of each child being fed who is capable of sitting up but who is unable to sit unassisted at a table and must be cleaned with a disinfectant after each use. Such chair or similar equipment shall have a broad base to prevent tipping, a surface that the child cannot raise, a strap or other device which prevents the child from sliding out of the chair, and a feeding surface free of cracks. It was determined based on observation that a infant in classroom 201 was not strapped in the high chair on this date.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will inspect feeding equipment to ensure it meets each of the listed criteria and to verify a feeding chair or equipment is provided for each child who requires one. The Center will train staff and monitor to ensure that the feeding equipment is cleaned with a disinfectant after each use.

Correction Deadline: 7/19/2024

Recited on 7/19/2024

Health and Hygiene**591-1-1-.07 Children's Health****Not Met****Finding**

591-1-1-.07(5) requires Center Staff to not permit children to wear around their necks or attach to their clothing pacifiers or other hazardous items. It was determined based on observation that a one-year-old child was observed with a pacifier clip attached to their clothing in classroom 203.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will instruct Staff regarding this safety requirement.

Correction Deadline: 7/19/2024

591-1-1-.10 Diapering Areas & Practices(CR)**Not Met****Comment**

Hand washing requirements for diapering were discussed with the director on this date.

Comment

Proper diapering procedures observed.

Finding

)591-1-1-.10(5) requires that Center Staff shall not leave infants or children unattended while being diapered or having their clothes changed on the diaper changing surface. It was determined based on observation that a staff person left a one-year-old child unattended on the changing table when they walked from behind the changing table to the front without a hand on the child in classroom 203.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will ensure Staff are trained, procedures are reviewed periodically and diaper changing is monitored periodically.

Correction Deadline: 7/19/2024

591-1-1-.17 Hygiene(CR)**Not Met****Finding**

591-1-1-.17(7) requires that children 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. It was determined based on observation that a staff person was observed to not wash a one-year-old child's hand after diapering in classroom 203.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will train Staff on required handwashing for children and Staff will ensure children's hands are washed when required. The Director will monitor for compliance.

Correction Deadline: 7/19/2024

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

Met

Comment

The Provider currently does not dispense/administer medication.

Policies and Procedures

591-1-1-.27 Posted Notices

Technical Assistance

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.27 - The Consultant discussed with the director posting the names of persons responsible for the administration of the Center in the administrator's absence.

Correction Deadline: 7/19/2024

Safety

591-1-1-.05 Animals

Met

Comment

Center does not keep animals on premises.

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

Met

Comment

Age-appropriate discussion and/or redirection observed.

591-1-1-.13 Field Trips(CR)

Technical Assistance

Comment

Proper field trip documentation and regulations regarding checklists, name tags and permission forms was discussed on this date.

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.13(6) - The Consultant discussed with the Director that Center Staff must have emergency medical information on each child who goes on a field trip that includes allergies, special medical needs and conditions, current prescribed medications required to be taken on a daily basis for a chronic condition, the name and phone number of the child's doctor, the local medical facility the Center uses in the area where the Center is located, and the telephone numbers where the parent can be reached. The emergency medical information shall be left at the Center as well as taken on the trip in the possession of the adult in charge of the trip.

Correction Deadline: 7/19/2024

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

Not Met

Comment

Center does not provide routine transportation.

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.36(3)(a-b) - The Consultant discussed with the Director that any Center that provides any type of transportation to obtain two (2) hours of state-approved or state-accepted transportation training, biannually, for the Director and for each person responsible for or who participates in the transportation of children. The training shall include, but is not limited to, a review of the transportation rules, a review of approved transportation forms and procedures, and instruction on the usage and completion of the forms and procedures. This training may be counted as part of the annual training requirements for Staff.

Correction Deadline: 7/29/2024

Finding

591-1-1-.36(7)(c)2. requires that the driver or other designated person shall immediately document in writing, with a check or other mark/symbol to account for each child listed on the passenger transportation checklist each time a child enters and exits the vehicle. The driver or other designated staff person shall document in writing with a different mark/symbol to account for each child listed on the passenger transportation checklist who was not present on the vehicle for any reason. An explanation shall be documented in writing whenever a child is transported to a field trip site but is not present on the return trip to the Center. It was determined based on a review of records that the field trip transportation log was missing two of 21 check marks to account for children loading the vehicle on July 18, 2024 to Black Wall Street.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The driver/other designated person will immediately document in writing with a check/mark/symbol each time a child gets on and off the vehicle.

Correction Deadline: 7/20/2024

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(1)(b)1 requires that cots and mats are of sound construction and of sufficient size to accommodate comfortably the size and weight of the child; and that mats are in good repair, washable, covered with a waterproof material and at least two inches (2") thick. It was determined based on observation that six out of eight mats had tears throughout the mat.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will ensure that cots and mats are of sound construction and of sufficient size to accommodate the size and weight of the child and mats are in good repair, washable, covered with a waterproof material and is at least two inches thick.

Correction Deadline: 8/2/2024

Correction Deadline: 6/20/2024

Corrected on 7/19/2024

.30(2) - Citation corrected. The Consultant discussed with the Director that 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 upon observation that an infant in Classroom 201 was asleep on a Boppy pillow with a blanket in the crib on this date.

Correction Deadline: 6/20/2024

Corrected on 7/19/2024

.30(2)(c) - Citation corrected. The Consultant discussed with the Director that infants shall not sleep in equipment other than safety-approved cribs, such as, but not limited to, a car safety seat, bouncy seat, highchair, or swing. Infants who arrive at the Center asleep or fall asleep in such equipment, on the floor or elsewhere, shall be transferred to a safety-approved crib.

Staff Records

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

Met

Comment

Criminal record checks were observed to be complete.

Correction Deadline: 4/8/2024

Corrected on 7/19/2024

.09(1)(b) - Citation observed corrected. Criminal record checks were observed completed.

Correction Deadline: 6/20/2024

Corrected on 7/19/2024

.09(1)(j) - Citation observed corrected. Criminal record checks were observed completed.

Correction Deadline: 4/8/2024

Corrected on 7/19/2024

.09(1)(l)3. - Citation observed corrected. Criminal record checks were observed completed.

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

Not Met

Finding

591-1-1-.14(1) requires the Center Director and, at any given time, at least fifty percent (50%) of the caregiver Staff to successfully complete a biennial training program in cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and a triennial training program in first aid. The first aid training must be done by certified or licensed health care professionals or trainers and must deal with the provision of emergency care to infants and children. The Center shall maintain current evidence of the successful completion of such training which shall be available to the Department for inspection. It was determined based on a review of records that staff # 10 did not successfully complete a biennial training program in cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and a triennial training program in first aid within within the first 90 days of employment.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center Director and at least 50% of the caregiver Staff will complete the needed training. The Director will send written verification to the consultant upon completion and will develop a plan to ensure that at least 50% of the caregiver Staff have completed this training at any given time and that evidence of successful completion of the training is on file available for inspection.

Correction Deadline: 8/9/2024

Finding

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 a review of records that staff # 2, staff # 3, staff # 6, staff # 7, staff # 13, staff #14, staff # 15, and staff #16 did not complete the CPR and first aid training within the first 90 days of employment.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will develop a schedule to ensure there is always a staff person with current first aid and CPR training present and will develop and implement a plan to ensure all staff members have satisfactorily completed first aid and CPR training by the specified date.

Correction Deadline: 8/9/2024

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.14(3) - The Consultant discussed with the Director adding the thermometer and the insect sting preparation to the first aid kit.

Correction Deadline: 7/29/2024

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.33(4) - The Consultant discussed with the Director that within the first year of employment, the Director and person with primary responsibility for food preparation shall have four clock hours of training in food nutrition planning, preparation, serving, proper dish washing and food storage.

Correction Deadline: 8/18/2024

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.

Staffing and Supervision

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

Center observed to maintain appropriate staff:child ratios.

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

Adequate supervision observed on this date.