



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: 5/20/2024 **VisitType:** Monitoring Visit

Arrival: 11:30 AM **Departure:** 3:10 PM

CCLC-46137

Scholastic Minds Academy

4395 Ogeechee Road, Unit 105 & 106 Savannah, GA 31405

Chatham County

(912) 665-0652 jnewsome@scholasticminds.com

Regional Consultant

Connie Boatright

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connie.boatright@decal.ga.gov

Joint with: Rebecca Owsley

Mailing Address

4395 Ogeechee Road, Unit 106

Savannah, GA 31405

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.
05/20/2024	Monitoring Visit	Good Standing	
10/13/2023	Complaint Closure	Good Standing	
10/10/2023	Complaint Investigation & Licensing Study	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	Infants and One Year Olds	5	19	C	20	C	NA	NA	Feeding,Nap,Flo or Play,Centers,Diapering
Main	B		0	0	C	11	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
Main	C	Infants and Two Year Olds	2	10	C	11	C	NA	NA	Transitioning,Nap
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.:			42		Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.:		0			
Main II (Left)	Room D	Four Year Olds and Five Year Olds	4	23	C	23	C	NA	NA	Nap,Transitioning
Main II (Left)	Room E	Three Year Olds	1	12	C	13	C	NA	NA	Transitioning,Nap
Main II (Left)	Room F	Infants and Three Year Olds	2	12	C	13	C	NA	NA	Nap,Transitioning
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.:			49		Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.:		0			
Total # Children this Date: 76			Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.:		91		Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.:		0	

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	A - Preschool	22	C
Main	B - Infant/Toddler	10	C

Comments

An in person Monitoring Visit was conducted on this day. The center director stated that no medication is dispensed, no field trips, routine transportation, or swimming activities are provided.

Plan of Improvement: No Plan Developed

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 user id 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)

Date: 5/20/2024 **VisitType:** Monitoring Visit

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The following information is associated with a Monitoring Visit:

Activities and Equipment

591-1-1-.03 Activities

Technical Assistance

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.03(2) - The center will ensure to keep current lesson plans on site that reflect appropriate instruction practices and activities to support children's development The Center shall have sufficient and varied play and learning equipment and materials to support the above program of activities in all developmental areas.

Correction Deadline: 5/20/2024

Comment

The consultant observed a variety of age appropriate activities throughout the center.

Correction Deadline: 5/20/2024

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

Met

Comment

The consultant observed toys and equipment to be clean and in good repair.

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

Met

Comment

Center does not provide swimming activities.

Children's Records

591-1-1-.08 Children's Records

Met

Comment

Parent agreements observed obtained/completed.

Comment

Parent authorizations obtained/completed.

Comment

Records were observed to be complete and well organized.

Facility

591-1-1-.06 Bathrooms	Met
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Comment

Bathrooms observed to be clean and well maintained.

591-1-1-.19 License Capacity(CR)	Met
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Comment

Licensed capacity observed to be routinely met by center. The consultant observed 76 children to be present.

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

Center appears clean and well maintained.

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

591-1-1-.26(6) - The center will ensure 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.

Correction Deadline: 5/30/2024

	Food Service
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591-1-1-.15 Food Service & Nutrition	Met
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Correction Deadline: 10/10/2023

Corrected on 5/20/2024

.15(2)(g) - The previous citation was observed to be corrected on this day.

591-1-1-.18 Kitchen Operations	Met
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Comment

Kitchen appears clean and well organized.

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

Proper diapering procedures observed.

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

Proper hand washing observed throughout the center.

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

The Provider currently does not dispense/administer medication.

	Policies and Procedures
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591-1-1-.21 Operational Policies & Procedures	Met
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Comment

Program observed complete emergency drills

591-1-1-.27 Posted Notices**Met****Comment**

Observed all required posted notices.

591-1-1-.29 Required Reporting**Met****Comment**

Thank you for reporting as required.

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.

Comment

Staff were observed to maintain a positive learning environment on this date.

591-1-1-.13 Field Trips(CR)**Met****Comment**

Center does not participate in field trips at this time.

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

Center does not provide routine transportation.

Sleeping & Resting Equipment**591-1-1-.30 Safe Sleeping and Resting Requirements(CR)****Met**

Correction Deadline: 10/10/2023

Corrected on 5/20/2024

.30(1)(a)2 - The previous citation was observed to be corrected.

Staff Records**591-1-1-.09 Criminal Records and Comprehensive Background Checks(CR)****Not Met****Comment**

Director provided 4 file(s) for employees hired since last visit.

Finding

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 review of staff files, Koala Outback, and DECAL Criminal Records Department that portability of a Criminal Records Check for staff # 13 had expired January 26, 2024, and no Records Check Application has been submitted to the Department and Fingerprints to an authorized fingerprinting site as required. A one-day-letter was provided to the center director.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

IMMEDIATE CORRECTION - The Center will immediately 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 as required. The program's owner or an officer/member of the corporation must view the A to Z Background Check video units pertaining to this records check rule and return the signed affidavit within one week from this visit date. The Center will immediately ensure the CRC rules are maintained.

Finding

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 review of staff files, Koala Outback, and DECAL Criminal Records Department that portability of a Criminal Records Check for staff # 13 expired January 26, 2024, and the staff member has no current Satisfactory Comprehensive Records Check Determination letter on file at the center at this visit as required. A one-day-letter was provided to the center director.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

IMMEDIATE CORRECTION - The Center will immediately 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. The program's owner or an officer/member of the corporation must view the A to Z Background Check video units pertaining to this records check rule and return the signed affidavit within one week from this visit date. The center will immediately ensure the CRC rules are maintained.

Correction Deadline: 5/20/2024

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

Evidence observed of 50% of center staff certified in First Aid and CPR.

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

Documentation observed of required staff training.

Comment

Discussed: Health and Safety Training is required for each staff member with direct care responsibilities within 90 calendar days of their hire date.

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)**Met****Comment**

Center observed to maintain appropriate staff:child ratios.

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

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