



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: 9/24/2024 **VisitType:** Complaint Investigation & Licensing Study **Arrival:** 9:45 AM **Departure:** 3:00 PM

CCLC-27902

Lowndes I Head Start Center

1613 Ulmer Avenue Valdosta, GA 31601 Lowndes County
(229) 244-6300 vwilliams@cpheadstart.org

Regional Consultant

Lindsey Ray

Phone: (404) 478-4441

Fax:

lindsey.ray@dec.al.ga.gov

Mailing Address

Same

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.
09/24/2024	Complaint Investigation & Licensing Study	Good Standing	
10/10/2023	Licensing Study	Good Standing	
03/15/2023	Monitoring Visit	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	3 years- Rm G		0	0	C	15	C	NA	NA	
Main	Rm A	Three Year Olds	3	14	C	15	C	NA	NA	Circle Time, Floor Play
Main	Rm B	Four Year Olds	2	15	C	17	C	NA	NA	Circle Time
Main	Rm C	Three Year Olds	3	16	C	16	C	NA	NA	Centers
Main	Rm D	Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds	3	13	C	16	C	NA	NA	Centers
Main	Rm E	Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds and Five Year Olds	2	16	C	17	C	NA	NA	Floor Play
Main	Rm F	Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds	2	16	C	16	C	NA	NA	Floor Play
Main	Rm H	Three Year Olds	3	15	C	16	C	NA	NA	Outside
Main	Rm I	Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds	2	11	C	16	C	NA	NA	Free Play, Floor Play
Main	Rm J	Four Year Olds and Five Year Olds	2	16	C	16	C	NA	NA	Free Play
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 160			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0							
Total # Children this Date: 132			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0							

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	Playground	155	C

Enrolled Children						
Under 1 years	1 years	2 years	3 years	4 years	5 years (Prekonly)	5 years and older
0	0	0	99	52	0	0

Comments

The purpose of today's visit was to conduct a licensing study.

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.decgal.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@decgal.ga.gov for more information. Free technical assistance is available!



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(Findings Report)

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Study

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The following information is associated with a Licensing Study Visit:

Activities and Equipment

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

Not Met

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 observation that the bathrooms attached to Classrooms D and E had filing cabinets that had rust and sharp edges exposed to the children in care.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

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

Correction Deadline: 9/24/2024

Finding

591-1-1-.12(4) requires that equipment and furniture is secured if it is of a weight or mass that could cause injury from tipping, falling, or being pulled or pushed over. It was determined based on observation that in Classroom I there was a plastic fish tank sitting on the edge of the sink that could cause injury from being pulled down onto a child.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will ensure that the identified equipment or furniture and any other such existing or future items are secured adequately and will have a system for checking these for stability.

Correction Deadline: 9/24/2024

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

N/A

Comment

Center does not provide swimming activities.

Children's Records

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

Met

Correction Deadline: 10/10/2023

Corrected on 9/24/2024

.08(1) - This citation was observed to be corrected on this date. The consultant observed complete enrollment forms.

Facility

591-1-1-.06 Bathrooms

Not Met

Finding

591-1-1-.06(4) requires a Center first licensed after March 1, 1991, and Centers that remodel or add to existing plumbing facilities, to have the bathroom area fully enclosed and ventilated to the outside of the building with either an open screened window or functioning exhaust fan and duct system and requires Centers without fully enclosed bathrooms to ensure there is adequate ventilation to control odors and adequate sanitation measures to prevent the spread of contagious diseases. It was determined based on observation that the bathroom in Classroom D did not have a functioning exhaust fan as required by the department.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will fully enclose and ventilate bathroom areas, as required, and will provide adequate ventilation and sanitation in bathrooms that are not fully enclosed.

Correction Deadline: 10/24/2024

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(11) requires that floor coverings be tight, smooth, free of odors and washable or cleanable. It was determined based on observation that in the bathrooms adjoining all of the classrooms had linoleum flooring that was raised and pulling away from the toilets, leaving it in a condition that was not tight, smooth, and cleanable.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

Floors will be maintained to be safe and sanitary.

Correction Deadline: 10/24/2024

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:

- Classroom A- teacher bag, vinyl gloves on table, triple antibiotic cream in unlocked filing cabinet
- Classroom C-wet wipes laying on table
- Classroom D-in unlocked filing cabinet in bathroom were a stapler, packing tape dispenser, plastic bags teacher bag containing prescription medication, and a dust pan and broom
- Classroom E-black power strip on the floor with three uncovered outlets, broom and dust pan in bathroom.
- Classroom F-in unlocked filing cabinet in the bathroom was a can of Lysol, a stapler, wipes, and trash bags.

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: 9/24/2024

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

Not Met

Correction Deadline: 10/10/2023

Corrected on 9/24/2024

.26(4) - This citation was observed to be corrected on this date. All fence repairs had been made.

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 there was rust on a large easel next to the air conditioner unit.

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: 10/4/2024

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 the following hazards were observed:

-A live fire ant bed to the right of the back door.

-Next to the main building, exposed wiring that runs from the AC unit to the inside of the building.

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: 9/24/2024

Recited on 9/24/2024

Food Service

591-1-1-.18 Kitchen Operations

Met

Correction Deadline: 10/10/2023

Corrected on 9/24/2024

.18(1) - This citation was observed to be corrected on this date. The consultant observed all food to be properly stored and in sound condition.

Health and Hygiene

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

Met

Comment

No children enrolled who require diapering. School age children attend only for after school hours.

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

Met

Comment

Proper hand washing observed throughout the center.

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

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

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

Met

Correction Deadline: 10/11/2023

Corrected on 9/24/2024

.36(6) - This citation was observed to be corrected. The consultant observed complete routine pick-up and delivery locations.

Correction Deadline: 10/11/2023

Corrected on 9/24/2024

.36(7)(b) - This citation was observed to be corrected on this date. The consultant observed emergency medical information maintained on the vehicle for each child.

Sleeping & Resting Equipment

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

Met

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.

Staff Records

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

Met

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)

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.