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: 7/15/2024 **VisitType:** Licensing Study **Arrival:** 10:30 AM **Departure:** 4:10 PM

CCLC-35847
Bright Beginnings Learning Academy
2982 Flat Shoals Rd. Decatur, GA 30034 DeKalb County
(404) 254-3475 bbla2982@yahoo.com

Regional Consultant
Jessica Johnson
Phone: (770) 357-5090
Fax:
jessica.johnson@decal.ga.gov

Mailing Address
Same

Quality Rated: ★ ★

Compliance Zone Designation		
07/15/2024	Licensing Study	Good Standing
02/05/2024	Complaint Closure	Good Standing
02/02/2024	Complaint Investigation & Licensing Study	Good Standing

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.

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/Front	One Year Olds and Two Year Olds	2	17	C	26	C	NA	NA	Free Play
Main	B/Left	Infants and One Year Olds	1	4	C	11	C	NA	NA	Free Play,Floor Play
Main	C/Lower	Six Year Olds and Over	1	15	C	31	C	43	C	Circle Time
		Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 68			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0					
Two	A	Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds and Five Year Olds	1	12	C	7	NC	NA	NA	Centers
Two	B		0	0	C	11	C	NA	NA	
		Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 18			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0					
Total # Children this Date: 48		Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 86			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0					

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	A/Concrete	49	C
Main	B	196	C

Comments
An on-site inspection was conducted on July 15, 2024 with the Director Latrawne Ellis. 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.decal.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 a1 855-800-7747 or qualityrated@decal.ga.gov **for more information. Free techincal assistance is available!**

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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-.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 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: 7/15/2024

591-1-1-.12 Equipment & Toys(CR) — **Met**

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

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

Comment
Center does not provide swimming activities.

Children's Records

Records Reviewed: 5 **Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 3**

Child # 1 — Not Met
"Missing/Incomplete Components"
.08(1)(a)-Work Number Missing

Child # 2 — Not Met
"Missing/Incomplete Components"
.08(1)-Doctor, Clinic, Phone Numbers

Child # 4 — Not Met
"Missing/Incomplete Components"
.08(1)-Allergies and Disabilities

591-1-1-.08 Children's Records **Not Met**

Finding
591-1-1-.08(1) The Consultant discussed with the Director that Center Staff must maintain a file for each child while such child is in care and for one year after that child is no longer enrolled. In order for the file to be complete, the file shall contain the following: home and work telephone numbers; telephone number of the child's primary source of health care; and a statement regarding known allergies, physical problems, mental health disorders, intellectual disabilities or developmental disabilities which limit the child's participation in the program. .

POI (Plan of Improvement)
Center staff will develop a plan that includes how to obtain all required information for currently enrolled children and how to ensure this is done for future enrollees as well. The plan will also include how and where to maintain files for the required amount of time. The plan will be implemented and followed.

Correction Deadline: 7/15/2024

Facility

591-1-1-.06 Bathrooms **Not Met**

Comment
Please monitor bathrooms for necessary supplies.

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 there was no ventilation in the restrooms in classroom C Lower and Building two classroom A.

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: 7/29/2024

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**

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:

Classroom A
- Hanging TV cord.
- Rolled edges on the blue carpet in the dramatic area.

Classroom C
- Palmolive soap and baby oil in a container on the back shelf accessible to children in care.
- Plastic grocery bags in the container on the back shelf accessible to children in care.

Building Two A
-Two plastic bags were located on the back counter accessible to children in care.
- Handing cords from the outlet on the right wall near the our reading corner sign.

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: 7/15/2024

591-1-1-.25 Physical Plant-Structural/Mechanical **Technical Assistance**

Technical Assistance
591-1-1-.25(14) - The Consultant discussed with the Director repairing the light bulb.

Correction Deadline: 8/14/2024

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

Technical Assistance
591-1-1-.26(4) - The Consultant discussed with the Director adding a pool noodle to the front gate on the right side and adding a pool noodle to the bottom of the entrance gate.

Correction Deadline: 7/15/2024

Finding
591-1-1-.26(4) requires that playgrounds be protected from traffic or other hazards by a (4) four foot high fence or other barrier approved by this Department. Fencing material shall not present a hazard to children and shall be maintained so as to prevent children from leaving the playground area by any means other than through an approved access route. Fence gates shall be kept closed except when persons are entering or exiting the area. It was determined based on observation that the front fence on the left side measured at three feet nine inches when four feet was required. It was further determined that the fencing around all three air conditioning units measured at approximately three feet when four feet was required. It was also determined that the fence gaps around the air conditioning unit measured at approximately five and a half inches.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
The Center will routinely check the fence to determine if it is in good repair and remains at least 4 feet high, and will repair any hazards. The Center will train Staff to identify and report any fence hazards and to keep the fence gates closed when not in use.

Correction Deadline: 7/29/2024

Technical Assistance
591-1-1-.26(6) - The Consultant discussed removing the yellow and red car with the broken steering wheel from playground B and spray painting the rusted wheel in the yellow spin toy. .

Correction Deadline: 7/25/2024

Finding
591-1-1-.26(8) requires climbing and swinging equipment to have a resilient surface beneath the equipment and the fall zone from such equipment must be adequately maintained by the Center to assure continuing resiliency. It was determined based on observation there was zero to one inch of measurable wood chips under the fire pole of the play structure on the left side of playground B, when six inches was required. It was further determined that there was zero to one inch of measurable wood chips on the climbing ladder on the play structure on the left side and right side of playground B, when three inches was required. It was also determined based on observation that there was zero to one inch of measurable wood chips around the large climbing structure on the left side of playground B.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
The Center will add additional resilient surfacing to the fall zones where needed and check daily, adding resilient surfacing as needed to maintain adequate resiliency.

Correction Deadline: 7/29/2024

Recited on 7/15/2024

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 on the playground:

A/Concrete
- Litter near the white door on the right side.
- A protruding bolt at the bottom of the stair from classroom A.

B
- Debris on the top of the yellow shade on the left side.
- Vegetation growing on the fence throughout.
- A protruding fence post on the left side.
- Splintering wood on both wooden play structures.
- Weeds with thorns on the upper play area near the fire pole.
- High grass.

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: 7/15/2024

Food Service

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

Comment
Center menu meets USDA guidelines.

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

Technical Assistance
591-1-1-.18(5)The Consultant discussed with the Director adding a thermometer to the Freezer across from the kitchen. The Consultant discussed that the temperature must be maintained at zero (0) degrees Fahrenheit or below.

Correction Deadline: 7/15/2024

Health and Hygiene

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

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

591-1-1-.17 Hygiene(CR) **Technical Assistance**

Technical Assistance
591-1-1-.17(7) - The Consultant discussed with the Director 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.

Correction Deadline: 7/15/2024

Technical Assistance
591-1-1-.17(8) - The Consultant discussed with the Director staff to wash their hands with liquid soap and warm running water upon arrival for the day, when moving from one child care group to another, upon re-entering the child care area after outside play, before and after diapering each child, dispensing medication, applying topical medications, handling and preparing food, eating, drinking, preparing bottles, feeding each child, assisting children with eating and drinking, after toileting or assisting children with toileting, using tobacco products, handling garbage and organic waste, touching animals or pets, handling bodily fluids and after contamination by any means.

Correction Deadline: 7/15/2024

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

Comment
The Provider currently does not dispense/administer medication.

Policies and Procedures

591-1-1-.21 Operational Policies & Procedures **Technical Assistance**

Technical Assistance
591-1-1-.21(1)(q) - The Consultant discussed with the Director that requires the Center to have in the Center policies and procedures a description of the safe sleep practices followed by the Center that includes the following information: the initial placement of Infants on their backs to sleep; no cover or other soft items in crib; appropriate sleep clothing for Infants to be provided by Parent; individual crib, cot or mat and bedding provided and changing and cleaning practices for these items; Infants who fall asleep in other equipment, on the floor or elsewhere will be moved to a crib to sleep; and no swaddling or positioning devices used.

Correction Deadline: 7/20/2024

Technical Assistance
591-1-1-.21(1)(p) The Consultant discussed with the Director updating the location of the radio and the emergency numbers in the Emergency Preparedness Plan.

Correction Deadline: 7/20/2024

Safety

591-1-1-.05 Animals **Met**

Comment
Center does not keep animals on premises.

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

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

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

Comment
Field trip documentation observed to be complete.

591-1-1-.36 Transportation(CR) **Not Met**

Comment
Paperwork, checklist, permission forms, annual inspection form and proper check of the vehicle after transportation were discussed with the director.

Finding
591-1-1-.36(4)(a) requires an annual safety check for each vehicle. The annual safety check, completed by a trained individual, should include a check of the: tires, headlights, horn, taillights, turn signals, brake lights, brakes, suspension, exhaust system, steering, windows, windshields and windshield wipers. A copy of the annual safety check will be kept in the Center or on the vehicle and should include evidence of any repairs and/or replacements that were identified as needed on the inspection report. It was determined based on observation that the annual vehicle check was not renewed within the annual date of 6/28/24.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
The Center will obtain the annual vehicle inspection.

Correction Deadline: 7/29/2024

Technical Assistance
591-1-1-.36(4)(b) - The Consultant discussed with the Director replacing the end covers on the first row and second row in vehicle CUW7269.

Correction Deadline: 7/16/2024

Technical Assistance
591-1-1-.36(4)(f)1. - The Consultant checked the vehicle for compliance. The use of age appropriate restraints seats were discussed with the director. Please note that Child restraints seats are required for use in a passenger vans. The Director stated that parents provide car seats for children transported in the van.

Correction Deadline: 7/16/2024

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)(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 there was six cots that had unraveling ends in classroom A in Building Two. It was further determined based on observation that one cot had a teat on the right side.

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: 7/29/2024

Staff Records

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

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 a review of records that staff #1 did not submit both a Records Check Application to the Department and Fingerprints to an authorized fingerprinting site on this date.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
IMMEDIATE CORRECTION - The Center will to 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 ensure the CRC rules are maintained.

Correction Deadline: 7/15/2024

Recited on 7/15/2024

Finding
591-1-1-.09(1.)(b) requires the Center to ensure that every Director 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 Director 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 a review of records that staff #1 did not have 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.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
IMMEDIATE CORRECTION - The Center will check to ensure that the Director 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 Director 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 check to ensure the CRC rules are maintained.

Correction Deadline: 7/15/2024

Correction Deadline: 2/2/2024

Corrected on 7/15/2024
.09(1)(c) - Citation corrected. Criminal records checks for staff observed complete.

591-1-1-.14 First Aid & CPR — **Met**

Comment
Complete first aid kits observed in center and on vehicles.

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

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.

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) — **Technical Assistance**

Technical Assistance
591-1-1-.32(1) - The Consultant discussed with the Director that the Center must maintain the required Staff:child ratios as follows: under 1 year or under 18 months if not walking = 1:6; 1 year and walking = 1:8; 2 years = 1:10; 3 years = 1:15; 4 years = 1:18; 5 years = 1:20;and 6 years and older = 1:25. A Center must establish groupings of children for care with maximum group sizes as follows: under 1 year = 12; under 18 months/not walking = 12; 1 year and walking = 16; 2 years = 20; 3 years = 30; 4 years = 36; 5 years = 40; and 6 years and older = 50.

Correction Deadline: 7/15/2024

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 the staff person stepped out of classroom A for two seconds leaving eight children unsupervised to open the door for the Consultant and tell the Director the Consultant was 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: 7/15/2024