



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: 2/27/2023 **VisitType:** Monitoring Visit **Arrival:** 9:10 AM **Departure:** 10:35 AM

CCLC-3978

Stepping Stones Educational Therapy Center

141 Futral Rd. Griffin, GA 30224 Spalding County
 (770) 229-5511 e.johns@steppingstonesschool.org

Regional Consultant

Brandi Mangino

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Mailing Address
 Same

Quality Rated: ★ ★

Compliance Zone Designation		
02/27/2023	Monitoring Visit	Good Standing
08/24/2022	Licensing Study	Good Standing
01/06/2022	Monitoring Visit	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-Left Hall	Infants and One Year Olds	2	5	C	16	C	NA	NA	Floor Play
Main	B-Left Hall	One Year Olds and Two Year Olds	2	10	C	15	C	NA	NA	Outside
Main	C-Left Hall	Two Year Olds and Three Year Olds	2	11	C	15	C	NA	NA	Outside
Main	D-Left Hall	Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds	2	7	C	15	C	NA	NA	Circle Time
Main	E-Left Hall		0	0	C	13	C	NA	NA	
Main	F-Rear Hall		0	0	C	12	C	NA	NA	
Main	L-Right Hall		0	0	C	12	C	NA	NA	
Main	M-Right Hall		0	0	C	13	C	NA	NA	
Main	N	PreK	2	14	C	22	C	NA	NA	Centers
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.:			133			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0				
Total # Children this Date: 47			Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 133			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0				

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	Plgd	31	C
Main	Plgd-Inf./ Preschool	42	C

Comments

Plan of Improvement developed on this date.

Plan of Improvement: Developed This Date 02/27/2023

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.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 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 1 855-800-7747 or qualityrated@dec.ga.gov for more information. Free technical assistance is available!

Emily Johns, Program Official

Date

Brandi Mangino, Consultant

Date



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Findings Report

Date: 2/27/2023 **VisitType:** Monitoring Visit

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Departure: 10:35 AM

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The following information is associated with a Monitoring Visit:

Activities and Equipment

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.

Facility

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)

Met

Correction Deadline: 2/27/2023

Corrected on 2/27/2023

.25(13) - Citation corrected. Consultant discussed that all hazards must be kept inaccessible to children in care.

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

Not Met

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 2nd Left gate had a gap approximately three inches that posed an entrapment hazard.

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: 2/27/2023

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)

Met

Correction Deadline: 8/24/2022

Corrected on 2/27/2023

.17(8) - Citation corrected.

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

Not Met

Finding

591-1-1-.20(2) requires that written authorization to dispense medication is limited to two weeks unless otherwise prescribed by a physician or authorized under Georgia law. Medication shall only be dispensed out of its original container which must be labeled with the child's name or as authorized under Georgia law. It was determined based on a review of records that a medication log was signed by the parent on December 7, 2023 for the child to be given Albuterol from December 7, 2023 until May 26, 2023 without a physician note. In addition, the medication was given on January 10, 2023 outside of the two week time frame for the log.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will train all Staff on the medication requirements. The designated person(s) will monitor the dispensing of medications.

Correction Deadline: 2/27/2023

Recited on 2/27/2023

Organization

591-1-1-.16 Governing Body & License

Technical Assistance

Technical Assistance

Consultant discussed that Room's E, F, L and M need to be removed from the center license due to them being used by Rainbow Rehab and not the center.

Correction Deadline: 3/13/2023

Policies and Procedures

591-1-1-.29 Required Reporting**Not Met****Finding**

591-1-1-.29(3) requires the Director or designated person-in-charge to report or cause to be reported to the Department within twenty-four (24) hours or the next work day: any death of a child while in the care of the Center; any serious illness or injury requiring hospitalization or professional medical attention other than first aid of a child while in the care of the Center; any situation when a child in care becomes missing, such as, but not limited to, a child who is left on a vehicle, a child who leaves the building, playground, or property, or a child who is left behind on any trip; any fire; any structural disaster; any emergency situation that requires temporarily relocating children; and any time the program's operating status changes (i.e., open to closed or temporarily closed and temporarily closed to open). It was determined the center did not report closures for Christmas Break or Winter Break.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will develop a procedure so everyone knows how and when to report these incidents to the Department and will follow-up to make sure they are reported as required.

Correction Deadline: 2/27/2023**Safety**

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

Age-appropriate discussion and/or redirection observed.

591-1-1-.36 Transportation(CR)**Not Evaluated****Comment**

Center does not provide routine transportation.

Sleeping & Resting Equipment

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

Please ensure that when children fall asleep they are provided a cot/mat or placed in their cribs for sleeping.

Correction Deadline: 3/9/2023**Staff Records**

One or more parameters were not specified for the subreport, 'StaffMissingRequirements', located at: `mvKnoalaPDFCreationConsole Reports RDI C:StaffMissingRequirements.rdlc`

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**

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)**Not Met****Finding**

591-1-1-.32(4)(b) allows children who turn three years old during the regular school year to remain with two year old for the remainder of the school year but requires agreement from the older child's Parent(s) for the continued placement. It was determined based on observation that in Room C three-year-old children were housed with two-year-old children without parental permission.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will secure parental permission and keep it on file.

Correction Deadline: 2/27/2023

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

Center observed to maintain appropriate staff:child ratios.