



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: 8/18/2021 **VisitType:** Complaint Investigation & Monitoring Visit **Arrival:** 8:00 AM **Departure:** 3:30 PM

CCLC-46772

Stepping Stones Academy

1108 Bear Creek Blvd Hampton, GA 30228 Henry County
 (770) 707-3955 hamptonssa@gmail.com

Regional Consultant

April Brown

Phone: (770) 357-5101

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april.brown@decal.ga.gov

Mailing Address

Same

Quality Rated: ★

Compliance Zone Designation		
08/18/2021	Complaint Investigation & Monitoring Visit	Good Standing
08/18/2021	Complaint Closure	Good Standing
05/18/2021	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- Infants-1st Right	Two Year Olds	2	14	C	11	NC	NA	NA	Free Play
Main	B- 2's 2nd Right		0	0	C	20	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
Main	C- PreK 3rd Right		0	0	C	19	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
Main	D- PreK 4th Right	PreK	2	20	C	26	C	NA	NA	Centers
Main	E- School age-5th Right		0	0	C	27	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
Main	F- Toddlers- 2nd Left	Infants	1	5	C	10	C	NA	NA	Floor Play,Nap
Main	G- 3's 3rd Left	One Year Olds	2	12	C	15	C	NA	NA	Lunch
Main	H- 3's 4th Left		0	0	C	15	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
Main	I- PreK 5th Left		0	0	C	20	C	NA	NA	Not In Use

Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 163

Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0

Total # Children this Date: 51

Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 163

Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	Playground C (back right)	99	C
Main	Playground D (right front)	47	C
Main	Plgd A - Infants left side of Bldg	20	C
Main	Plgd B- Toddler	46	C

Comments

A Complaint Investigation was conducted on August 18, 2021. A virtual inspection / Monitoring Visit was completed. Core Rules and any previous citations were all reviewed with the director and owner. An in-person visit was not conducted due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Plan of Improvement: Developed This Date 08/18/2021

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), e-mail the following information to CCSRefutations@decal.ga.gov.

- 1) Facility name, license number and visit date
- 2) Your name, title/relationship to the facility, e-mail address & up to two phone number(s) where you can be reached
- 3) Specific rule number(s) that you are refuting, along with your concerns or questions regarding the rule citation

Refutations must be submitted to Child Care Services (CCS) within 10 business days of the completion date.

A sample form for submitting a refutation can be found at: <http://decal.ga.gov/ChildCareServices/RefutationInformation.aspx>

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 New Deadlines:

Your program must be Quality Rated by December 31, 2020 in order to continue to receive Childcare and Parent Services (CAPS).

Get started today! Sign up by completing a short online application: <https://qualityrated.decal.ga.gov/>
Request free technical assistance to help you earn your star rating by contacting the Quality Rated help desk at 855-800-7747 or qualityrated@decal.ga.gov

Stephanie Snyder, Program Official

Date

April Brown, Consultant

Date



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Findings Report

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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

Equipment and furniture observed to be properly secured, as applicable on this date. A Virtual Visit was conducted due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

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

N/A

Comment

Center does not provide swimming activities at this time. A Virtual Visit was conducted due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Facility

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

Met

Comment

Licensed capacity observed to be met by the center on this date. A Virtual Visit was conducted due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

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

Met

Comment

Center appears clean and well maintained on this date. A Virtual Visit was conducted due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

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

Technical Assistance

Comment

Playgrounds observed to be clean and in good repair on this date. A Virtual Visit was conducted due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.26(8) - Discussed maintenance of resilient surface. Please fluff and redistribute as the mulch appeared to be compacted due to the rainy weather. A Virtual Visit was conducted due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Correction Deadline: 8/28/2021

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. A Virtual Visit was conducted due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

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

Met

Comment

Staff were observed to remind children to wash hands on this date. A Virtual Visit was conducted due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

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

N/A

Comment

The center currently does not dispense or administer medication at this time. A Virtual Visit was conducted due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Safety

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

Met

Comment

Age-appropriate discussion and redirection observed on this date. A Virtual Visit was conducted due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

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

Not Met

Comment

A current and completed inspection was observed for all vehicles used in transporting children on this date. Vehicles with tag numbers ending in E4651 and L4623 were completed on July 29, 2021. Vehicle with tag number ending in M2175 was completed on July 28, 2021. A Virtual Visit was conducted due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Finding

591-1-1-.36(7)(d)1. requires that the first check be conducted immediately upon unloading the last child at any location including, but not limited to, a field trip destination, arrival at the Center, and the last stop during transportation to home or school. The responsible person on the vehicle shall physically walk through the entire vehicle; visually inspect all seat surfaces, under all seats and in all compartments or recesses in the vehicle's interior; sign the passenger transportation checklist (s), indicating all of the children have exited the vehicle; and give the passenger transportation checklist(s) to the second designated Staff person. It was determined based on a review of records the first check was not immediately conducted upon unloading children who were transported during routine afterschool transportation from Beaverbrook Elementary School to the center on August 8, 2021.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will train Staff who are or may be involved in transporting children in how to thoroughly inspect a vehicle and properly complete transportation documentation. The Center will review and monitor.

Correction Deadline: 8/19/2021

Sleeping & Resting Equipment

Comment

Discussed SIDS and infant sleeping position with the director on this date. A Virtual Visit was conducted due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Staff Records**Records Reviewed: 15****Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 0**

Staff # 1	Met
Date of Hire: 07/28/2021	<u>Reminder - Health & Safety training is required within 90 calendar days of hired</u>
Staff # 2	Met
Date of Hire: 08/03/2021	<u>Reminder - Health & Safety training is required within 90 calendar days of hired</u>
Staff # 3	Met
Date of Hire: 11/02/2020	
Staff # 4	Met
Date of Hire: 11/15/2017	
Staff # 5	Met
Date of Hire: 11/02/2020	
Staff # 6	Met
Date of Hire: 08/16/2021	<u>Reminder - Health & Safety training is required within 90 calendar days of hired</u>
Staff # 7	Met
Date of Hire: 05/10/2021	
Staff # 8	Met
Date of Hire: 08/12/2021	<u>Reminder - Health & Safety training is required within 90 calendar days of hired</u>
Staff # 9	Met
Date of Hire: 07/27/2021	<u>Reminder - Health & Safety training is required within 90 calendar days of hired</u>
Staff # 10	Met
Staff # 11	Met
Staff # 12	Met
Date of Hire: 11/18/2020	
Staff # 13	Met
Date of Hire: 09/09/2019	

Records Reviewed: 15

Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 0

Staff # 14

Met

Date of Hire: 08/13/2021

Reminder - Health & Safety training is required within 90 calendar days of hired

Staff # 15

Met

Date of Hire: 02/17/2020

Staff Credentials Reviewed: 5

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

Met

Comment

Criminal record checks were observed to be complete on this date. A Virtual Visit was conducted due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

591-1-1-.33 Staff Training

Defer

Defer

Staff training will be deferred and reviewed during the next licensing study visit. A Virtual Visit was conducted due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

Previously Cited: The Center will plan and schedule the required 10 hours of annual training each year and follow up to ensure the training is completed.

The Center will plan and schedule the required 10 hours of annual training each year and follow up to ensure the training is completed.

Correction Deadline: 2/18/2020

591-1-1-.31 Staff(CR)

Met

Comment

Staff observed to be compliant with applicable laws and regulations on this date. A Virtual Visit was conducted due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Staffing and Supervision

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

Met

Comment

Center observed to maintain appropriate staff:child ratios on this date. A Virtual Visit was conducted due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

591-1-1-.32 Supervision(CR)

Met

Comment

Adequate supervision observed on this date. A Virtual Visit was conducted due to the COVID-19 pandemic.