



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: 3/25/2022 **VisitType:** Monitoring Visit **Arrival:** 10:00 AM **Departure:** 11:00 AM

CCLC-497

Rising Stars Kids Academy

6224 Hillandale Dr. Lithonia, GA 30058 DeKalb County
 (770) 981-8411 elainemar_palmer@yahoo.com

Regional Consultant

Kesha McNeal
 Phone: (866) 359-1672
 Fax: (866) 359-7490
 kesha.mcneal@decal.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.
03/25/2022	Monitoring Visit	Good Standing	
09/28/2021	Licensing Study	Good Standing	
02/02/2021	Monitoring Visit	Good Standing	

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	B-2nd Right rear - 3 y/o	One Year Olds	1	6	C	13	C	NA	NA	Outside
Main	BLDG-III-4th Left- 3 y/o		0	0	C	21	C	30	C	
Main	3rd Left-Additon Pre-K- A		0	0	C	22	C	30	C	
Main	A-1st Right Frnt- 3 y/o	Three Year Olds	1	7	C	13	C	NA	NA	Outside
Main	C-Mid Frnt- Office		0	0	C	9	C	NA	NA	
Main	D-2nd Left Back Room- 0-12 mos	Infants and One Year Olds	1	5	C	18	C	NA	NA	Feeding,Floor Play
Main	E-lower level- Downstairs-4+		0	0	C	26	C	36	C	
Main	F- Bldg-II-Pre-K- House	GA PreK	2	11	C	25	C	NA	NA	Centers

Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 147

Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 174

Total # Children this Date: 29

Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 147

Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 174

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	Large Right	62	C

Comments

A virtual inspection was conducted on March 25, 2022 with the Director. An in-person visit was not conducted due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Plan of Improvement: Developed This Date 03/25/2022

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



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

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)

Elaine Palmer, Program Official

Date

Kesha McNeal, 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

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**

Comment

No hazards observed accessible to children on this date.

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

Comment

Playground observed to be clean and in good repair.

Health and Hygiene

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

Comment

Staff state proper knowledge of diapering procedures.

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

Proper hand washing observed throughout the center.

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

The Provider currently does not dispense/administer medication.

Safety

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

The center's discipline policy was reviewed on this date. Regulations regarding proper discipline were discussed with the director and center staff on this date.

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

A current/completed inspection was observed for all vehicles used in transporting children this date.

Comment

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

Comment

The vehicle had an approved fire extinguisher and first aid kit on this date.

Finding

591-1-1-.36(3)(a-b) requires any Center that provides any type of transportation to obtain two (2) hours of state-approved or state-accepted transportation training, biannually, for the Director and for each person responsible for or who participates in the transportation of children. The training shall include, but is not limited to, a review of the transportation rules, a review of approved transportation forms and procedures, and instruction on the usage and completion of the forms and procedures. This training may be counted as part of the annual training requirements for Staff. It was determined based on the consultant's review that staff member #5, and staff member #6 did not obtain two (2) hours of state-approved or state-accepted transportation training, biannually as required.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will ensure that the Director, Center Staff, and any person responsible for the transportation of children has completed the required transportation training.

Correction Deadline: 4/4/2022**Technical Assistance**

591-1-1-.36(7)(b) - Please ensure that the emergency medical information record for each child shall include a listing of the child's full name, date of birth, allergies, special medical needs and conditions, current prescribed medications that the child is required to take on a daily basis for a chronic condition, the name and telephone number of the child's doctor, the local medical facility that the Center uses in the area where the Center is located and the telephone numbers where the Parents can be reached.

Correction Deadline: 3/26/2022**Technical Assistance**

591-1-1-.36(7)(c)2. - Please ensure that the driver or other designated person shall immediately document in writing, with a check or other mark/symbol to account for each child listed on the passenger transportation checklist each time a child enters and exits the vehicle. The driver or other designated staff person shall document in writing with a different mark/symbol to account for each child listed on the passenger transportation checklist who was not present on the vehicle for any reason. An explanation shall be documented in writing whenever a child is transported to a field trip site but is not present on the return trip to the Center.

Correction Deadline: 3/26/2022

Sleeping & Resting Equipment

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

Technical Assistance

Comment

The correct number of cots, sheets and blankets were observed on this date. Cleaning and disinfecting of cots was discussed with the director on this date.

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.30(4) - Please ensure that cots are stored to prevent children's access to them and to allow maximum use of play space. When storage is available and used for the storage of cots and mats that allows the cots, mats and any bedding to be stored without touching any other cots, mats or bedding, the bedding may be left on the cot or mat. When such storage is not available for the cots and mats, each child's bedding shall be kept separate from other children's bedding and stored in containers marked for individual use, such as, but not limited to, bins, cubbies, or bags.

Correction Deadline: 3/25/2022

Staff Records

Records Reviewed: 8

Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 2

Staff # 1	Met
Date of Hire: 08/15/2006	
Staff # 2	Met
Staff # 3	Met
Staff # 4	Met
Staff # 5	Not Met
<u>"Missing/Incomplete Components"</u>	
.36(3)(a-b)-2 hrs. Transportation Training missing	
Staff # 6	Not Met
Date of Hire: 04/01/1996	
<u>"Missing/Incomplete Components"</u>	
.36(3)(a-b)-2 hrs. Transportation Training missing	
Staff # 7	Met
Date of Hire: 03/02/2020	
Staff # 8	Met

Staff Credentials Reviewed: 4

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

Met

Comment

Consultant requested to view all Criminal Record checks for employees hired after last visit. Director stated that there have been no new hires since last visit

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.

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

Adequate supervision observed on this date.