



**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

Cover Sheet

Date: 5/18/2021 **VisitType:** Monitoring Visit **Arrival:** 8:00 AM **Departure:** 9:30 AM

CCLC-46772

Stepping Stones Academy

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

Regional Consultant

April Brown

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april.brown@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. 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.
05/18/2021	Monitoring Visit	Good Standing	
10/27/2020	Complaint Investigation & Licensing Study	Good Standing	
10/27/2020	Complaint Closure	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	A- Infants-1st Right		0	0	C	11	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
Main	B- 2's 2nd Right	Two Year Olds	1	6	C	20	C	NA	NA	Free Play
Main	C- PreK 3rd Right	Three Year Olds	1	15	C	19	C	NA	NA	Story
Main	D- PreK 4th Right	GA PreK	2	17	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	2	6	C	10	C	NA	NA	Floor Play,Diapering
Main	G- 3's 3rd Left	One Year Olds	1	6	C	15	C	NA	NA	Free Play
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: 50			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
Main	Plgd E- School age	86	C

Comments

An Administrative Review was conducted on May 18, 2021. Core Rules and background checks were all reviewed. A virtual inspection was conducted on May 18, 2021 with the Director. An in-person visit was not conducted due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Compliance with the Executive Order issued on April 30, 2021 was reviewed during the virtual inspection.



Plan of Improvement: Developed This Date 05/18/2021

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.dec.al.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 New Deadlines:

Due to the ongoing COVID restrictions, the deadline to become Quality Rated for programs who want to continue to receive Childcare and Parent Services (CAPS), has been extended to at least December 31, 2021.

Get started today! Sign up by completing a short online application: <https://qualityrated.dec.al.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@dec.al.ga.gov

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@dec.al.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://dec.al.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)

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 variety of equipment and toys were observed throughout the center. 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, per the director. 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. Please be mindful to keep items that pose a hazard inaccessible to children. A Virtual Visit was conducted due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

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

Met

Comment

Discussed maintenance of resilient surface. Please fluff and redistribute as needed. A Virtual Visit was conducted due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Comment

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

Food Service

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

Consultant discussed new revision to restricted food rule which states: Foods that are associated with young children's choking incidents, such as, but not limited to, peanuts, hot dogs, raw carrots, popcorn, fish with bones, cheese cubes, grapes and any other food that is of similar shape and size of the trachea/windpipe shall not be served to the children less than four (4) years of age. Children older than four (4) years of age may be served these foods provided that the foods are cut in such a way as to minimize choking. A Virtual Visit was conducted due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Comment

Please ensure the new updated infant feeding form is used. Discussed revision to the written feeding plans for children under the age of 1 years old. Age-appropriate solid foods (including cereal) shall not be given to infants or children less than one (1) year of age until recommended as developmentally appropriate by the child's primary care physician and indicated in writing by the Parent(s). As soon as the feeding plan indicates that a child is ready for solid foods, the child shall be fed from individual spoons and individual containers or dishes. A child shall not be fed directly from the original baby food container if the contents are to be fed to the child at more than one (1) meal or to more than one (1) child. A Virtual Visit was conducted due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Health and Hygiene

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

Hand washing and sanitizing 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**

Hand washing requirements were discussed with the director on this date. A Virtual Visit was conducted due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

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

Documentation for medication dispensing observed complete on this date. A Virtual Visit was conducted due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Safety

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

A Virtual Visit was conducted due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Discipline was not directly observed during the virtual walk through. Regulations regarding proper discipline were discussed with the Director on this date.

591-1-1-.36 Transportation(CR)**Technical Assistance****Comment**

A current and completed inspection was observed for all vehicles used in transporting children on this date. Vehicle with tag number ending in L4623 and vehicle with tag number ending in M2175 were both completed on March 9, 2021. A Virtual Visit was conducted due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Comment

Consultant discussed with the director to ensure that if children were no longer enrolled, this information should be documented in the comments section of the checklist form as well as documentation to show when children start being transported. A Virtual Visit was conducted due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Technical Assistance

Please ensure that the driver or other designated person document in writing the accurate time of arrival and departure each time the vehicle departs from the Center, is loaded or unloaded at each school and when the vehicle returns to the Center; each time the vehicle departs from the Center, arrives at the location where any child is picked up or dropped off and when the vehicle returns to the Center; each time the vehicle leaves the Center, arrives at a field trip destination, leaves a field trip destination, and returns to the Center as required. Actual times must be documented in writing. A Virtual Visit was conducted due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Correction Deadline: 5/19/2021

Sleeping & Resting Equipment

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

Comment

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

Staff Records

Records Reviewed: 14 Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 0

Staff # 1	Met
Date of Hire: 02/21/2020	
Staff # 2	Met
Date of Hire: 05/10/2021	
Staff # 3	Met
Date of Hire: 11/02/2020	
Staff # 4	Met
Date of Hire: 11/02/2020	
Staff # 5	Met
Date of Hire: 11/15/2017	
Staff # 6	Met
Date of Hire: 11/02/2020	
Staff # 7	Met
Date of Hire: 05/10/2021	
Staff # 8	Met
Date of Hire: 07/22/2019	
Staff # 9	Met
Date of Hire: 05/10/2021	
Staff # 10	Met

Staff # 11	Met
Staff # 12	Met
Date of Hire: 09/09/2019	
Staff # 13	Met
Date of Hire: 05/10/2021	
Staff # 14	Met
Date of Hire: 02/17/2020	

Staff Credentials Reviewed: 6

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.

Comment

Director provided seven files for employees hired since last visit which was completed on October 27, 2020. A Virtual Visit was conducted due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

591-1-1-.33 Staff Training Defer

Defer

Staff annual 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

Additional cleaning and sanitizing recommendations due to the COVID-19 pandemic were discussed and observed during a virtual walk through on this date. The program was in compliance with the Executive Order issued on April 30, 2021.

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. Consultant discussed new revision to the supervision rule which states: 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. A Virtual Visit was conducted due to the COVID-19 pandemic.