



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: 1/20/2023 **VisitType:** Monitoring Visit **Arrival:** 9:10 AM **Departure:** 2:30 PM

CCLC-497

Rising Stars Kids Academy

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

Regional Consultant

Rapheal Betton

Phone: (678) 717-5719

Fax:

rapheal.betton@dec.al.ga.gov

Joint with: Tahishe Smith

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.
01/20/2023	Monitoring Visit	Good Standing	
08/29/2022	Licensing Study	Good Standing	
03/25/2022	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	Two Year Olds and Three Year Olds	1	9	C	13	C	NA	NA	Floor Play
Main	BLDG-III-4th Left- 3 y/o	Two Year Olds and Three Year Olds	1	6	C	21	C	30	C	Transitioning, Floor Play
Main	3rd Left-Additon Pre-K- A		0	0	C	22	C	30	C	
Main	A-1st Right Frnt- 3 y/o	One Year Olds and Two Year Olds	1	9	C	13	C	NA	NA	Floor Play, Free Play
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	4	NC	18	C	NA	NA	Free Play
Main	F- Bldg-II-Pre-K-House	Four Year Olds and Five Year Olds	2	16	C	25	C	NA	NA	Circle Time
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 121						Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 121				
Total # Children this Date: 44			Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 121			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 121				

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	Large Right	62	C

Comments

Consultant conducted a Monitoring visit on this date.

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

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

Elaine Palmer, Program Official

Date

Rapheal Betton, Consultant

Date

Tahishe Smith, 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-.03 Activities

Met

Comment

591-1-1-.03(1) -

Correction Deadline: 1/20/2023

591-1-1-.12 Equipment & Toys(CR)

Met

Correction Deadline: 8/29/2022

Corrected on 1/20/2023

.12(4) - It was determined based on observation on January 20, 2023, that the music and dramatic play cabinet doors were repaired.

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)

Not Met

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 follow hazards were observed accessible to children;

1L- Consultant observed an unlatched pull drawer that contained a grocery bag and a white trash bag. Consultant observed first right classroom with a electrical cord and plastic bags in cabinet under sink.

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: 1/20/2023

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

Discussed maintenance of resilient surface. Please fluff and redistribute on the left playground under the slide areas.

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 consultant observation that the fence became detached from from the poles, on the left playground.

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: 1/20/2023

Finding

591-1-1-.26(6) requires that playground equipment provide an opportunity for the children to engage in a variety of experiences and shall be age-appropriate. For example, toddlers shall not be permitted to swing in swings designed for School-age Children. The outdoor equipment shall be free of lead-based paint, sharp corners and shall be regularly maintained in such a way as to be free of rust and splinters that could pose significant safety hazard to the children. All equipment shall be arranged so as not to obstruct supervision of children. It was determined based on consultant observation a large bolt was protruding from the bottom of the frame of a metal shed. It was determined based on consultant observation that there was splintered wood on the platform of the white slide. Consultant observed splintered wood and nails on the platform of a large red slide. It was determined that sticker briars were observed to be present coming through the back side of a fence. On the left playground, consultant observed a low hanging electrical wire to be present which hung approximately five and a half feet from the ground. It was determined based on observation that there was chipping paint on the bars of the school bus, piece of equipment. It was determined that chipping paint was observed to be present on the red bars of the small red slide.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will provide a variety of age-appropriate equipment that is arranged so as not to obstruct supervision of children. Staff will check the equipment daily to ensure that the equipment is free of hazards, rust and splinters.

Correction Deadline: 1/30/2023

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 consultant observation on January 20, 2023, on the right playground, there was only two inches on resilient surfacing present around the fall zone of a red slide with a tunnel. Additionally, it was observed by consultant that there was only two inches of resilient surfacing around the fall zone of a blue slide.

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: 1/30/2023

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 a white condensation pipe was placed across the sidewalk path, which posed a tripping hazard on the left playground. It was determined based on observation that a low hanging electrical wire was hanging approximately five feet from the ground. On the large playground, there were sticker briars protruding through the fence. It was determined based on consultant's observation that a sticker briar stem was protruding from the ground underneath the large shed structure.

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: 1/20/2023

Health and Hygiene

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

Not Met

Finding

591-1-1-.10(4) requires that if diapers are changed on a diaper changing surface, the surface shall be smooth, nonporous, and equipped with a guard or rails to prevent falls. Between each diaper change, the diaper changing surface shall be cleaned with a disinfectant and dried with a single-use disposable towel. It was determined based on discussion that staff did state proper diaper changing procedures in the the first right classroom when staff did not state proper sanitizing procedures before and after diaper changes. Staff did not state that disinfecting took place after each diaper change.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will ensure there is a smooth, nonporous changing surface that has a guard or rails for safety in each classroom that houses children wearing diapers. Center Staff will be trained and have adequate supplies to properly clean the diaper changing surface between each diaper change.

Correction Deadline: 1/20/2023

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

Met

Comment

Proper hand washing observed throughout the center. Staffing hand washing techniques were discussed.

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

Met

Comment

The Provider currently does not dispense/administer medication.

Policies and Procedures

591-1-1-.22 Parental Access

Not Met

Finding

591-1-1-.22 requires the Center to permit the custodial Parent(s) of the child access to all child care areas of the Center at any time the child is in attendance. The custodial Parent(s) shall make his or her presence known to Center Staff prior to removing the child from the Center. It was determined based on consultant observation that the center failed to allow enrolled parents into the center.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will permit unlimited parental access.

Correction Deadline: 1/20/2023

Safety

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

Comment

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

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

Comment

Complete documentation of transportation observed.

Sleeping & Resting Equipment

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

Comment

Discussed SIDS and infant sleeping position. Staff stated proper sleep position.

Staff Records

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

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. Consultant discussed nap time ratios with the Director.

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

Comment

Staff observed to provide direct supervision and be attentive to children's needs.