



**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: 12/30/2021 **VisitType:** Complaint Investigation Follow Up **Arrival:** 11:00 AM **Departure:** 12:00 PM

CCLC-50415

The Ark Learning Center

1860 Duluth Highway, #100 and #101 Lawrenceville, GA 30043
Gwinnett County
(770) 299-1283 thearklearningcenter1@gmail.com

Mailing Address
Same

Regional Consultant

Kelly Jones

Phone: (770) 357-7062
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kelly.jones@decal.ga.gov

Quality Rated: No

Compliance Zone Designation		
12/30/2021	Complaint Investigation Follow Up	Good Standing
12/15/2021	Licensing Study	Good Standing
06/16/2021	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 Building	A-1st Right	Infants and One Year Olds	2	5	C	13	C	NA	NA	Nap, Floor Play, Not In Use, Diapering
Main Building	B-2nd Right		0	0	C	11	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
Main Building	C-3rd Right		0	0	C	12	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
Main Building	D-1st Left		0	0	C	7	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
Main Building	E-Far Left		0	0	C	7	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
Main Building	G-2nd Suite #101		0	0	C	21	C	NA	NA	Not In Use

Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 71

Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0

Total # Children this Date: 5

Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 71

Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance

Comments

A complaint investigation was conducted via telephone. Staff interviews and a review of the infant room were conducted via Zoom. An in-person visit was not conducted due to COVID. The allegation was unsubstantiated. The complaint investigation was closed on January 19, 2022.

Plan of Improvement: Developed This Date 12/30/2021

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.state.ga.us/CCS/Regulations.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.state.ga.us/>
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.state.ga.us

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.state.ga.us.

- 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.state.ga.us/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)

Cathy Lampton, Program Official

Date

Kelly Jones, Consultant

Date



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Findings Report

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The following information is associated with a Complaint Investigation Follow Up:

Children's Records

591-1-1-.08 Children's Records

Technical Assistance

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.08 - Consultant discussed with the director to ensure all documentation is completed and updated regularly in children's files.

Facility

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

Met

Correction Deadline: 12/15/2021

Corrected on 12/30/2021

.25(13) - The previous citation was observed to be corrected on this date. All hazardous equipment, materials and supplies in the infant room were inaccessible to children.

Food Service

591-1-1-.15 Food Service & Nutrition

Not Met

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.15 - Please ensure that bottles are covered and fully labeled with child's full name.

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.15 - Please ensure that infant feeding forms are updated regularly. Consultant discussed with the director that any special accommodations must be documented on the feeding plan. Mixing food or providing food in a bottle must have a physician's note with very detailed instructions and the purpose..

Finding

591-1-1-.15(2) requires that a signed written feeding plan for children less than one (1) year of age shall be obtained from Parent(s) and that instructions from the Parent(s) shall be updated regularly as new foods are added or other dietary changes are made. The feeding plan shall be posted in the child's assigned room and must include the child's feeding schedule, the amount of formula or breast milk to be given, instructions for the introduction of solid foods, the amount of food to be given and notation of any type(s) of commercially premixed formula which may not be used in an emergency because of food allergies. It was determined based on a review of the infant feeding plans those two of the five reviewed plans did not indicate type of formula, amount of formula and times of feedings. Two of the five feeding plans did not indicate they had been updated in at least 90 days. One feeding plan indicated the last update was April 21, 2021, and another feeding plan indicated the last update was August 10, 2021.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center Director will develop and implement a plan to obtain and post the completed feeding plan as part of the enrollment process and to have parents update the plans on a regular basis that will include center staff involved with enrollment and those working in the infant classrooms.

Correction Deadline: 1/21/2022

Recited on 12/30/2021

Safety

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

Not Met

Finding

591-1-1-.11(2) requires that Personnel not: physically or sexually abuse a child or engage or permit others to engage in sexually overt conduct in the presence of any child enrolled in the Center; inflict corporal/physical punishment upon a child; shake, jerk, pinch or handle a child roughly; verbally abuse or humiliate a child which includes, but is not limited to, the use of threats, profanity or belittling remarks about a child or his family; isolate a child in a dark room, closet or unsupervised area; use mechanical or physical restraints or devices to discipline children; use medication to discipline or control children's behavior without written medical authorization issued by a licensed professional and given with the parent's written consent; restrict unreasonably a child from going to the bathroom; punish toileting accidents; force-feed a child or withhold feeding a child regularly scheduled meals and/or snacks; force or withhold naps; allow children to discipline or humiliate other children; or confined a child for disciplinary purposes to a swing, highchair, infant carrier, walker or jump seat. It was determined based on staff statements and interviews during a complaint investigation that inappropriate discipline was used. Three- year- old and four- year- old children were left in time out for longer periods of time than allowed, facing the wall during time out. Children were removed from the classroom and taken to the multi purpose area or a younger classroom to cool down. Play time was also taken away as forms of discipline.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will take immediate action to ensure the action/conduct has ceased; train/review appropriate child guidance techniques with center staff; and have a system in place to monitor and identify inappropriate actions.

Correction Deadline: 1/19/2022

Sleeping & Resting Equipment

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

Met

Correction Deadline: 12/15/2021

Corrected on 12/30/2021

.30(2)(b) - The previous citation was observed to be corrected on this date. There was evidence that the center was following safe sleep practices during the visit.

Staff Records

Records Reviewed: 13

Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 0

Staff # 1 Met

Date of Hire: 09/28/2020

Staff # 2 Met

Date of Hire: 03/25/2019

Staff # 3 Met

Date of Hire: 08/10/2021

Staff # 4 Met

Date of Hire: 10/21/2019

Staff # 5 Met

Date of Hire: 12/13/2021

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

Staff # 6 Met

Date of Hire: 10/11/2021

Staff # 7 Met

Date of Hire: 03/05/2019

Staff # 8 Met

Date of Hire: 06/16/2021

Staff # 9 Met

Date of Hire: 03/25/2019

Staff # 10 Met

Date of Hire: 11/09/2020

Staff # 11 Met

Date of Hire: 06/04/2021

Staff # 12 Met

Date of Hire: 08/19/2021

Staff # 13 Met

Date of Hire: 06/18/2021

Staff Credentials Reviewed: 0

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

Met

Comment

13 of 13 Criminal record checks were observed to be complete.

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 12/15/2021.

Correction Deadline: 6/16/2021

Corrected on 12/30/2021

.09(1)(b) - This citation was corrected during the 12/15/2021 Licensing Study.

591-1-1-.24 Personnel Records

Technical Assistance

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.24(1) - Consultant discussed with the director to ensure all staff records are current, accurate and organized.

Correction Deadline: 1/4/2022

591-1-1-.33 Staff Training

Met

Correction Deadline: 12/31/2021

Corrected on 12/30/2021

.33(3) - The previous citation was observed to be corrected on this date. Evidence of the completed health and safety training for the two staff members # 16 and # 17 was on file on this date.

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

Defer

Defer

591-1-1-.31(3)(b)1.-Rule will be evaluated during the next in person regulatory visit.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

This individual will no longer assist with care of children.

Correction Deadline: 6/16/2021