



**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: 8/9/2023 **VisitType:** Initial Licensing Study **Arrival:** 7:00 AM **Departure:** 2:00 PM

CCLC-61863

Ker Early Learning Academy

57 Merritt Street Marietta, GA 30060 Cobb County
(678) 882-0824 kercenter57@gmail.com

Application Services Unit Consultant

Kedirile Knott

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Mailing Address

Same

Quality Rated: No

Compliance Zone Designation		
08/09/2023	Initial Licensing Study	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 - 1st Right	Two Year Olds	2	6	C	9	C	NA	NA	Free Play,Centers	
Main	B - Back Center	Infants and One Year Olds	2	6	C	9	C	NA	NA	Feeding,Floor Play	
Main	C - 1st Left	Four Year Olds	1	4	C	14	C	NA	NA	Centers	
Main	D - Front Center		0	0	C	11	C	NA	NA		
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.:					43	Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.:					0
Total # Children this Date: 16			Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.:			43	Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.:				0

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	Playground A - Left	35	C
Main	Playground B - Back Right	26	C

Comments

An Initial Licensing Study was conducted on August 9, 2023. Permission to Operate was granted on this date. Facility carries Liability Insurance.

Plan of Improvement: Developed This Date 08/09/2023

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.decgal.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

You have received permission to operate and the form received with this report is intended to serve as a temporary license which is **valid for thirty(30) days**. Your actual license/ will be emailed to you upon receipt of the licensing fee. You may pay the licensing fee either online at <http://www.decgal.ga.gov/> or by certified check or money order mailed to: Bright from the Start, 2 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive SE, Suite 670 East Tower, Atlanta, GA 30334

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 855-800-7747 or qualityrated@decgal.ga.gov for more information. Free technical assistance is available!

Lakajdria Swims, Program Official

Date

Kedirile Knott, Application Services Unit Consultant

Date



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(Findings Report)

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The following information is associated with a Initial Licensing Study:

Activities and Equipment

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

Technical Assistance

Comment

A variety of equipment and toys were observed throughout the center.

Technical Assistance

Consultant discussed with the director ensuring that staff remove any toys that are not age-appropriate in rooms housing children under three years of age.

Comment

Equipment and furniture observed to be properly secured, as applicable.

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

N/A

Comment

Center does not provide swimming activities. A pool was not observed on site.

Children's Records

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

Met

Comment

Consultant discussed with the Director the importance of ensuring that all the information on the enrollment packet be filled out by parents. Consultant also discussed with the Director ensuring that parental agreements/authorizations be filled out and kept on file.

Facility

591-1-1-.19 License Capacity(CR)**Met****Comment**

Licensed capacity observed to be routinely met by center. Permission to Operate was granted on this date. The overall license capacity is 43 children.

591-1-1-.25 Physical Plant - Safe Environment(CR)**Technical Assistance****Comment**

Center appears clean and well maintained.

Technical Assistance

Please be mindful to keep items that pose a hazard inaccessible to children.

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

Discussed maintenance of resilient surface. Please fluff and redistribute.

Technical Assistance

Playground observed to be clean. Please ensure that the playground equipment is free of spider webs. Consultant also discussed with the director ensuring that the ant beds are treated and that tree roots and the rail road tie is spray painted.

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 observation that a small area of the fence located on the left side of Playground A measured at 3.5 feet due to the anchored raised garden bed. Consultant also observed bolts on the fence that had more than 2 threads.

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: 8/9/2023

Food Service

591-1-1-.15 Food Service & Nutrition**Not Met****Technical Assistance**

Consultant discussed with the Provider 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. Food shall not be accessible or served to children until it has been chopped, diced, cut, or mashed and is appropriate for each child's age and individual eating, chewing and swallowing ability.

Finding

591-1-1-.15(3) requires baby bottles and formula to be labeled with the individual child's name; supplied by the Parent daily in bottles; and refrigerated at a temperature of forty (40) degrees Fahrenheit or less. Only the current day's formula or breast milk shall be served. If formula must be provided by the Center, only commercially prepared, ready-to-feed formula shall be used. Refrigerated or frozen breast milk shall only be heated or thawed under warm running water or in a container of warm water. It was determined based on observation that the baby bottles were not labeled with the child's last name. A thermometer was not observed in the fridge holding baby bottles.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will train Staff to follow the required procedures, ensure that parents are fully informed, and will review and monitor regularly.

Health and Hygiene

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

Technical Assistance

Technical Assistance

Consultant observed a wooden diaper changing table in Classroom B, which had a pad with a quilted pattern on it, and diaper liners. Consultant also observed a mounted Koala Kare diaper changing table in Classroom B. Consultant discussed with the director ensuring that only the Koala Kare diaper changing table is used until a new, non-porous diaper changing pad is placed on the wooden diaper changing table.

Comment

Hand washing requirements for diapering were discussed with the director on this date.

Comment

Sinks with warm running water observed adjacent to proper diapering surfaces in all classrooms approved for diapering.

Comment

Staff stated proper knowledge of diapering procedures.

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

Met

Comment

Staff were observed to remind children to wash hands.

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

N/A

Comment

Discussed proper medication documentation, administration procedures, and storage.

Policies and Procedures

591-1-1-.27 Posted Notices

Met

Comment

Please make sure that all required signs are posted and up to date.

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)

N/A

Comment

The Center does not provide routine transportation. Consultant discussed transportation requirements if/when the facility decides to incorporate transportation. The center will contact their regional consultant and complete the required two (2) hours transportation training prior to transporting children.

Sleeping & Resting Equipment

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

Not Met

Technical Assistance

Consultant discussed with the director ensuring that crib sheets are changed or laundered daily.

Comment

Discussed SIDS and infant sleeping position.

Comment

Six (6) cribs were present meeting safety compliance with Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) and American Society of Testing and Materials International (ASTM) safety standards as they were manufactured in 2013.

Finding

591-1-1-.30(1)(a)2 requires that a crib mattress is firm, tight-fitting without gaps, at least 2 inches thick and covered with a waterproof, washable material. Before a change of occupant, each mattress shall be cleaned with a disinfectant. It was determined based on observation that one crib mattress measured at 1.5 inches. Consultant also observed minor tears on three crib mattresses.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The center will ensure that a crib mattress is firm, tight-fitting without gaps, non-porous and at least 2 inches thick.

Correction Deadline: 8/9/2023

Staff Records

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

Comment

Criminal record checks were observed to be complete. Seven (7) staff records were observed to have comprehensive satisfactory Criminal Background Check determination letters on file.

591-1-1-.14 First Aid & CPR Technical Assistance

Technical Assistance

Please replace/add missing/expired items in first aid kit.

591-1-1-.31 Staff(CR) Not Met

Comment

Staff observed to be compliant with applicable laws and regulations.

Finding

591-1-1-.31(1)(b)2 requires the Director to possess at least one of the sets of minimum academic requirements and qualifying child care experience listed in Rule 591-1-1-.31(1)(b)2.(i-xiii). It was determined based on observation that the director's CDA Credential was expired.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will ensure that the Director meets the minimum education and work requirements and secure the necessary documentation.

Correction Deadline: 9/29/2023

Technical Assistance

Discussed that all lead staff must enroll in an approved education program within 6 months of hire and complete degree within 18 months.The Center will maintain professional development plans in the staff file.

Correction Deadline: 8/9/2023

Staffing and Supervision

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

Comment

Center observed to maintain appropriate staff:child ratios.

Comment

Mealtimes supervision was discussed with the director on this date. 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.

Comment

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