



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: 4/22/2022 **VisitType:** Complaint Investigation & Monitoring Visit **Arrival:** 10:30 AM **Departure:** 12:45 PM

CCLC-445

Stepping Stones Child Development Center

5176 Old Norcross Rd. Norcross, GA 30071 Gwinnett County
 (770) 446-2464 BILLDUNN@PRODIGY.NET

Regional Consultant

Leena Mitchell
 Phone: (706) 433-7111
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Mailing Address
 Same

Quality Rated: ★

Compliance Zone Designation		
04/22/2022	Complaint Investigation & Monitoring Visit	Good Standing
10/26/2021	Licensing Study	Good Standing
06/23/2021	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	1L	Infants and One Year Olds	1	4	C	10	C	NA	NA	Lunch
Main	1R	GA PreK	1	7	C	24	C	NA	NA	Outside
Main	Back Right	Two Year Olds	1	3	C	8	C	NA	NA	Outside
Main	Down Stairs	Three Year Olds	1	3	C	5	C	NA	NA	Outside
Main	Front		0	0	C	10	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 57					Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0					
Total # Children this Date: 17			Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 57			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0				

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	A	28	C
Main	B	160	C

Comments
 The purpose of this visit was to conduct a complaint investigation and a monitoring visit.

Plan of Improvement: No Plan Developed

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/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@dec.state.ga.us 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)

Michelle Barber, Program Official

Date

Leena Mitchell, 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.

Comment

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

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

Comment

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

Finding

591-1-1-.25(11) requires that floor coverings be tight, smooth, free of odors and washable or cleanable. It was determined based on observation that the flooring in the bathroom of classroom 1L was missing two sections of tile.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

Floors will be maintained to be safe and sanitary.

Correction Deadline: 5/22/2022

Finding

591-1-1-.25(3) requires the Center and surrounding premises to be kept clean, free of debris and in good repair. Hygienic measures such as, but not limited to, screened windows and proper waste disposal procedures shall be utilized to minimize the presence of rodents, flies, roaches and other vermin at the Center. It was determined based on observation that the following areas were not in good repair:

- Classroom back-right, two-year-old classroom had a large hole in the wall behind the rocking chair.
- Classroom 1R, Ga-Pre-K classroom had an outlet with cracked plastic accessible to children, the white board was cracked, the corner of the wall was cracked and had chipping plaster.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will have the Center and surrounding areas cleaned, make repairs where needed, and remove all debris is removed. The Center will implement a plan to keep areas clean and in good repair that includes regular monitoring.

Correction Deadline: 5/18/2022

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

Trees located on the site or that encroach onto the site from adjacent properties may have structural issues that present an elevated level of risk. Consider having these trees inspected by a certified arborist to determine their structural integrity and associated levels of risk.

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 there was a twelve (12) inch gap under the fence around the a/c unit on playground B. And the main gate on playground A did not latch or close completely.

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: 5/18/2022

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 observation that there was one (1) inch of mulch under three of three swings on playground B.

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: 5/18/2022

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 that the playgrounds had the following hazards:

- Playground A had exposed roots that pose a tripping hazard.
- Playground B had exposed roots that pose a tripping hazard, the retaining wall was not in good repair and sections of the wall have fallen, four of four bikes had cracked plastic, the red stationary bike was rusted and had chipping paint. In addition, two trees were observed to have fallen over the fence onto the playground and were laying on the ground accessible to the children.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will remove any litter and fix or remove hazards and remove dead or fallen trees from the playground and will routinely monitor the playground and remove litter and hazards.

Correction Deadline: 5/4/2022

Health and Hygiene

591-1-1-.07 Children's Health

Not Met

Finding

591-1-1-.07(5) requires Center Staff to not permit children to wear around their necks or attach to their clothing pacifiers or other hazardous items. It was determined based on observation that one infant had a pacifier attached to their clothing in classroom 1L.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will instruct Staff regarding this safety requirement.

Correction Deadline: 5/4/2022

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

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

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

Met

Comment

Center does not provide routine transportation.

Sleeping & Resting Equipment

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

Technical Assistance

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.30 - Discussed SIDS and infant sleeping position.

Comment

Please ensure that cribs/cots are labeled for individual use and in good repair.

Staff Records

Records Reviewed: 7

Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 0

Staff # 1

Met

Date of Hire: 08/10/2017

Records Reviewed: 7

Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 0

Staff # 2 Date of Hire: 12/30/2021	Met
Staff # 3 Date of Hire: 06/01/2008	Met
Staff # 4 Date of Hire: 01/05/2022	Met
Staff # 5 Date of Hire: 02/09/2022	Met <u>Reminder - Health & Safety training is required within 90 calendar days of hired</u>
Staff # 6 Date of Hire: 01/04/2022	Met
Staff # 7 Date of Hire: 08/26/2019	Met

Staff Credentials Reviewed: 4

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

Comment

The director provided two files for staff members hired since the previous visit conducted on October 26, 2021. The consultant observed two of two newly hired staff members to have evidence of a satisfactory criminal record check letter on file.

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) **Not Met**

Finding

591-1-1-.32(4) requires that children under three years old be housed in separate physical areas from older children and cannot be mixed with older children except at specified times and circumstances. It was determined based on observation that there was one infant and three (3) two-year-old children on playground A with three (3) three-year-old children.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will maintain separation of these children under three years old.

Correction Deadline: 5/4/2022

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

Comment

Adequate supervision observed on this date.

Comment

Discussed combining children of mixed ages.