



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: 5/19/2023 **VisitType:** Incident Investigation
 Closure

CCLC-46662

Blue Ridge Preschool & Daycare

592 Blue Ridge Dr. Evans, GA 30809 Columbia County
 CCLC-46662 blueridgedaycare592@gmail.com

Lead Consultant

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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.
05/19/2023	Incident Investigation Closure	Good Standing	
05/05/2023	Incident Investigation & Follow Up	Good Standing	
02/14/2023	Complaint Closure	Good Standing	

Comments


The purpose of this visit was to conduct an Incident Investigation Follow Up visit.

Advisement of Potential for Repeated Rule Violations during Pending Investigations

This report shall serve as official notice of potential rule violations. These potential rule violations have been detailed in this report and discussed with you by the consultant. The department shall conduct a thorough investigation to determine if in fact the alleged rule violation(s) should or should not be substantiated. Please be aware that the investigation may take some time to be finalized to ensure fairness and accuracy. During this investigation period, any violations of an identical rule or rules will require the department to treat any and all substantiated rule violations identified in the investigation as repeated rule violation(s).

Further, from time to time the department discovers additional rule violations during the course of an investigation. If there are new rule violation(s), your consultant shall inform you of the violation(s) as soon as possible. However, as stated above, any violations of identical rule(s) will require the department to treat any and all additional rule violations identified in the investigation as repeated rule violations.

All rule violations found in relation to a complaint or incident investigation will be associated with the date the investigation was closed.



Please refer to the website, <http://www.decal.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), 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)

I have read and understand the Rules and Regulations for Child Care Learning Centers, 591-1-1. I acknowledge that the items noted in this report have been discussed with me and I have agreed to a Plan of Improvement (POI) as indicated in this report. I understand that correction of these deficiencies, while required, will not necessarily prevent DECAL from taking adverse action against this facility. I understand that if I disagree with any of the deficiencies cited, I have the right to refute them on this report or any other form that I choose to send to Child Care Services.

Angela Sims, Program Official

Date

Kaycee Purvis ,Lead Consultant

Date



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Summary Report

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The following information is associated with a Incident Investigation Closure:

Activities and Equipment

591-1-1-.03 Activities

Not Met

Finding Associated with Complaint

591-1-1-.03(8) requires a center to provide individual attention to each child by responding promptly to the child's distress signals and need for comfort. It was determined based on investigative findings that center staff did not provide individual attention to a two-year-old child when they did not respond promptly to the child's distress signals, which included the child approaching staff members crying on April 26, 2023.

Correction Deadline: 5/17/2023

Finding Associated with Complaint

591-1-1-.03(9) requires center staff to refrain from engaging in, or allowing children or other adults to engage in, activities that could be detrimental to a child's health or well-being, such as but not limited to, horse play, rough play, wrestling, and picking up a child in a manner that could cause injury. It was determined based on investigative findings, that on April 12, 2023, a three-year-old child was handled roughly when a staff member turned the child's body abruptly, causing the child to fall and hit their head on the sidewalk. It was further determined that that on April 26, 2023, staff members did not properly redirect children from their rough play to prevent a two-year-old child from being hit on the head with toys by several enrolled children of a similar age when video surveillance indicated that staff did not intervene to stop the children from hitting the two-year-old child on the head several times when video surveillance showed a staff member walked to the diaper changing area in the classroom and stayed there for the remainder of the video. The staff member was not observed to be changing a diaper during the video footage. Another staff member was observed to walk towards the diaper changing area also. The two staff members were observed to be engaged in conversation. A third staff member is observed to step in from the adjoining restrooms and handed the second staff member a cell phone. The two-year-old child approached the first staff member standing by the diaper changing area who is writing something. The staff member points to the second staff member motioning for the child to go to that staff member. The second staff member is then observed to be on the cell phone and does not get off when the two-year-old child approaches them.

Correction Deadline: 5/17/2023

Policies and Procedures

591-1-1-.29 Required Reporting

Not Met

Finding Associated with Complaint

591-1-1-.29(1) requires that within twenty-four (24) hours or the next work day, the Director or designated person-in-charge shall report or cause to be reported any suspected incidents of child abuse, neglect or deprivation to the local County Division of Family and Children Services in accordance with state law and to the Department, notifying that such a report was made. It was determined based on investigative findings, that the center did not report an incident of suspected child abuse following an incident on April 5, 2023. Staff were made aware of the incident on April 5, 2023, but did not report the incident to the Division of Family and Child Services and to the Department until April 12, 2023, and not within the twenty-four hour requirement.

Correction Deadline: 5/17/2023

Staffing and Supervision

Finding Associated with Complaint

591-1-1-.32(7) requires that children be supervised at all times appropriate to the individual age, needs and capabilities of each child. Such supervision must include, but not be limited to, indoor and outdoor activities, mealtimes, naptime, transportation, field trips, and transitions between activities. "Supervision" means that the appropriate number of Staff members are physically present in the area where children are being cared for and are providing watchful oversight to the children, volunteers and Students-in-Training. The persons supervising in the child care area must be alert, positioned to maximize their ability to hear and see the children at all times, and able to respond promptly to the needs and actions of the children being supervised, as well as the actions of the volunteers and Students-in-Training, and provide timely attention to the children's actions and needs. 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. It was determined based on investigative findings that center staff did not provide watchful oversight on April 5, 2023, to prevent a four-year-old child from behaving in a sexually inappropriate manner when the children were participating in centers and the four-year-old child was in the dramatic play center. Staff did not provide watchful oversight in that staff members were not physically present in the dramatic play area when the four-year-old child engaged in sexually inappropriate behavior. Center staff also did not provide timely attention to the four-year-old child performing sexually inappropriate behavior and did not respond promptly to this. It was further determined that center staff did not provide watchful oversight to prevent a two-year-old child from being hit on the head with toys several times by more than one enrolled child on April 26, 2023, when one staff member was using their phone and another was writing notes to parents. Children were participating in centers and center staff did not provide watchful oversight in that center staff were not physically present in the block center where several children were hitting a two-year-old child on the head with toys. Center staff were engaged in other activities such as writing notes to parents and using their cell phone and not providing watchful oversight to the classroom.

Correction Deadline: 5/17/2023