



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: 3/2/2023 **VisitType:** Licensing Study **Arrival:** 2:20 PM **Departure:** 7:45 PM

CCLC-50415

The Ark Learning Center

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

Regional Consultant

Lynn Schnitzer

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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.
03/02/2023	Licensing Study	Good Standing	
06/03/2022	Monitoring Visit	Good Standing	
01/19/2022	Complaint Closure	Good Standing	

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	1	5	C	13	C	NA	NA	Floor Play,TV,Nap	
Main Building	D-1st Left	Two Year Olds	1	7	C	7	C	NA	NA	Diapering,Transitioning	
Main Building	E-Far Left	Two Year Olds and Three Year Olds	1	10	NC	7	NC	NA	NA	Transitioning,TV	
Main Building	F-Multipurpose Room	One Year Olds and Two Year Olds and Four Year Olds and Five Year Olds	1	19	NC	0	NC	NA	NA		
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.:			27		Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.:					0	
Total # Children this Date: 41			Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.:		Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.:					0	

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance

Comments

The purpose of today's visit was to conduct a licensing study and to follow up from the previous visit conducted on June 3, 2022.

Plan of Improvement: Developed This Date 03/02/2023

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.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

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.state.ga.us for more information. Free technical assistance is available!

Cathy Lampton, Program Official

Date

Lynn Schnitzer, Consultant

Date



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(Findings Report)

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The following information is associated with a Licensing Study:

Activities and Equipment

591-1-1-.03 Activities

Not Met

Finding

591-1-1-.03(14) requires center staff to limit the use of entertainment media, such as television, videotaped programs or movies and video or computer games to no more than two (2) hours daily per child or group; to provide such activities only at times when alternative activities are available for children who choose not to participate; and to use entertainment media that is age-appropriate in accordance with the Entertainment Software Rating Board (ESRB) and the Motion Picture Association of America (MPAA). It was determined based on observation that three infants were buckled in seats and could not choose an alternative activity in classroom A-1st Right.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will have and use procedures to review and select entertainment media that meets these requirements and will train staff to provide alternate activities for children who choose not to participate.

Correction Deadline: 3/2/2023

Recited on 3/2/2023

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

Met

Comment

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

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

Not Evaluated

Comment

Center does not provide swimming activities.

Children's Records

591-1-1-.08 Children's Records**Met****Comment**

Records were observed to be complete and well organized.

Facility

591-1-1-.06 Bathrooms**Met****Comment**

Bathrooms observed to be clean and well maintained.

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

Licensed capacity observed to be met by center.

591-1-1-.25 Physical Plant - Safe Environment(CR)**Not Met****Finding**

591-1-1-.25(8) requires protective caps on all unused electrical outlets within children's reach and requires that electrical outlets in use be made inaccessible to children. It was determined based on observation that there were uncovered electric outlets in classrooms C-3rd Right and E-Far Left.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will train Staff to check outlets and replace protective caps when needed and identify and monitor how outlets in use are inaccessible to children.

Correction Deadline: 3/6/2023**Recited on 3/2/2023**

591-1-1-.26 Playgrounds(CR)**Defer****Defer**

591-1-1-.26(6)-The previous citation was deferred due to the center awaiting a follow up response from Creative Play regarding the required repairs.

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: 6/13/2022**Food Service**

591-1-1-.15 Food Service & Nutrition**Met****Correction Deadline: 6/3/2022****Corrected on 3/2/2023**

.15(3) - The previous citation was observed to be corrected. Staff stated that bottles are warmed in the bottle warmer.

591-1-1-.18 Kitchen Operations**Met****Comment**

Kitchen appears clean and well organized.

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 observation that a staff member did not disinfectant the diaper changing surface after completing the diaper changing process in classroom D-1st Left.

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: 3/2/2023**Recited on 3/2/2023**

591-1-1-.17 Hygiene(CR)**Not Met****Finding**

591-1-1-.17(7) requires that children wash their hands with liquid soap and warm running water upon arrival for care, when moving from one child care group to another, upon re-entering the child care area after outside play, before and after eating meals and snacks, handling or touching food, playing in water; after toileting and diapering, playing in sand, touching animals or pets, and contact with bodily fluids and after contamination by any other means. It was determined based on observation that children did not wash hands after having their diapers changes in classroom D-1st Left.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will train Staff on required handwashing for children and Staff will ensure children's hands are washed when required. The Director will monitor for compliance.

Correction Deadline: 3/2/2023**Recited on 3/2/2023****Finding**

591-1-1-.17(8) requires staff to wash their hands with liquid soap and warm running water upon arrival for the day, when moving from one child care group to another, upon re-entering the child care area after outside play, before and after diapering each child, dispensing medication, applying topical medications, handling and preparing food, eating, drinking, preparing bottles, feeding each child, assisting children with eating and drinking, after toileting or assisting children with toileting, using tobacco products, handling garbage and organic waste, touching animals or pets, handling bodily fluids and after contamination by any means. It was determined based on observation that a staff member did not wash their hands after completing the diaper changing process in classroom D-1st Left.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will ensure liquid soap and warm running water are available for handwashing, train Staff on the handwashing requirements, review the requirements with Staff periodically, and monitor handwashing.

Correction Deadline: 3/2/2023

591-1-1-.20 Medications(CR)**Not Evaluated****Comment**

The Provider currently does not dispense/administer medication.

Policies and Procedures

591-1-1-.21 Operational Policies & Procedures**Met****Comment**

Program observed complete emergency drills

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.27 - Please make sure that all required signs are posted and up to date.

Safety

591-1-1-.05 Animals**Not Evaluated****Comment**

Center does not keep animals on premises.

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

Age-appropriate discussion and/or redirection observed.

591-1-1-.13 Field Trips(CR)**Not Evaluated****Comment**

Center does not participate in field trips at this time.

591-1-1-.36 Transportation(CR)**Not Met****Technical Assistance**

591-1-1-.36(4)(a) - Consultant discussed with the provider to maintain a copy of the vehicle on inspection report on site.

Correction Deadline: 3/7/2023

Finding

591-1-1-.36(6) requires written Parental authorization for routine transportation provided by or on behalf of the Center. Written authorization must include the routine pick-up location, routine pick-up time, routine delivery location, routine delivery times and the name of any person authorized to receive the child. It was determined based on review of records that the center did not have transportation agreements for one of six children receiving school transportation services.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will obtain the required written parental authorization.

Correction Deadline: 3/3/2023

Recited on 3/2/2023

Correction Deadline: 3/3/2023

Corrected on 3/2/2023

.36(7)(b) - The previous citation was observed to be corrected. Center had emergency medical records for six of six children receiving school transportation services.

Finding

591-1-1-.36(7)(c) requires the center to use passenger transportation checklists, in a format approved by the Department, to account for each child during transportation. A separate passenger checklist must be used for each vehicle. It was determined based on review of records that the center did not have a passenger checklist to document school transportation services. The provider stated that they conducted school transportation services but forms were not available.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will maintain a passenger checklist as required.

Correction Deadline: 3/3/2023

Defer

591-1-1-.36(7)(c)3.-The previous citation was deferred due to the center being cited under .36(7)(c).

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will ensure that each time of arrival and departure is documented by the driver or designated person with training, review and monitoring.

Correction Deadline: 6/4/2022

Defer

591-1-1-.36(7)(d)2.-The previous citation was deferred due to the center being cited under .36(7)(c).

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will train Staff who are or may be involved in transporting children in how to thoroughly inspect a vehicle and properly complete transportation documentation. The Center will review and monitor.

Correction Deadline: 6/3/2022

Sleeping & Resting Equipment

591-1-1-.30 Safe Sleeping and Resting Requirements(CR) Not Met

Finding

591-1-1-.30(2)(c) requires that infants shall not sleep in equipment other than safety-approved cribs, such as, but not limited to, a car safety seat, bouncy seat, highchair, or swing. Infants who arrive at the Center asleep or fall asleep in such equipment, on the floor or elsewhere, shall be transferred to a safety-approved crib. It was determined based on observation that two infants were asleep in bouncy seats in classroom A-1st Right.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will only place infants in safe cribs to sleep and will transfer them to a safe crib when the infants are asleep in other equipment.

Correction Deadline: 3/2/2023

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-.14 First Aid & CPR Not Met

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.14 - Please replace/add missing items in first aid kits.

Finding

591-1-1-.14(2) requires a Staff member who is trained in CPR and first aid to be on the premises and on any field trip whenever any child is present. In addition, Staff who provide direct care to children must satisfactorily obtain certification in first aid and CPR by December 29, 2016 if employed prior to September 30, 2016 and within 90 days of their hire date if employed after September 30, 2016. It was determined based on review of records that staff member #1, date of hire October 28, 2022 and staff #2, date of hire March 25, 2019, did not have current CPR/First Aid certification on file. Staff member #2's certification expired October 21, 2022.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will develop a schedule to ensure there is always a staff person with current first aid and CPR training present and will develop and implement a plan to ensure all staff members have satisfactorily completed first aid and CPR training by the specified date.

Correction Deadline: 4/1/2023

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.24(1) - Consultant discussed with the director to ensure that the maintains a record on each staff member that contains the name, date of birth, social security number, current address and current telephone number; employment history; as applicable to the position held: evidence of education and qualifying work experience, evidence of required orientation including date and signature of person providing the orientation; evidence of all training required by these rules which shall include: title of training, date of training, trainer's signature, location of training and number of clock hours obtained; a statement completed by the staff member that the information provided is true and accurate.

Correction Deadline: 3/7/2023

591-1-1-.33 Staff Training**Not Met****Finding**

591-1-1-.33(3) requires each Staff member with direct care responsibilities to complete health and safety orientation training within the first 90 days of employment. The state-approved training hours obtained will count toward required first year training hours. The training must address the following health and safety topics: prevention and control of infectious diseases (including immunizations); prevention of sudden infant death syndrome and use of safe sleeping practices; administration of medication, consistent with standards for parental consent; prevention of and response to emergencies due to food and allergic reactions; building and physical premises safety, including identification of and protection from hazards that can cause bodily injury such as electrical hazards, bodies of water, and vehicular traffic; prevention of shaken baby syndrome, abusive head trauma and child maltreatment; emergency preparedness and response planning for emergencies resulting from a natural disaster or a human-caused event (such as violence at a child care facility); handling and storage of hazardous materials and the appropriate disposal of bio contaminants; precautions in transporting children; recognition and reporting of child abuse and neglect; and child development. It was determined based on review of records that staff #1, date of hire October 28, 2022 did not have evidence of health and safety orientation training on file.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will develop and implement a plan to schedule and track this training for all employees based on their hire dates and will ensure that the training includes all required components as required.

Correction Deadline: 4/1/2023

Finding

91-1-1-.33(5) requires that every calendar year after the first year of employment, all supervisory and caregiver Personnel, except independent contractors, Students-in-Training and volunteers shall attend ten (10) clock hours of diverse training which is task-focused in on-going health, safety and early childhood or child development related topics and which is offered by an accredited college, university or vocational program or other Department-approved source. The annual ten (10) clock hours of training shall be chosen from the following fields: child development, including discipline, guidance, nutrition, injury control and safety; health, including sanitation, disease control, cleanliness, detection and disposition of illness; child abuse and neglect, including identification and reporting, and meeting the needs of abused and/or neglected children; and business related topics, including parental communication, recordkeeping, etc.; provided however that such business related training shall be limited to no more than two (2) of the required ten (10) clock hours of training. Records of completion of such training shall be maintained, as required by these rules. It was determined based on review of records that staff #4, date of hire September 27, 2021, and staff #9, date of hire November 9, 2020 did not have evidence of the required ten (10) clock hours of annual training on file.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will plan and schedule the required 10 hours of annual training each year and follow up to ensure the training is completed.

Correction Deadline: 4/1/2023

591-1-1-.31 Staff(CR)**Met****Comment**

Staff observed to be compliant with applicable laws and regulations.

591-1-1-.32 Staff:Child Ratios and Group Size(CR)**Not Met****Finding**

591-1-1-.32(2) requires the Center maintain Staff:child ratios in mixed-age groups based on the age of the youngest group of children that includes more than twenty percent of the total number of children in the mixed-age group. It was determined based on observation that the ratio in was 2:19 (6 one-year-old children, 1 two-year-old child, 3 four-year-old children, and 9 five-year-old children in classroom F-Multipurpose room. A ratio of 3:19 was required.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will provide adequate staff when there is a mixed-age group.

Correction Deadline: 3/2/2023**Finding**

591-1-1-.32(4)(a) requires that during the early morning times of arrival and late afternoon times of departure, infants and children younger than three (3) years may be grouped with older children so long as Staff: child ratios and group size are met based on the age of the youngest child in the group. It was determined based on observation that children younger than three years were grouped with four- and five-year-old children in room F-Multipurpose Room.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will maintain Staff:child ratios based on the youngest child in the group during early morning and late afternoon times when children younger than three years of age may be grouped with older children.

Correction Deadline: 3/2/2023

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

Adequate supervision observed on this date.