



BRIGHT FROM THE START

Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning
2 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive SE, 670 East Tower, Atlanta, Georgia 30334
(404) 656-5957

Nathan Deal
GOVERNOR

Bobby Cagle, MSW
COMMISSIONER

November 4, 2011

CERTIFIED MAIL #7005-3110-0002-5477-8169

Ms. Courtney Reid
Registered Agent
It Takes A Village Christian Academy, LLC
d/b/a It Takes A Village Christian Academy
1450 George Busbee Parkway
Kennesaw, Georgia 30144

CERTIFIED MAIL #7007-1490-0002-3524-0620

Ms. Toni Clark
Director
It Takes A Village Christian Academy
3514 Kensington Road
Decatur, Georgia 30032

RE: Notice of Revocation

Dear Ms. Reid and Ms. Clark:

A complaint investigation regarding the blatant lack of supervision and physical abuse of a nine-year-old child in care was conducted on June 23, 2011, at It Takes A Village Christian Academy, 3952 Rockbridge Road, Stone Mountain, Georgia 30083. It was determined during the investigation that serious rule violations occurred which seriously affected the health and safety of the children in care, which is a flagrant abuse that constitutes shocking intentional misconduct in accordance with 591-1-1-.38(c)5. This demonstrated an intentional and/or reckless disregard for the physical and mental health and safety of the children in care. Specifically, on June 21, 2011, a nine-year-old non-verbal child was beaten by children in his classroom, ages six years old to twelve years old, and by a 15-year-old volunteer. The children in care and the volunteer kicked and punched the nine-year-old child all over his body and on his head. The nine-year-old child was also dragged and hit repeatedly with a broom. The 15-year-old volunteer directed the children in care to beat the nine-year-old child because the nine-year-old child hit a toddler that was housed in the classroom with older children. As a result of the beating, the nine-year-old child sustained bruises, abrasions, and swelling all over his body and head, as well as a fractured ankle and a cut lip. These injuries required professional medical attention and hospitalization. The rule violations for which Bright from the Start: Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning (Bright from the Start) is basing the revocation are attached as Exhibit "A" and incorporated into this Notice by reference.

Based on your noncompliance with Bright from the Start's Rules for Child Care Learning Centers, you are hereby notified that the license to operate It Takes A Village Christian Academy is revoked. Bright from the Start's legal authority for revoking a license is found in O.C.G.A. Section 20-1A-12(b)(3)(5), and Section 20-1A-12(c)(5), and the Bright from the Start's Rules for Child Care Learning Centers, Chapter 591-1-1 of the Official Compilation of the Rules and Regulations of the State of Georgia.

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In accordance with O.C.G.A. Section 20-1A-10(o) this revocation becomes effective thirty (30) days from receipt of this Notice. You have the right to appeal the decision to revoke your license to operate a child care learning center by filing a written request for an administrative hearing before an Administrative Law Judge with the Office of State Administrative Hearings. The request must be made in writing within ten (10) days of receipt of this Notice and addressed to:

**J. Ashley Peacock
Chief Legal Officer
Bright from the Start
Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning
2 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive SE, Suite 754, East Tower
Atlanta, Georgia 30334**

A hearing request stays or suspends the revocation.

If you do not appeal this action within ten (10) days of this Notice, the decision to revoke your license will be final. Licensure staff will conduct a follow-up visit to verify closure.

Sincerely,



Brenda Haynesworth
Child Care Services Director

Attachment

cc: Kay Hellwig
J. Ashley Peacock
Ira Sudman
Kristie Lewis
Elisabetta Kasfir
Candy Prince
Vermisha Thompkins
Glenene Lanier
Monica Warren
Jackie Shivers
Mireille Emanuels
Meggan Hemans-Reese
Kathleen Jayson
Erik Dennis
Colette Reid
State File

List of Rule Violations for:

It Takes A Village Christian Academy
3952 Rockbridge Road
Stone Mountain, Georgia 300083

1. Rule 591-1-1-.11(2)(a) Staff physically abused a child.

During a complaint investigation, it was determined that on June 21, 2011, at approximately 5:50 p.m., a nine-year-old child was beaten by several children in his class and by a 15-year-old volunteer. Specifically, the nine-year-old child was kicked and punched all over his body and in his head by the children in his class as well as the volunteer in charge of supervising them. The nine-year-old child was also dragged by a 12-year-old child and hit with a broom repeatedly by a seven-year-old child. As a result of the beating, the nine-year-old child sustained bruises, abrasions, and swelling all over his body and head, as well as a fractured ankle and a cut on his lip. The injuries required professional medical attention and hospitalization.

The failure of center staff to use appropriate discipline placed the children at risk of harm.

2. Rule 591-1-1-.32(6) requires children to be properly supervised at all times.

During a complaint investigation, it was determined that on June 21, 2011, the center had two volunteers responsible for supervising a group of summer camp children, ages six years old to twelve years old. A 19-year-old volunteer, in the classroom at the time of the incident, stated that she did not witness the nine-year-old child being beaten by the children and the 15-year-old volunteer, but she heard the nine-year-old child making noise. When the 15-year-old volunteer blocked her from going to the area the nine-year-old child was in, and following up about the noise she had heard, the 19-year-old volunteer did not respond promptly or provide timely attention to the needs of the nine-year-old child or to the actions of the 15-year-old volunteer, but rather turned back to what she had been doing before. The center did not have staff in the classroom that was alert, or that provided watchful oversight. The nine-year old child sustained injuries that required professional medical attention and hospitalization.

The failure of the center to provide supervision and watchful oversight placed the children at risk of harm.

3. Rule 591-1-1-.11(2)(1) prohibits personnel from allowing children to discipline or humiliate other children.

During a complaint investigation, it was determined that on June 21, 2011, a non-verbal nine-year-old child was kicked and punched all over his body and in his head by the children in his class and the two volunteers present and in charge of supervising the children did not intervene. A nine-year-old child was dragged on the classroom floor by a 12-year-old child and was hit repeatedly with a broom by a seven-year-old child. The children were encouraged by the 15-year-old volunteer to hit the nine-year-old child when he hit a toddler that was in the room. The nine-year old child sustained injuries that required professional medical attention and hospitalization.

The failure of center staff to use appropriate discipline placed the children at risk of harm.

4. Rule 591-1-1-.11(2)(d) prohibits personnel from verbally abusing or humiliating a child which includes the use of threats, profanity or belittling remarks about a child or his family.

During a complaint investigation, it was determined that on June 21, 2011, an 11-year-old child was humiliated when a 15-year-old volunteer made the 11-year-old child feel guilty about not hitting the nine-year-old child when the nine-year-old child hit a toddler in care. As a result, the 11-year-old child kicked the nine-year-old child in the buttocks.

The failure of center staff to use appropriate discipline placed the children at risk of harm.

5. Rule 591-1-1-.07(4) requires the center to have a written medical emergency plan which outlines how services will be obtained and place(s) a child will be taken.

During a complaint investigation, it was determined that on June 21, 2011, a nine-year-old child was observed to have a knot on the front and back of his head, a bleeding lip and swelling to all of these areas. The nine-year-old child was nonverbal and unable to explain to staff what happened or how he was feeling; therefore staff should have sought emergency medical treatment for the child. Emergency services were called by the parent immediately upon her arrival. The injuries the child sustained required professional medical treatment and hospitalization.

The failure of center staff to seek emergency medical treatment for a child placed children at risk of harm.

6. Rule 591-1-1-.07(2) requires immediate parental notification of a child's illness or injury when medical attention is required or when a child experiences symptoms of moderate discomfort such as elevated temperature, vomiting or diarrhea.

During a complaint investigation, it was determined that on June 21, 2011, staff stated that the nine-year-old child was observed to have a knot on the front and back of his head, a bleeding lip and swelling to all of these areas. The nine-year-old child was non-verbal and unable to explain to staff what happened or how he was feeling, and had visible signs of moderate discomfort; therefore staff should have notified his parent immediately.

The failure of center staff to notify parent of a child's injuries placed children at risk of harm.

7. Rule 591-1-1-.32(3) requires that children under three years old be housed in separate physical areas from older children except during early morning arrival and late afternoon departure times.

During a complaint investigation, it was determined that on June 21, 2011, a toddler was housed in a classroom with summer campers, ages six years old to twelve years old. Statements were that a nine-year-old child hit the toddler during the time he was being cared for in the room with the summer campers.

The failure of center staff to separate children under three years old from older children placed children at risk of harm.

8. Rule 591-1-1-.09 requires the director and all other employees of the center to have a satisfactory criminal records check.

During a complaint investigation, the center was found to have a 19-year-old volunteer with an unsatisfactory criminal records check. This volunteer acted in a supervisory role for a group of summer campers, ages six years old to twelve years old.

The failure of center staff to have satisfactory criminal records checks placed children at risk of harm.

9. Rule 591-1-1-.31(4) requires the center to have qualified and sufficient direct care, clerical, housekeeping and maintenance employees to ensure full compliance without neglecting the supervision of children.

During a complaint investigation, the center was found to have two volunteers, ages 15 years old and 19 years old who were solely in charge of supervising a group of summer campers, ages six years old to twelve years old during the entire Summer of 2011 with no qualified staff person being present at all times.

The failure of center staff to provide qualified staff and to properly supervise volunteers placed children at risk of harm.