



**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:** 11/26/2019 **VisitType:** Licensing Study

**Arrival:** 10:45 AM

**Departure:** 3:00 PM

**CCLC-289**

**The Gingerbread House**

96 W. Felton Road Cartersville, GA 30120 Bartow County  
 (770) 386-4568 director.cobb@gmail.com

**Regional Consultant**

Rachael Brown

Phone: (770) 342-7795

Fax: (678) 891-5887

rachael.brown@decal.ga.gov

**Mailing Address**

129 Gant Qtrs. Ct.  
 Marietta, GA 30068

**Quality Rated:** No

<b>Compliance Zone Designation</b>			<b>Compliance Zone Designation</b> - 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.  <b>Good Standing</b> - Program is demonstrating an acceptable level of performance in meeting the rules. <b>Support</b> - Program performance is demonstrating a need for improvement in meeting rules. <b>Deficient</b> - Program is not demonstrating an acceptable level of performance in meeting the rules.
11/26/2019	Licensing Study	Good Standing	
04/12/2019	Monitoring Visit	Good Standing	
09/27/2018	Licensing Study	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	Downstairs Front Right		0	0	C	13	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
Main	Downstairs Rear Left		0	0	C	9	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
Main	Upstairs 1st Left		0	0	C	4	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
Main	Upstairs Left		0	0	C	5	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
Main	Upstairs Rear Right	Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds	1	9	C	11	C	NA	NA	Transitioning, Lunch, Circle Time
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 42			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0							
Two	Downstairs Room-PreK		0	0	C	21	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
Two	Upstairs Room-PreK		0	0	C	31	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 52			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0							
Total # Children this Date: 9			Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 94			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0				

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
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**Comments**

Consultant left 1-day letter and CBC affidavit on this date.

Plan of Improvement: Developed This Date 11/26/2019

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

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.

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#### 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.state.ga.us](mailto:CCSRefutations@dec.state.ga.us).

- 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.state.ga.us/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.

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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 New Deadlines:

Your program must be Quality Rated by December 31, 2020 in order to continue to receive Childcare and Parent Services (CAPS).

Get started today! Sign up by completing a short online application: <https://qualityrated.dec.state.ga.us/>  
Request free technical assistance to help you earn your star rating by contacting the Quality Rated help desk at 855-800-7747 or [qualityrated@dec.state.ga.us](mailto:qualityrated@dec.state.ga.us)

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Michael Wall, Program Official

Date

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Rachael Brown, Consultant

Date



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### Findings Report

**Date:** 11/26/2019 **VisitType:** Licensing Study

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The following information is associated with a Licensing Study:

### Activities and Equipment

#### 591-1-1-.03 Activities

Technical Assistance

#### Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.03(2) - Ensure lesson plans are dated.

**Correction Deadline: 11/26/2019**

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

Met

#### Comment

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

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

N/A

#### Comment

Center does not provide swimming activities.

### Children's Records

**Records Reviewed: 5**

**Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 3**

Child # 1	Not Met
<u>"Missing/Incomplete Components"</u>	
.08(3)-Address of Release Person Missing	
Child # 2	Met
Child # 3	Met
Child # 4	Not Met
<u>"Missing/Incomplete Components"</u>	

.08(3)-Address of Release Person Missing

Child # 5

Not Met

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.08(3)-Address of Release Person Missing

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

**Not Met**

**Finding**

591-1-1-.08(1) requires the Center Staff to maintain a file for each child while such child is in care and for one year after that child is no longer enrolled. In order for the file to be complete, the file shall contain the following: child's name, birth date, sex, address, living arrangement, name of school if applicable; names of both Parents, home and work addresses, and home and work telephone numbers; name(s) and addresses of the person(s) to whom the child may be released including address, telephone numbers, relationship to child and to Parent(s), and other identifying information; name(s) and telephone number(s) of person(s) to contact in emergencies when the Parent cannot be reached; name and telephone number of the child's primary source of health care; and a statement regarding known allergies, physical problems, mental health disorders, mental retardation or developmental disabilities which limit the child's participation in the program. It was determined based on review of files that three of five children's files did not have addresses of persons to whom the child may be released.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

Center staff will develop a plan that includes how to obtain all required information for currently enrolled children and how to ensure this is done for future enrollees as well. The plan will also include how and where to maintain files for the required amount of time. The plan will be implemented and followed.

**Correction Deadline: 12/3/2019**

**Facility**

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

**Met**

**Comment**

Licensed capacity observed to be met by center on this date.

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

**Met**

**Comment**

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

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

**Not Met**

**Finding**

591-1-1-.26(6) requires that playground equipment provide an opportunity for the children to engage in a variety of experiences and shall be age-appropriate. For example, toddlers shall not be permitted to swing in swings designed for School-age Children. The outdoor equipment shall be free of lead-based paint, sharp corners and shall be regularly maintained in such a way as to be free of rust and splinters that could pose significant safety hazard to the children. All equipment shall be arranged so as not to obstruct supervision of children. It was determined based on observation that there was chipping paint on the blue metal truck and swing posts.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

The Director stated that paint has been purchased so the equipment can be sanded and repainted.

**Correction Deadline: 12/10/2019**

**Recited on 11/26/2019**

**Correction Deadline: 4/22/2019**

Corrected on 11/26/2019

.26(8) - Citation observed to be corrected on this date. Consultant observed swings to have been removed from playground.

Correction Deadline: 4/12/2019

Corrected on 11/26/2019

.26(9) - Citation observed to be corrected on this date. No ant beds were observed on this date.

## Food Service

### 591-1-1-.15 Food Service & Nutrition

Met

#### Comment

Center menu meets USDA guidelines.

### 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)

Met

#### Comment

No children enrolled who require diapering.

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

Met

#### Comment

Proper hand washing observed throughout the center.

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

N/A

#### Comment

The Provider currently does not dispense/administer medication.

## Policies and Procedures

### 591-1-1-.27 Posted Notices

Met

#### Comment

Observed all required posted notices.

### 591-1-1-.29 Required Reporting

Met

#### Comment

Discussed reporting requirements.

## Safety

### 591-1-1-.11 Discipline(CR)

Met

#### Comment

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

### 591-1-1-.13 Field Trips(CR)

N/A

#### Comment

Center does not participate in field trips at this time.

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

N/A

**Comment**

Center does not provide routine transportation.

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**Sleeping & Resting Equipment**

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

Met

**Comment**

The correct number of mats, sheets and blankets were observed on this date. Cleaning and disinfecting of mats was discussed with the director on this date.

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**Staff Records**

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**Records Reviewed: 6****Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 4**

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Staff # 1

Met

Date of Hire: 10/30/2017

Staff # 2

Not Met

Date of Hire: 10/02/2012

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training

Staff # 3

Met

Date of Hire: 09/01/2019

Staff # 4

Not Met

Date of Hire: 07/29/2019

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(3)-Health &amp; Safety Certificate

Staff # 5

Not Met

Date of Hire: 12/01/1999

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.09-Criminal Records Check Missing

Staff # 6

Not Met

Date of Hire: 07/28/2015

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training

**Staff Credentials Reviewed: 8**

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

Not Met

**Comment**

Director provided four files for employees hired since last visit.

**Finding**

591-1-1-.09(1)(a) requires that a Center ensure that every actual and potential Director, Employee and Provisional Employee of a Child Care Learning Center submit both a Records Check Application to the Department and Fingerprints to an authorized fingerprinting site. It was determined based on review of records that employee #8 had not made application to the Department and to an authorized fingerprinting site. Application was made on this date.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

IMMEDIATE CORRECTION - The Center will view videos to ensure that every actual and potential Director, Employee and Provisional Employee of a Child Care Learning Center submit both a Records Check Application to the Department and Fingerprints to an authorized fingerprinting site as required. The program's owner or an officer/member of the corporation must view the A to Z Background Check video units pertaining to this records check rule and return the signed affidavit within one week from this visit date. The Center will view videos to ensure the CRC rules are maintained.

**Correction Deadline: 11/26/2019**

**Finding**

591-1-1-.09(1)(b) requires the Center to ensure that every Director has a valid and current satisfactory Comprehensive Records Check Determination on file prior to being present at the Center while any child is present for care or before an individual age 17 or older resides in the Center. The Comprehensive Records Check Determination must have a Records Check Clearance Date that is no older than the preceding 12 months of the hire date; provided, however, if the Director has had a lapse of employment from the child care industry that lasted for 180 days (6 months) or longer, a new satisfactory Comprehensive Records Check Determination is required. It was determined based on review of records that the Director did not have a satisfactory criminal record check on file. Application was made on this date.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

IMMEDIATE CORRECTION - The Center will view videos to ensure that the Director has a valid and current satisfactory Comprehensive Records Check Determination on file prior to being present at the Center while any child is present for care or before an individual age 17 or older resides in the Center. The Comprehensive Records Check Determination must have a Records Check Clearance Date that is no older than the preceding 12 months of the hire date; provided, however, if the Director has had a lapse of employment from the child care industry that lasted for 180 days (6 months) or longer, a new satisfactory Comprehensive Records Check Determination is required. The program's owner or an officer/member of the corporation must view the A to Z Background Check video units pertaining to this records check rule and return the signed affidavit within one week from this visit date. The center will view videos to ensure the CRC rules are maintained.

**Correction Deadline: 11/26/2019**

**Finding**

591-1-1-.09(1)(j) requires that for portability for Directors, Employees and Provisional Employees, excluding Students-in-Training, only the most recently issued determination letter is eligible for portability and must be ported electronically. A Center may accept a satisfactory Fingerprint Records Check Determination letter or a satisfactory Comprehensive Records Check Determination letter issued by the Department if the Records Check Clearance Date is within the preceding 12 months from the hire date, the individual has not had a lapse of employment from the child care industry that lasted for 180 days (6 months) or longer, and the Center does not know or reasonably should not know that the individual's satisfactory status has changed. It was determined based on review of records that employee #9 had a valid and current satisfactory criminal record check determination with an as of date of June 22, 2015 and a hire date of July 29, 2015 that was not ported electronically. It was ported on this date.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

The center will ensure criminal background checks are ported electronically before employees are assigned care giver duties.

**Correction Deadline: 11/26/2019**

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**591-1-1-.14 First Aid & CPR****Met****Comment**

Complete first aid kits observed in center and on vehicles.

**Comment**

Evidence observed of 100% of center staff certified in First Aid and CPR.



**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 four of seven employees did not complete health and safety orientation training.

**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: 12/26/2019****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 three of five eligible employees did not have ten hours of annual training for 2018.

**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: 12/26/2019**

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

Staff observed to be compliant with applicable laws and regulations.

<b>Staffing and Supervision</b>
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**591-1-1-.32 Staff:Child Ratios and Group Size(CR)****Met****Comment**

Center observed to maintain appropriate staff:child ratios.

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

Adequate supervision observed on this date.