



**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:** 1/15/2020    **VisitType:** Monitoring Visit    **Arrival:** 9:10 AM    **Departure:** 12:00 PM

**CCLC-32944**

**Ball Ground Academy**

200 Valley Street Ball Ground, GA 30107 Cherokee County  
 (678) 454-5437 bgacademy@yahoo.com

**Regional Consultant**

Sarah Ward

Phone: (229) 584-1395

Fax: (229) 584-1394

sarah.ward@dec.al.ga.gov

**Mailing Address**

Same

**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.
01/15/2020	Monitoring Visit	Good Standing	
08/13/2019	Licensing Study	Good Standing	
02/11/2019	Monitoring Visit	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	1st Left Room	Infants	One Year Olds	1	6	C	15	C	NA	NA	Music
Main	2nd Lt. Infant	Infants and One Year Olds	1	5	C	13	C	NA	NA	Free Play	
Main	2nd Right Four Year Olds	PreK	2	21	C	24	C	NA	NA	Circle Time	
Main	First Right	Three Year Olds	1	13	C	16	C	NA	NA	Centers	
		Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 68			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0						
Total # Children this Date: 45		Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 68			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0						

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	3 Year old Front Playground	17	C
Main	4 Year old Rear Playground	14	C
Main	Infant Toddler Playground	12	C

**Comments**

The purpose of this visit was to conduct a monitoring visit and follow up from the licensing study completed on August 13, 2019.

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.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.

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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@decal.ga.gov](mailto:CCSRefutations@decal.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://decal.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.

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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.decal.ga.gov/>  
Request free technical assistance to help you earn your star rating by contacting the Quality Rated help desk at 855-800-7747 or [qualityrated@decal.ga.gov](mailto:qualityrated@decal.ga.gov)

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Virginia Smith, Program Official

Date

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Sarah Ward, Consultant

Date



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### Findings Report

**Date:** 1/15/2020 **VisitType:** Monitoring Visit

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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

**591-1-1.06 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 routinely met by center.

**591-1-1.25 Physical Plant - Safe Environment(CR)**

**Met**

**Comment**

Center appears clean and well maintained.

**Comment**

No hazards observed accessible to children on this date.

**591-1-1.26 Playgrounds(CR)**

**Not Met**

**Comment**

Consultant discussed with provider making daily routine checks on both playgrounds.

**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 Consultant's observation and measurement the fence on both the younger and older playground does not meet the four feet requirement. The fence around the perimeter of both playgrounds had areas 43 inches high.

**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. Consultant discussed with directors to raise fence height, redistribute mulch, add another type of resilient surfacing or add height to the top of the fence to maintain 48 inches of height around both playgrounds.

**Correction Deadline: 7/1/2020**

**Recited on 1/15/2020**

<b>Health and Hygiene</b>
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<b>591-1-1-.10 Diapering Areas &amp; Practices(CR)</b>	<b>Met</b>
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**Comment**

Staff state proper knowledge of diapering procedures.

<b>591-1-1-.17 Hygiene(CR)</b>	<b>Met</b>
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**Comment**

Proper hand washing stated by the staff throughout the center.

<b>591-1-1-.20 Medications(CR)</b>	<b>Met</b>
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**Comment**

The Provider currently does not dispense/administer medication at this time. Provider encourages parents to administer prescription medication at home.

<b>Safety</b>
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<b>591-1-1-.05 Animals</b>	<b>Met</b>
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**Comment**

Center does not keep animals on premises.

<b>591-1-1-.11 Discipline(CR)</b>	<b>Met</b>
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**Comment**

Age-appropriate discussion and/or redirection observed and staff stated they use redirection in all classrooms.

**Comment**

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

<b>591-1-1-.13 Field Trips(CR)</b>	<b>Met</b>
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**Comment**

Center does not participate in field trips at this time.

<b>591-1-1-.36 Transportation(CR)</b>	<b>Met</b>
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**Comment**

Center does not provide routine transportation.

<b>Sleeping &amp; Resting Equipment</b>
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**591-1-1-.30 Safe Sleeping and Resting Requirements(CR)****Met****Comment**

Pleasant naptime environment observed.

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**Staff Records**

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

Consultant requested to view all Criminal Record checks for employees hired after last visit. Director stated that there have been no new hires since last visit

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**591-1-1-.14 First Aid & CPR****Not Met****Comment**

Evidence observed of 50% of center staff certified in First Aid and CPR.

**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, one out of nine staff members did not have a current CPR and First Aid training completed.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

The Center will develop a schedule to ensure all staff members have satisfactorily completed first aid and CPR training by the specified date.

**Correction Deadline: 1/31/2020**

**Recited on 1/15/2020**

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

Staff observed to be compliant with applicable laws and regulations.

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**Staffing and Supervision**

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**591-1-1-.32 Staff:Child Ratios and Group Size(CR)****Met****Comment**

Adequate supervision observed on this date.

**Comment**

Staff observed to provide direct supervision and be attentive to children's needs.

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

Staff observed to provide direct supervision and be attentive to children's needs.