



**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:** 2/22/2019 **VisitType:** Technical Assistance **Arrival:** 11:00 AM **Departure:** 1:00 PM

**CCLC-39883**

**Small Smiles Learning & Childcare Center**

1169 Third Street Folkston, GA 31537 Charlton County  
(912) 496-3654 kristiesmith30@yahoo.com

**Regional Consultant**

Mary Jerrell

Phone: (912) 544-9769

Fax: (912) 544-9768

mary.jerrell@decal.ga.gov

**Mailing Address**

Same

**Quality Rated:** ★

<b>Compliance Zone Designation</b>		
02/20/2019	POI Follow Up	Support
01/14/2019	Licensing Study	Deficient
08/10/2018	POI Follow Up	Good Standing

**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.

**Comments**

The purpose of this visit is to offer technical assistance to the program. The director has had an office conference and will be issued an enforcement fine.

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@decals.ga.gov](mailto:CCSRefutations@decals.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://decals.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.decals.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@decals.ga.gov](mailto:qualityrated@decals.ga.gov)

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Kristie Blake, Program Official

Date

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Mary Jerrell, Consultant

Date



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**Food Service**

**Rule:** 591-1-1-.15(1)USDA Guidelines

**Plan of Improvement: To ensure that the program can receive USDA reimbursement for the healthy meals that are being served the owner and the cook will apply for the food program.**

Step Number	Action Step	Person Responsible	Due Date	Status	Completion Date	Action Taken	Action Date
1	The owner and the cook will get together the required documentation that is needed in order to apply to be on the USDA food program. The program could provide the needed income that this struggling center needs to to what is necessary to meet the rules and regulations.	owner/cook	08/24/2018	Developed		2-22-19 Still in the works director has not completed yet.	03/31/2019

**Sleeping & Resting Equipment**

**Rule:** 591-1-1-.30(1)(a)2Crib mattress

**Plan of Improvement:** To ensure that the mattress the cribs are at least two inches thick and fit the cribs with no gaps around the mattress and the crib frame. The assistant director said that the director has to go to a meeting in Savannah on Friday and she was going to get new mattresses then.

Step Number	Action Step	Person Responsible	Due Date	Status	Completion Date	Action Taken	Action Date
1	The director will pick up new crib mattresses for the cribs where they are not at least two inches thick and fit the frame of the crib.	Director	02/08/2019	Developed			

**Rule:** 591-1-1-.30(1)(a)3Crib Sheet

**Plan of Improvement:** To ensure that the sheets that are being used are tight fitting, the director will purchase sheets when she purchases mattresses that fit them tightly.

Step Number	Action Step	Person Responsible	Due Date	Status	Completion Date	Action Taken	Action Date
1	The director will purchase new crib sheets when she purchases new mattresses on Friday that fit them tightly.	Director	02/08/2019	Completed	02/22/2019	2-22-19 The Ta consultant observed tight fitting sheets on this day on all of the crib sheets.	02/22/2019

**Rule:** 591-1-1-.30(2)Safe sleep environment

**Plan of Improvement:** To ensure that staff are not putting anything on the sides of the cribs that would hinder supervision of the infants inside the cribs, staff have been trained to not hang anything on the sides of the cribs. Staff have also been trained to only allow infants to be put to sleep on their backs, if parents request that infants sleep on their stomach the center will educate the parent on safe sleep.

Step Number	Action Step	Person Responsible	Due Date	Status	Completion Date	Action Taken	Action Date
1	Staff have been trained not to put anything on the sides of the cribs that would obstruct supervision of the infants inside the cribs. The director and assistant director will supervise staff and make sure the rules are being followed including ensuring that infants are only put to sleep on their backs.	Director	01/31/2019	Completed	02/22/2019	2-22-19 The staff did not have anything on the sides of the cribs on this day.	02/22/2019

**Sleeping & Resting Equipment**

**Rule:** 591-1-1-.30(2)(c) Sleep in safety-approved cribs

**Plan of Improvement:** To ensure that the staff in the infant room are aware of all the rules the technical assistant consultant will come and do a lunch and learn for them on 2-26-19.

Step Number	Action Step	Person Responsible	Due Date	Status	Completion Date	Action Taken	Action Date
1	The technical assistant consultant will conduct a training with all of the infant classroom rules included. The director will supervise and make sure that the staff are following through with the rules.	director	02/22/2019	Developed			

**Staff Records**

**Rule:** 591-1-1-.09 Criminal Records Check

**Plan of Improvement:** The director will ensure that no staff is allowed to work in the classroom or have access to children until they have completed and been given satisfactory results from a comprehensive record check clearance.

Step Number	Action Step	Person Responsible	Due Date	Status	Completion Date	Action Taken	Action Date
1	The assistant director said that the director has completed the missing background checks and understands that she must have satisfactory results before she can allow staff to work with the children.	Director	01/31/2019	Completed	02/22/2019		