



**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:** 10/23/2020 **VisitType:** Initial Licensing Study **Arrival:** 9:30 AM **Departure:** 12:00 PM

**CCLC-53241**

**Utopia Early Child Development and Learning Center**

1211 1/2 South Laurel Street Springfield, GA 31329 Effingham County  
 (912) 754-3742 utopiaearlydevelopment@gmail.com

**Regional Consultant**

Brianne Walters

Phone: (912) 544-9775

Fax: (912) 544-9774

brianne.walters@decal.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.
10/23/2020	Initial Licensing Study	Good Standing	
			<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.

**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	A	Infants and One Year Olds	1	5	C	7	C	NA	NA	Floor Play
Main	B	Two Year Olds	1	4	C	8	C	NA	NA	Free Play
Main	c	Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds	1	4	C	26	C	NA	NA	Free Play, Outside
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 41					Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0					
Total # Children this Date: 13					Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0					

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	A	73	C
Main	B	15	C

**Comments**

A virtual initial licensing visit and exit conference was conducted on October 23, 2020. The center did not have liability insurance and had the required posting. The following was discussed, and copies were emailed to the director: A copy of the Executive Order issued on August 15, 2020, the Covid-19 checklist and the Covid-19 Guidance for Georgia Child Care Facilities document published on August 12, 2020. A temporary license was issued this date awaiting all change of ownership documents.

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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Minetta Wilson, Program Official

Date

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Brianne Walters, Consultant

Date



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### Findings Report

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The following information is associated with a Initial Licensing Study:

### Activities and Equipment

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

Met

**Comment**

A Virtual Visit was conducted due to the COVID-19 pandemic. During the virtual walk through equipment and furniture appeared to be properly secured, as applicable. A variety of equipment and toys were observed throughout the center.

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

Met

**Comment**

A Virtual Visit was conducted due to the COVID-19 pandemic. During the virtual walk through there was no pool observed on the property. Per the provider no swimming activities were provided on or off site.

### Facility

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

Met

**Comment**

There were currently no capacity limitations.

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

Met

**Comment**

A Virtual Visit was conducted due to the COVID-19 pandemic. There were no hazards observed to be accessible to the children during the virtual walk through.

**Comment**

A Virtual Visit was conducted due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Additional cleaning and sanitizing requirements due to the COVID-19 pandemic were discussed and observed. During a virtual walk through the Center appeared clean and well maintained.

**Technical Assistance**

A Virtual Visit was conducted due to the COVID-19 pandemic. During the virtual walk through the playground area was observed and the following was discussed. These items will be reviewed during the next licensing visit:

- The left swing set had four swings per bay, and only 2 swings are permitted. The provider plans to remove the swingset from the playground
- Discussed ensuring that the dome climber and stationary airplane secured by the bottom anchoring so they cannot tip over
- Discussed that the director should ensure that the chain link fence around the playgrounds is at least 4 feet tall in all areas
- Discussed that any cracked toys or equipment be removed/replaced.
- Discussed that the director should ensure that the fall zone for swings or climbers is adequate. A fall zone resource was emailed to the director.

**Health and Hygiene****591-1-1-.10 Diapering Areas & Practices(CR)****Met****Comment**

A Virtual Visit was conducted due to the COVID-19 pandemic. During the virtual walk through the diapering area was observed, and and washing and disinfecting requirements for diapering were discussed.

**591-1-1-.17 Hygiene(CR)****Met****Comment**

A Virtual Visit was conducted due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Hand washing, sanitizing and disinfecting requirements were discussed with the Director. Liquid soap and paper towels were observed accessible in the restroom area.

**591-1-1-.20 Medications(CR)****Met****Comment**

A Virtual Visit was conducted due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Discussed proper medication documentation and procedures.

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

A Virtual Visit was conducted due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Discipline was not directly observed during the virtual walk through. Regulations regarding proper discipline were discussed with the Director.

**591-1-1-.36 Transportation(CR)****N/A****Comment**

A Virtual Visit was conducted due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Per the director, the center does provide routine transportation or field trips at this time. Consultant discussed with the director that prior to providing transportation and/or field trips, staff are required to complete and maintain documentation of current CPR and First - Aid Training, as well as two (2) clock hours of transportation training. In addition, prior to providing transportation, the regional consultant will be contacted to discuss and review all transportation requirements.

**Sleeping & Resting Equipment****591-1-1-.30 Safe Sleeping and Resting Requirements(CR)****Met****Comment**

A Virtual Visit was conducted due to the COVID-19 pandemic. During the virtual walk through 6 cribs were observed in Room A that appeared to meet CPSC safety standards and infant sleep safety was discussed.

## Staff Records

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

Met

#### Comment

A Virtual Visit was conducted due to the COVID-19 pandemic. A satisfactory criminal record check was observed on file for six current staff members.

### 591-1-1-.31 Staff(CR)

Met

#### Comment

A Virtual Visit was conducted due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Discussed that all lead staff must enroll in an approved education program within 6 months of hire and complete degree within 18 months.

#### Comment

A Virtual Visit was conducted due to the COVID-19 pandemic. During the virtual walk through staff were observed to be compliant with applicable laws and regulations.

## Staffing and Supervision

### 591-1-1-.32 Staff:Child Ratios and Group Size(CR)

Met

#### Comment

There were no children enrolled on this date. Proper ratios and classroom capacities were discussed with the director on this date.

### 591-1-1-.32 Supervision(CR)

Met

#### Comment

A Virtual Visit was conducted due to the COVID-19 pandemic. During the virtual walk through adequate supervision was observed.