



**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:** 3/3/2021    **VisitType:** Licensing Study    **Arrival:** 2:45 PM    **Departure:** 4:30 PM

**CCLC-16270**

**Cotton's Learning Center of Serenity**

3423 Peach Orchard Road Augusta, GA 30906 Richmond County  
 (706) 798-1221 cottonstroop80@aol.com

**Regional Consultant**

Kaycee Purvis

Phone: (770) 357-4915

Fax: (404) 478-8085

kaycee.purvis@decals.ga.gov

**Mailing Address**

Same

**Quality Rated:** ★ ★

<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.
03/03/2021	Licensing Study	Good Standing	
07/23/2020	Monitoring Visit	Good Standing	
02/05/2020	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
First Level	Left	One Year Olds and Two Year Olds	1	5	C	16	C	NA	NA	Story
First Level	Middle Left		0	0	C	13	C	NA	NA	
First Level	Middle Right	Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds	1	7	C	20	C	NA	NA	Centers
First Level	Right		0	0	C	20	C	NA	NA	
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.:			69			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.:			0	
Second Level	School Age		0	0	C	15	C	NA	NA	
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.:			15			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.:			0	
Total # Children this Date:			12			Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.:			84	
						Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.:			0	

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
First Level	Playground A	8	C
First Level	Playground B	100	C

**Comments**

An Administrative Review was conducted on March 3, 2021. Staff files, children's files, training, and background checks were all reviewed. A virtual inspection was conducted on April 13, 2021 with the Director. An in-person visit was not conducted due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Compliance with the Executive Order issued on March 31, 2021 was reviewed during the virtual inspection.

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/Regulations.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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Donna Cotton, Program Official

Date

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Kaycee Purvis, Consultant

Date



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### Findings Report

**Date:** 3/3/2021      **VisitType:** Licensing Study      **Arrival:** 2:45 PM      **Departure:** 4:30 PM

#### CCLC-16270

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The following information is associated with a Licensing Study:

### Activities and Equipment

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

Met

Correction Deadline: 2/5/2020

Corrected on 3/3/2021

.03(2) - Correction of previous citation in that the Consultant observed lesson plans for all classrooms on this date.

#### 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: 0

Child # 1	Met
Child # 2	Met
Child # 3	Met
Child # 4	Met
Child # 5	Met

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**591-1-1-.08 Children's Records****Met****Correction Deadline: 2/5/2020****Corrected on 3/3/2021****.08(1) - Correction of previous citation in that the Consultant observed documentation of completed children's files during an administrative review.****Facility**

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**591-1-1-.19 License Capacity(CR)****Met****Comment**Licensed capacity observed to be routinely met by center.

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**591-1-1-.25 Physical Plant - Safe Environment(CR)****Met****Correction Deadline: 3/6/2020****Corrected on 3/3/2021****.25(3) - Correction of previous citation in that the Consultant observed the premises to be clean, free of debris, and in good repair during a virtual visit.**

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**591-1-1-.26 Playgrounds(CR)****Met****Correction Deadline: 2/15/2020****Corrected on 3/3/2021****.26(6) - Correction of previous citation in that the Consultant observed the playground equipment to be non hazardous during a virtual visit.****Correction Deadline: 2/5/2020****Corrected on 3/3/2021****.26(9) - Correction of previous citation in that the Consultant observed the playground to be clean, free from litter, and free of hazards during a virtual visit.**

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**Health and Hygiene**

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**591-1-1-.10 Diapering Areas & Practices(CR)****Met****Comment**Hand washing and sanitizing requirements for diapering were discussed with the Director on this date.

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**591-1-1-.17 Hygiene(CR)****Met****Comment**Additional cleaning and sanitizing requirements due to the COVID-19 pandemic were also discussed and observed during a virtual walk through on this date.

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**591-1-1-.20 Medications(CR)****N/A****Comment**The Provider currently does not dispense/administer medication.

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**Policies and Procedures**

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**Finding**

591-1-1-.21(3) requires that the Center conduct drills for fire, tornado and other emergency situations. The fire drills will be conducted monthly and tornado and other emergency situation drills will be conducted every six months. The Center shall maintain documentation of the dates and times of these drills for two years. It was determined based on a review of records that the center did not complete documentation of fire drills for the months of January 2021, February 2021 and March 2021.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

The Center will hold the drills as required and keep the documentation of the drills on file for two years.

**Correction Deadline: 4/16/2021**

**Recited on 3/3/2021**

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<b>Safety</b>
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**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 on this date.

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

Center does not provide routine transportation.

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<b>Sleeping &amp; Resting Equipment</b>
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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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<b>Staff Records</b>
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**Records Reviewed: 4****Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 0**

Staff # 1	Met
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Date of Hire: 03/15/2017

Staff # 2	Met
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Date of Hire: 10/31/2005

Staff # 3	Met
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Date of Hire: 07/18/2012

Staff # 4	Met
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Date of Hire: 09/18/2008

**Staff Credentials Reviewed: 4**

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

**Comment**

Criminal record checks were observed to be complete.

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

**Comment**

Additional cleaning and sanitizing requirements due to the COVID-19 pandemic were discussed and observed during a virtual walk through on this date. The program was in compliance with the Executive Order issued on March 31, 2021.

<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.