



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: 7/31/2019 **VisitType:** Monitoring Visit **Arrival:** 10:10 AM **Departure:** 12:20 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

Brandon Cason

Phone: (877) 372-3909

Fax: (877) 375-7034

carrie.spangler@dec.al.ga.gov

Mailing Address

Same

Quality Rated: ★ ★

Compliance Zone Designation			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.
07/31/2019	Monitoring Visit	Support	
02/08/2019	Licensing Study	Good Standing	
08/14/2018	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				
First Level	Left	One Year Olds and Two Year Olds	1	8	C	16	C	NA	NA	Free Play, Outside, Transitioning				
First Level	Middle Left	Two Year Olds and Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds and Six Year Olds and Over	1	22	NC	13	NC	NA	NA	Circle Time, Free Play, Centers				
First Level	Middle Right		0	0	C	20	C	NA	NA	Centers, Floor Play				
First Level	Right		0	0	C	20	C	NA	NA	Not In Use				
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: 30			Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.:			84			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.:			0		

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance

Comments

This was the first visit of the fiscal year. The director stated that there were no new hires since the last visit. A plan of improvement was left on this date.

Plan of Improvement: To Be Submitted 08/14/2019

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/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.

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.

- 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.

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

Donna Cotton, Program Official

Date

Brandon Cason, Consultant

Date



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Findings Report

Date: 7/31/2019 **VisitType:** Monitoring Visit **Arrival:** 10:10 AM **Departure:** 12:20 PM

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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

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-.19 License Capacity(CR) **Not Met**

Finding

591-1-1-.19(1) requires a Center to provide 35 square feet of usable space per child, which will determine the Center's License capacity. It was determined based on consultants observation that the center cared for 22 children in a space licensed for 20 children.

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Correction Deadline: 7/31/2019

591-1-1-.25 Physical Plant - Safe Environment(CR) **Not Met**

Comment

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

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Finding

591-1-1-.25(3) requires the Center and surrounding premises to be kept clean, free of debris and in good repair. Hygienic measures such as, but not limited to, screened windows and proper waste disposal procedures shall be utilized to minimize the presence of rodents, flies, roaches and other vermin at the Center. It was determined based on consultants observation that roaches were under a crib mattress in the Left classroom.

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Correction Deadline: 7/31/2019

Recited on 7/31/2019

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

Not Met

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 consultants observation that the fencing on the older playground in the front right corner measured 40 inches and the fencing on the back right side measured 44 inches. A measurement of 48 inches is required for all fencing. Furthermore, the fencing on the older playground created an escape hazard when a four foot gap was observed on the back left corner due to the fence not being fully enclosed.

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Correction Deadline: 7/31/2019

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 consultants observation that on the toddler playground, the steering wheel on the red car with a blue push handle was broken exposing sharp and jagged edges. Furthermore, it was determined that the red merry go round and blue merry go round had chipping paint exposed to the children in care on the older playground.

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Correction Deadline: 8/10/2019

Finding

591-1-1-.26(8) requires climbing and swinging equipment to have a resilient surface beneath the equipment and the fall zone from such equipment must be adequately maintained by the Center to assure continuing resiliency. It was determined based on consultants observation that four feet of resilient surfacing was around the silver monkey bar climber in the fall zone, four feet of resilient surfacing was around the red and blue monkey bar climber in the fall zone and three feet of resilient surfacing was in front of the slide where six feet of resilient surfacing was required for each piece of equipment.

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Correction Deadline: 8/10/2019

Finding

591-1-1-.26(9) requires the playground to be kept clean, free from litter and free of hazards, such as but not limited to rocks, exposed tree roots and exposed sharp edges of concrete. It was determined based on consultants observation that an active ant bed was on the front right corner of the playground to the left of the swing set. It was further determined that several broken branches and tree bark was observed on the front right corner of the playground to the left of the swing set. Furthermore, it was determined that black tarp was exposed underneath the resilient surfacing on the toddler playground creating a tripping hazard.

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Correction Deadline: 7/31/2019

Recited on 7/31/2019

Health and Hygiene

591-1-1-.10 Diapering Areas & Practices(CR) **Not Met**

Comment

Staff state proper knowledge of diapering procedures.

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Finding

591-1-1-.10(4) requires that if diapers are changed on a diaper changing surface, the surface shall be smooth, nonporous, and equipped with a guard or rails to prevent falls. Between each diaper change, the diaper changing surface shall be cleaned with a disinfectant and dried with a single-use disposable towel. It was determined based on observation that the changing pad was torn in the Left room not allowing for the changing pad to be properly sanitized as required.

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Correction Deadline: 7/31/2019

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

Comment
Staff were observed to remind children to wash hands.

591-1-1-.20 Medications(CR) **N/A**

Comment
The Provider currently does not dispense/administer medication.

Safety

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

Comment
Age-appropriate discussion and/or redirection observed.

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

Comment
Center does not provide routine transportation.

Sleeping & Resting Equipment

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

Comment
Discussed SIDS and infant sleeping position.

Staff Records

Records Reviewed: 4

Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 0

Staff # 1

Met

Staff # 2	Met
Staff # 3	Met
Staff # 4	Met

Staff Credentials Reviewed: 4

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

Comment

Criminal record checks were observed to be complete.

591-1-1-.33 Staff Training Defer

Defer

591-1-1-.33(6)- Staff training was already evaluated for the calendar year of 2018. At the time of the next inspection in 2020, training will be evaluated for the calendar year of 2019.

Correction Deadline: 2/8/2019

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

Comment

Staff observed to be compliant with applicable laws and regulations.

Staffing and Supervision

591-1-1-.32 Staff:Child Ratios and Group Size(CR) Not Met

Finding

591-1-1-.32(2) requires the Center maintain Staff:child ratios in mixed-age groups based on the age of the youngest group of children that includes more than twenty percent of the total number of children in the mixed-age group. It was determined based on consultants observation that one staff member was providing care for three two-year-olds, seven three-year-olds, one four-year-old and 11 children over the age of six. A ratio of 3:22 should have been observed.

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Correction Deadline: 7/31/2019

Finding

591-1-1-.32(4) requires that children under three years old be housed in separate physical areas from older children and cannot be mixed with older children except at specified times and circumstances. It was determined based on consultants observation that children under the age of three were mixed with children over the age of three at a time other than specified times and circumstances.

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Correction Deadline: 7/31/2019

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

Met

Comment

Discussed combining children of mixed ages.