



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: 11/20/2019 **VisitType:** Monitoring Visit

Arrival: 9:00 AM

Departure: 2:15 PM

CCLC-24210

A Brighter Choice Early Learning Center, Inc.

106 Morris Street Fort Valley, GA 31030 Peach County
 (478) 825-9555 abrighterchoice@bellsouth.net

Mailing Address
 Same

Regional Consultant

Charlene Story

Phone: (770) 405-7942

Fax: (770) 408-0759

charlene.story@decal.ga.gov

Joint with: Yolanda Marable

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.
11/20/2019	Monitoring Visit	Good Standing	
04/01/2019	Licensing Study	Good Standing	
02/26/2019	Incident Investigation Closure	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
Building 2	A: Right		0	0	C	4	C	NA	NA	
Building 2	B: Middle		0	0	C	17	C	NA	NA	
Building 2	C: Left		0	0	C	4	C	NA	NA	
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 25			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0							
Main	A - Middle	Four Year Olds	2	11	C	24	C	NA	NA	Breakfast
Main	A - Middle-1st Left	Two Year Olds	1	7	C	7	C	NA	NA	Breakfast
Main	B - 1st Left (infants)	Two Year Olds	1	7	C	26	C	NA	NA	Breakfast
Main	B - Middle - 2nd Left	Infants and One Year Olds	4	14	C	10	NC	NA	NA	Circle Time, Floor Play
Main	C - Right		0	0	C	14	C	NA	NA	
Main	D - Far Rear Right room		0	0	C	20	C	NA	NA	Free Play
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 101			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0							
Total # Children this Date: 39			Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 126			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0				

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	A	15	C
Main	A	15	C
Main	B	76	C

Comments

Plan of Improvement: Developed This Date 11/20/2019

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/RuleAndRegulations.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

Florine Dodson, Program Official	Date
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Yolanda Marable, Consultant	Date
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Charlene Story, Consultant	Date
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Findings Report

Date: 11/20/2019 **VisitType:** Monitoring Visit

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Departure: 2:15 PM

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The following information is associated with a Monitoring Visit:

Activities and Equipment

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

Technical Assistance

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.12(2) - Consultant discussed with director to ensure that all equipment and furniture be free from hazardous conditions.

Correction Deadline: 11/20/2019

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.12(4) - Consultant discussed with director to ensure that equipment and furniture is secured if it is of a weight or mass that could cause injury from tipping, falling, or being pulled or pushed over.

Correction Deadline: 11/20/2019

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

Please monitor bathrooms for necessary supplies.

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

Met

Comment

Licensed capacity was observed to be met by center on this date.

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

Not Met

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.25(13) - The consultant discussed ensuring that items that state "keep out of reach of children" are made inaccessible to children.

Correction Deadline: 11/20/2019

Finding

591-1-1-.25(13) requires that potentially hazardous equipment, materials and supplies be stored in a locked area inaccessible to children. It was determined based on observation that baby wipes were accessible and stored on a low shelf in Classroom B and under the changing table in Classroom D. Additionally, children had access to a staff member's purse stored in an unlocked cabinet in Classroom B.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will identify all hazardous items and keep them in a locked area inaccessible to children. The Center will inform all Staff about hazardous items and the safe storage of those items.

Correction Deadline: 11/20/2019

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 consultant observation live roaches in the cabinet under the refrigerator and under the changing table in Classroom B.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will have the Center and surrounding areas cleaned, make repairs where needed, and remove all debris is removed. The Center will implement a plan to keep areas clean and in good repair that includes regular monitoring.

Correction Deadline: 11/20/2019

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

Not Met

Comment

Discussed maintenance of resilient surface. Please fluff and redistribute.

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 observation that the bolts on the gates entering the playground and throughout the fencing area were longer than the two thread length that is required.

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.

Correction Deadline: 11/20/2019

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.26(9) - Consultant discussed with center director to ensure that the playground is checked daily and kept clean, free from litter and hazards. The consultant discussed with the director to ensure all bolts along the fencing area and gates are cut down to two threads as required.

Correction Deadline: 11/20/2019

Food Service

591-1-1-.15 Food Service & Nutrition

Not Met

Finding

591-1-1-.15(3) requires baby bottles and formula to be labeled with the individual child's name; supplied by the Parent daily in bottles; and refrigerated at a temperature of forty (40) degrees Fahrenheit or less. Only the current day's formula or breast milk shall be served. If formula must be provided by the Center, only commercially prepared, ready-to-feed formula shall be used. Refrigerated or frozen breast milk shall only be heated or thawed under warm running water or in a container of warm water. It was determined based on staff's statement that staff prepare the bottles for infants enrolled.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will train Staff to follow the required procedures, ensure that parents are fully informed, and will review and monitor regularly.

Correction Deadline: 11/20/2019

Recited on 11/20/2019

Finding

591-1-1-.15(5) requires that the Center provide a menu listing all meals and snacks to be served during the current week except for School-age Centers where the food may be provided by the Parent(s) by agreement between the School-age Center and the Parent(s). Substitutions shall be recorded on the posted menu and menus shall be retained at the Center for six (6) months. It was determined based on review of records, the children were to be served grits, banana and milk for breakfast. The children were served grits and milk. bananas were not served to the children.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will list all of the current week's meals and snacks and all substitutions on the menu and keep past menus on file for six months and will implement a system to monitor this.

Correction Deadline: 11/20/2019

Health and Hygiene**591-1-1-.07 Children's Health****Not Met****Finding**

591-1-1-.07(5) requires Center Staff to not permit children to wear around their necks or attach to their clothing pacifiers or other hazardous items. It was determined based on consultant observation that two infants in Classroom B had a pacifier with a pacifier clip attached to infant's clothing.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will instruct Staff regarding this safety requirement.

Correction Deadline: 11/20/2019

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

Staff state proper knowledge of diapering procedures on this date.

591-1-1-.17 Hygiene(CR)**Technical Assistance****Technical Assistance**

591-1-1-.17(7) - The consultant discussed ensuring that children and staff wash hands according to appropriate hand washing practices.

Correction Deadline: 11/20/2019

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

The Provider currently does not dispense/administer medication.

Policies and Procedures**591-1-1-.21 Operational Policies & Procedures****Met**

Correction Deadline: 4/6/2019

Corrected on 11/20/2019

.21(3) - Citation was corrected on this date.

Safety

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

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

591-1-1-.36 Transportation(CR)**Met****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: 12****Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 0**

Staff # 1	Met
Date of Hire: 07/09/2018	
Staff # 2	Met
Date of Hire: 11/29/2017	
Staff # 3	Met
Date of Hire: 06/18/2019	
Staff # 4	Met
Date of Hire: 03/08/2010	
Staff # 5	Met
Date of Hire: 05/29/2015	
Staff # 6	Met
Date of Hire: 04/03/2013	
Staff # 7	Met
Date of Hire: 07/19/2018	
Staff # 8	Met
Date of Hire: 03/01/2017	
Staff # 9	Met
Date of Hire: 04/02/2014	
Staff # 10	Met
Date of Hire: 09/21/2018	

Records Reviewed: 12

Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 0

Staff # 11

Met

Date of Hire: 04/01/2019

Staff # 12

Met

Date of Hire: 08/25/2015

Staff Credentials Reviewed: 8

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

Met

Correction Deadline: 4/1/2019

Corrected on 11/20/2019

.09(1)(a) - Consultant observed citation corrected with all staff having a satisfied Criminal Records Check

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)

Met

Comment

Center observed to maintain appropriate staff:child ratios on this date.

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

Met

Comment

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