



**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:** 8/17/2021    **VisitType:** Licensing Study    **Arrival:** 10:00 AM    **Departure:** 11:00 AM

**CCLC-25652**

**Joyful Journeys CEC**

8358 Fortson Court Fortson, GA 31808 Muscogee County  
 (706) 507-7890 joyfuljourneys2008@yahoo.com

**Regional Consultant**

Penny Svenson

Phone: (470) 346-1037

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penny.svenson@decals.ga.gov

**Mailing Address**

561 Juniper Mill Pond Rd  
 Box Springs, GA 31801

**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.
08/17/2021	Licensing Study	Good Standing	
02/01/2021	Monitoring Visit	Good Standing	
07/29/2020	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
Main	Rm A (BR2)	Infants	2	5	C	12	C	NA	NA	Floor Play
Main	Rm B (BR1)	Infants	2	7	C	12	C	NA	NA	Floor Play, Feeding
Main	Rm C (K4)	Four Year Olds	1	14	C	14	C	NA	NA	Centers, Free Play
Main	Rm F (K2A)	Two Year Olds	2	13	C	20	C	NA	NA	Centers, Free Play
Main	Rm G (K1B)		0	0	C	16	C	NA	NA	
Main	Rm H (K1A)	One Year Olds	2	10	C	16	C	NA	NA	Transitioning, Free Play
Main	Rm I (K2B)	Two Year Olds and Three Year Olds	2	12	C	20	C	NA	NA	Music
Main	Room D (K3)	Three Year Olds	2	17	C	30	C	NA	NA	Free Play, Centers
Main	Room E ASP		0	0	C	14	C	NA	NA	
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 154						Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0				
Total # Children this Date: 78			Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 154			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0				

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	Playground-2 yrs	24	C
Main	Playground3-12	32	C

**Comments**

August 17, 2021--A virtual visit was conducted due to COVID-19 Pandemic.

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.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](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.

**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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Marissa Taylor, Program Official

Date

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Penny Svenson, Consultant

Date



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### Findings Report

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The following information is associated with a Licensing Study:

### Activities and Equipment

**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)**

**Met**

**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

**591-1-1-.08 Children's Records**

**Met**

**Comment**

Records were observed to be complete and well organized.

**Facility**

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**591-1-1-.06 Bathrooms** **Met**

**Comment**

Bathrooms observed to be clean and well maintained.

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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**

**Comment**

Center appears clean and well maintained.

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

**Comment**

Playground not observed on this date due to Tropical Storm Fred. The Consultant discussed with the Director to ensure no hazards were present and discussed possible hazards.

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**Food Service**

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**591-1-1-.15 Food Service & Nutrition** **Technical Assistance**

**Comment**

CACFP Meal Pattern Requirements effective October 1, 2017 will be implemented October 1, 2018: 3 Components for breakfast: Grains, Vegetables, Fruits or both, Milk  
5 Components for lunch – Grains, Meat/Meat alternates, Fruits, Vegetable, and Milk OR Grains, Meat/Meat alternates, 2 different types of vegetables, and Milk  
2 of 5 Components for snack

Provided Updated CACFP Infant Meal pattern and Child/Adult Meal pattern flyers.

The Crediting Handbook for the CACFP can be located on DECAL and USDA's website:

DECAL

<http://dec.al.ga.gov/CACFP/Handbook.aspx>

USDA

<http://www.fns.usda.gov/cacfp/cacfp-handbooks>

**Technical Assistance**

The Consultant discussed with the Director that foods and drinks with little or no nutritional value, i.e., sweets, soft drinks, etc. be served only on special occasions and only in addition to the required nutritious meals and snacks. The Consultant provided the CACFP meal and snack requirements.

**Correction Deadline: 8/17/2021**

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**Health and Hygiene**

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

**Comment**

Staff state proper knowledge of diapering procedures.

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

**Comment**

Proper hand washing observed throughout the center.

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

**Comment**

Documentation for medication dispensing observed complete.

## Policies and Procedures

### 591-1-1-.21 Operational Policies & Procedures

Met

#### Comment

Program observed complete emergency drills

### 591-1-1-.27 Posted Notices

Technical Assistance

#### Technical Assistance

The Consultant discussed with the Director to ensure all of the following postings were posted as required: the Center's current License or Permit; a copy of these rules; a copy of the current communicable disease chart; a statement allowing Parent(s) access to all child care areas upon notifying any staff member of his or her presence; names of persons responsible for the administration of the Center in the administrator's absence; the dated current week's menu for meals and snacks; emergency plans for severe weather, fire, and other emergency situations; a statement requiring visitors to check in with Staff when entering the Center; no smoking signs; and a notice provided by the Department which advises Parents of their right to review a copy of the Center's most recent licensure evaluation report upon request to the Center Director. The Center shall provide any Parent with a copy of this evaluation report upon request.

**Correction Deadline: 8/17/2021**

## Safety

### 591-1-1-.05 Animals

Met

#### Comment

Center does not keep animals on premises.

### 591-1-1-.11 Discipline(CR)

Met

#### Comment

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

### 591-1-1-.13 Field Trips(CR)

Met

#### Comment

Field trip documentation observed to be complete.

### 591-1-1-.36 Transportation(CR)

Met

#### Comment

Complete documentation of transportation observed.

## Sleeping & Resting Equipment

### 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.

## Staff Records

**Records Reviewed: 22**

**Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 0**

Staff # 1

Met

Date of Hire: 12/11/2017

Staff # 2 Date of Hire: 04/19/2008	Met
Staff # 3 Date of Hire: 07/27/2021	Met
Staff # 4 Date of Hire: 01/04/2021	Met
Staff # 5 Date of Hire: 09/23/2010	Met
Staff # 6 Date of Hire: 03/25/2019	Met
Staff # 7 Date of Hire: 11/04/2019	Met
Staff # 8 Date of Hire: 01/13/2021	Met
Staff # 9 Date of Hire: 10/03/2011	Met
Staff # 10 Date of Hire: 01/21/2019	Met
Staff # 11 Date of Hire: 02/24/2020	Met
Staff # 12 Date of Hire: 12/03/2010	Met
Staff # 13 Date of Hire: 09/08/2020	Met
Staff # 14 Date of Hire: 06/02/2021	Met
Staff # 15 Date of Hire: 01/21/2021	Met
Staff # 16 Date of Hire: 03/31/2019	Met

Staff # 17 Date of Hire: 03/19/2015	Met
Staff # 18 Date of Hire: 05/30/2008	Met
Staff # 19 Date of Hire: 06/16/2008	Met
Staff # 20 Date of Hire: 04/19/2008	Met
Staff # 21	Met
Staff # 22	Met

**Staff Credentials Reviewed: 9**

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

**Comment**

Criminal record checks were observed to be complete. The Consultant discussed with the Director to renew any Criminal Record Checks that were due to expire in 2021.

**591-1-1-.14 First Aid & CPR Met**

**Comment**

Evidence observed of 100% of center staff certified in First Aid and CPR that were required to be certified.

**591-1-1-.33 Staff Training Met**

**Comment**

Documentation observed of required staff training.

**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.

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

**Comment**

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