



**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:** 9/14/2021    **VisitType:** Licensing Study    **Arrival:** 10:00 AM    **Departure:** 11:00 AM

**CCLC-35644**

**Child Development Center**

2701 11th Avenue Columbus, GA 31904 Muscogee County  
 (706) 801-9428 BrittanySmith@espcaa.org

**Regional Consultant**

Penny Svenson

Phone: (470) 346-1037

Fax: (678) 891-5613

penny.svenson@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.
09/14/2021	Licensing Study	Good Standing	
02/02/2021	Monitoring Visit	Good Standing	
09/28/2020	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	1	Infants	2	6	C	13	C	NA	NA	Floor Play	
Main	10	PreK	2	16	C	21	C	NA	NA	Breakfast	
Main	11	Three Year Olds	2	13	C	16	C	NA	NA	Outside	
Main	12	Three Year Olds	2	10	C	16	C	NA	NA	Centers, Free Play	
Main	13	PreK	2	16	C	25	C	NA	NA	Circle Time	
Main	3	Two Year Olds	2	4	C	13	C	NA	NA	Centers, Free Play	
Main	4	One Year Olds and Two Year Olds	2	5	C	13	C	NA	NA	Free Play, Centers	
Main	5		0	0	C	17	C	NA	NA		
Main	6	Three Year Olds	2	9	C	17	C	NA	NA	Circle Time	
Main	7	Two Year Olds	2	12	C	16	C	NA	NA	Circle Time	
Main	8	Three Year Olds	2	10	C	16	C	NA	NA	Centers	
Main	9	Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds	2	9	C	21	C	NA	NA	Circle Time	
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 204						Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0					
Total # Children this Date: 110						Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 204				Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0	

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	Playground	69	C

## Comments

September 14, 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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Brittany Smith, 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**

Parent authorizations obtained/completed.

### 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 observed to be clean and in good repair.

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**Food Service**

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

**Technical Assistance**

The Consultant discussed with the Director the new revision to restricted food rule which states: Foods that are associated with young children's choking incidents, such as, but not limited to, peanuts, hot dogs, raw carrots, popcorn, fish and bones, cheese cubes, grapes and any other food that is of similar shape and size of the trachea/windpipe shall not be served to the children less than four (4) years of age. Children older than four (4) years of age may be served these foods provided that the foods are cut in such a way as to minimize choking.

**Correction Deadline: 9/14/2021**

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**591-1-1-.18 Kitchen Operations** **Met**

**Comment**

Please ensure that all food items are stored in airtight containers.

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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)** **Technical Assistance**

**Technical Assistance**

The Consultant reviewed each time children were required to wash hands: children wash their hands with liquid soap and warm running water upon arrival for care, when moving from one child care group to another, upon re-entering the child care area after outside play, before and after eating meals and snacks, handling or touching food, playing in water; after toileting and diapering, playing in sand, touching animals or pets, and contact with bodily fluids and after contamination by any other means.

**Correction Deadline: 9/14/2021**

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

**Comment**

Discussed proper medication documentation and procedures. If PRN, please note on medication form.

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**Policies and Procedures**

**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: 9/14/2021**

<b>Safety</b>
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**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**

Center does not participate in field trips at this time.

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

**Comment**

Paperwork, checklist, permission forms, annual inspection form and proper check of the vehicle after transportation were discussed with the director.

<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.

<b>Staff Records</b>
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**Records Reviewed: 38**

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

Staff # 1	Met
Date of Hire: 08/20/2009	
Staff # 2	Met
Date of Hire: 05/16/2015	
Staff # 3	Met
Staff # 4	Met

Date of Hire: 02/06/2017

Staff # 5 Met

Staff # 6 Met

Staff # 7 Met

Date of Hire: 10/01/2019

Staff # 8 Met

Date of Hire: 01/07/2005

Staff # 9 Met

Date of Hire: 10/15/2009

Staff # 10 Met

Date of Hire: 08/02/2021

Reminder - Health & Safety training is required within 90 calendar days of hired

Staff # 11 Met

Staff # 12 Met

Date of Hire: 08/16/2021

Reminder - Health & Safety training is required within 90 calendar days of hired

Staff # 13 Met

Staff # 14 Met

Date of Hire: 06/07/2021

Staff # 15 Met

Staff # 16 Met

Date of Hire: 06/18/2019

Staff # 17 Met

Date of Hire: 06/18/2019

Staff # 18 Met

Date of Hire: 10/17/2013

Staff # 19 Met

Staff # 20 Met

Date of Hire: 08/09/2021

Reminder - Health & Safety training is required within 90 calendar days of hired

Staff # 21 Met

**Records Reviewed: 38**

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

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Date of Hire: 04/15/2010

Staff # 22 Met

Date of Hire: 07/16/2015

Staff # 23 Met

Date of Hire: 07/23/2020

Staff # 24 Met

Date of Hire: 11/10/2020

Staff # 25 Met

Date of Hire: 05/14/2004

Staff # 26 Met

Date of Hire: 07/12/2021

Reminder - Health & Safety training is required within 90 calendar days of hired

Staff # 27 Met

Staff # 28 Met

Date of Hire: 06/14/2021

Staff # 29 Met

Date of Hire: 08/09/2021

Reminder - Health & Safety training is required within 90 calendar days of hired

Staff # 30 Met

Staff # 31 Met

Staff # 32 Met

Date of Hire: 09/16/2003

Staff # 33 Met

Staff # 34 Met

Staff # 35 Met

Staff # 36 Met

Staff # 37 Met

Staff # 38 Met

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**Staff Credentials Reviewed: 6**

**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-.14 First Aid & CPR**

**Met**

**Comment**

Evidence observed of 100% of center staff certified in First Aid and CPR.

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

**Met**

**Comment**

Documentation observed of required staff training. The Director sent additional hours for all staff.

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

**Met**

**Comment**

Staff observed to be compliant with applicable laws and regulations.

<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**

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