



**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:** 10/2/2018    **VisitType:** POI Follow Up    **Arrival:** 10:00 AM    **Departure:** 12:30 PM

**CCLC-38373**

**Buford Children's Academy**

4440 Commerce Drive Buford, GA 30518 Gwinnett County  
 (678) 765-7870 bufordchildrensacademy@gmail.com

**Regional Consultant**

Margarita Collier

Phone: (770) 342-7934

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margarita.collier@decal.ga.gov

Joint with: Tasha McDonald

**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.
10/02/2018	POI Follow Up	Good Standing	
09/04/2018	Complaint Closure	Support	
09/04/2018	Complaint Investigation Follow Up	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	A - 1R	Three Year Olds	1	10	C	20	C	NA	NA	Transitioning,Out side
Main	B - 2R	Four Year Olds	1	7	C	18	C	NA	NA	Centers,Art
Main	C - 3R		0	0	C	23	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
Main	D - 4R		0	0	C	21	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
Main	E - Rear		0	0	C	26	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
Main	F - 3L	Two Year Olds	1	10	C	14	C	NA	NA	Lunch,Transitioning,Nap
Main	G - 2L	One Year Olds	1	9	NC	14	C	NA	NA	Transitioning,Circle Time,Lunch
Main	H - 1L	Infants and One Year Olds	1	4	C	14	C	NA	NA	Nap,Floor Play,Free Play
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 150						Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0				
Total # Children this Date: 40						Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 150				
						Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0				

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	A - Left	24	C
Main	B - Middle	169	C
Main	C - Right	66	C

## Comments

The purpose of this visit was to follow-up on the previous visit conducted on September 4, 2018.

Plan of Improvement: Developed This Date 10/02/2018

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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Vanessa Persaud, Program Official

Date

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Margarita Collier, Consultant

Date

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Tasha McDonald, Consultant

Date



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### Findings Report

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The following information is associated with a POI Follow Up:

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

**Not Met**

**Technical Assistance**

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

**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 consultant's observation that three bottles of "Shave Foam" and a bottle of "Banana Boat Sport Performance" sunscreen spray was stored in an unlocked cabinet drawer located on the middle right side of classroom B-2R.

**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: 10/2/2018**

**Recited on 10/2/2018**

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

**Not Met**

**Technical Assistance**

Trees located on the site or that encroach onto the site from adjacent properties may have structural issues that present an elevated level of risk. Consider having these trees inspected by a certified arborist to determine their structural integrity and associated levels of risk.

**Correction Deadline: 8/31/2018**

**Corrected on 10/2/2018**

The previous citation was observed to be corrected on this date. Consultant observed the fence surrounding the playground areas to be clean and in good repair on this date.

**Correction Deadline: 8/31/2018**

**Corrected on 10/2/2018**

The previous citation was observed to be corrected on this date. The consultant observed the playground equipment to be clean and in good repair on this date.

**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 consultant's observation that the following hazards were observed on the center's playground areas:

- Playground C-Right - Two ant mounds were observed on the front right side of the playground area.
- Playground B-Middle - A broken tree branch was hanging from a tree located on the back left side, an ant mound was on the side walk exit leading to playground C-Right, and a spider web was attached to the outside window of classroom 4R on the front right side of the playground. Spider webs were observed throughout the green and yellow wooden canopy located on the back right side of the playground and two ant mounds were observed on the middle left side of the playground across from the green and yellow playground structure.
- Playground A-Left - Spider webs were observed throughout the green, yellow, black, and red sliding structure.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

The center will remove any litter and fix or remove hazards from the playground and will routinely monitor the playground and remove litter and hazards. The center will monitor the playgrounds for potential ant mounds and spider webs and treat the areas as needed.

**Correction Deadline: 10/2/2018**

<b>Food Service</b>
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**591-1-1-.15 Food Service & Nutrition**

**Technical Assistance**

**Technical Assistance**

Please ensure that bottles are covered and fully labeled with child's full name.

<b>Staff Records</b>
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**591-1-1-.14 First Aid & CPR**

**Not Met**

**Finding**

591-1-1-.14(2) requires a Staff member who is trained in CPR and first aid to be on the premises and on any field trip whenever any child is present. In addition, Staff who provide direct care to children must satisfactorily obtain certification in first aid and CPR by December 29, 2016 if employed prior to September 30, 2016 and within 90 days of their hire date if employed after September 30, 2016. It was determined based on consultant's review of staff files one of 14 staff members did not have evidence of a current first aid and CPR training card on file. It was further determined based on consultant's review of staff files three of 14 staff members did not have evidence of a current CPR card on file.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

The Center will develop a schedule to ensure there is always a staff person with current first aid and CPR training present and will develop and implement a plan to ensure all staff members have satisfactorily completed first aid and CPR training by the specified date. Per the director, the center has a first aid and CPR training class scheduled for Saturday, October 6, 2018.

**Correction Deadline: 10/26/2018**

**Recited on 10/2/2018**

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

**Not Met**

**Finding**

591-1-1-.33(3) requires each staff member with direct care responsibilities to complete health and safety training at the time of employment that will count toward required annual training: Staff employed prior to September 30, 2016 will complete the training by December 29, 2016 and Staff employed after September 30, 2016 will complete the health and safety training within the first 90 days of employment. It was determined based on consultant's review of staff files one of 14 staff members did not complete the health and safety orientation training as required.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

The Center will develop and implement a plan to schedule and track this training for all employees based on their hire dates.

**Correction Deadline: 10/15/2018**

**Recited on 10/2/2018**

**Staffing and Supervision**

**591-1-1-.32 Staff:Child Ratios and Group Size(CR)**

**Not Met**

**Technical Assistance**

Consultant discussed proper ratios with the director on this date.

**Finding**

591-1-1-.32(1) requires the Center to maintain the required Staff:child ratios as follows: under 1 year or under 18 months if not walking = 1:6; 1 year and walking = 1:8; 2 years = 1:10; 3 years = 1:15; 4 years = 1:18; 5 years = 1:20;and 6 years and older = 1:25. A Center must establish groupings of children for care with maximum group sizes as follows: under 1 year = 12; under 18 months/not walking = 12; 1 year and walking = 16; 2 years = 20; 3 years = 30; 4 years = 36; 5 years = 40; and 6 years and older = 50. It was determined based on consultant's observation that a ratio of 1:9 one-year-old was observed in classroom G-2L when a ratio of 2:9 was required on this date.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

The Center will hire additional Staff or reschedule current Staff to meet required Staff:child ratios and will organize children into groups that meet requirements.

**Correction Deadline: 10/2/2018**