



**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: 9/29/2020 **VisitType:** Monitoring Visit **Arrival:** 8:45 AM **Departure:** 1:00 PM

CCLC-39883

Small Smiles Learning & Childcare Center

1169 Third Street Folkston, GA 31537 Charlton County
(912) 496-3654 kristiesmith30@yahoo.com

Regional Consultant

Jerica Davis

Phone: (478) 314-9452
Fax: (478) 314-9443
jerica.davis@decals.ga.gov

Mailing Address
Same

Quality Rated: ★

Compliance Zone Designation		
09/29/2020	Monitoring Visit	Good Standing
02/05/2020	POI Follow Up	Good Standing
01/08/2020	Licensing Study	Support

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.

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	Infants and One Year Olds	4	4	C	8	C	NA	NA	Circle Time, Floor Play
Main	B	Three Year Olds	1	5	C	8	C	11	C	Circle Time
Main	C	Two Year Olds	1	6	C	9	C	NA	NA	Centers, Circle Time, Diapering
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 25						Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 28				
Total # Children this Date: 15			Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 25			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 28				

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	Playground A	39	C

Comments

The purpose of today's visit is to conduct a monitoring visit.

The center does not provide transportation, field trips, swimming activities, or administer medications.

Plan of Improvement: Developed This Date 09/29/2020

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

Kristie Blake, Program Official

Date

Jerica Davis, Consultant

Date



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

Findings Report

Date: 9/29/2020 **VisitType:** Monitoring Visit **Arrival:** 8:45 AM **Departure:** 1:00 PM

CCLC-39883

Small Smiles Learning & Childcare Center

1169 Third Street Folkston, GA 31537 Charlton County
(912) 496-3654 kristiesmith30@yahoo.com

Mailing Address
Same

Regional Consultant

Jerica Davis

Phone: (478) 314-9452
Fax: (478) 314-9443
jerica.davis@decal.ga.gov

The following information is associated with a Monitoring Visit:

Activities and Equipment

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

Met

Comment

A variety of equipment and toys were observed throughout the center.

Technical Assistance

Please ensure that equipment and furniture be placed so as to permit the children's freedom of movement and to minimize danger of accident and collision. Please ensure that tables are stored in a way to prevent accidents.

Correction Deadline: 9/29/2020

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)

Met

Comment

Licensed capacity observed to be routinely met by center.

591-1-1-.25 Physical Plant - Safe Environment(CR)**Not Met****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 the following hazards were observed:

- In classroom C, a bottle of Clorox spray was observed to be stored on the back of the toilet accessible to the children in care.
- In classroom C, a air freshener was observed to be stored on the back of the toilet accessible to the children in care.
- In classroom C, a plug in air freshener was plugged into the wall in a wall outlet next to the restroom low enough to be accessible to the children in care.

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: 9/29/2020

591-1-1-.26 Playgrounds(CR)**Not Met****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 observation that the resilient surfacing at the base of all three slides and at the base of the ladder measured 3 inches of resilient surfacing where six inches is required. Additionally, most of the resilient surfacing has grass growing over it.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will add additional resilient surfacing to the fall zones where needed and check daily, adding resilient surfacing as needed to maintain adequate resiliency. Additionally, center will ensure that resilient surfacing is free from weed and grass coverage.

Correction Deadline: 10/9/2020

Health and Hygiene

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

Proper diapering procedures observed.

Technical Assistance

Please inspect the changing pad in classroom A for tearing and repair or replace as needed.

Correction Deadline: 9/29/2020

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

Proper hand washing observed throughout the center.

Comment

Staff were observed to remind children to wash hands.

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

Center does not provide routine transportation.

Sleeping & Resting Equipment

591-1-1-.30 Safe Sleeping and Resting Requirements(CR)**Not Met****Comment**

Discussed SIDS and infant sleeping position.

Finding

591-1-1-.30(1)(a)3 requires that each crib shall have only an individual, tight-fitting sheet which is changed daily or more often as needed and prior to a change of occupant. It was determined based on observation that two of five crib sheets appeared to be soiled. The staff member stated that crib sheets are changed weekly when daily crib sheet changes are required.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The center will ensure that each crib has an individual, tight-fitting sheet which is changed daily or more often as needed and prior to a change of occupant.

Correction Deadline: 9/29/2020

Staff Records

Records Reviewed: 6**Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 1**

Staff # 1

Met

Date of Hire: 06/01/2017

Staff # 2

Met

Date of Hire: 06/01/2017

Staff # 3

Not Met

Date of Hire: 08/31/2020

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.09-Criminal Records Check Missing

Staff # 4

Met

Date of Hire: 01/08/2019

Staff # 5

Met

Date of Hire: 06/01/2017

Staff # 6

Met

Date of Hire: 03/12/2018

Staff Credentials Reviewed: 3

Finding

591-1-1-.09(1)(a) requires that a Center ensure that every actual and potential Director, Employee and Provisional Employee of a Child Care Learning Center submit both a Records Check Application to the Department and Fingerprints to an authorized fingerprinting site. It was determined based on a review of records that a staff member did not submit a Records Check Application to the Department before being present as the center as required.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

IMMEDIATE CORRECTION - The Center will review all criminal background check videos and complete the provided affidavit to ensure that every actual and potential Director, Employee and Provisional Employee of a Child Care Learning Center submit both a Records Check Application to the Department and Fingerprints to an authorized fingerprinting site as required. The program's owner or an officer/member of the corporation must view the A to Z Background Check video units pertaining to this records check rule and return the signed affidavit within one week from this visit date. The Center will complete all steps to ensure the CRC rules are maintained.

Correction Deadline: 9/29/2020**Finding**

591-1-1-.09(1)(c) requires the Center to ensure that every Employee has a valid and current satisfactory Comprehensive Records Check Determination on file prior to being present at the Center while any child is present for care or before an individual age 17 or older resides in the Center. The Comprehensive Records Check Determination must have a Records Check Clearance Date that is no older than the preceding 12 months of the hire date; provided, however, if the Employee has had a lapse of employment from the child care industry that lasted for 180 days (6 months) or longer, a new satisfactory Comprehensive Records Check Determination is required. It was determined based on a review of records that an employee did not have a valid and current satisfactory Comprehensive Records Check Determination on file prior to being present at the child care center.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

IMMEDIATE CORRECTION - The Center will review all criminal record check videos and complete the provided affidavit to ensure that every Employee has a valid and current satisfactory Comprehensive Records Check Determination on file prior to being present at the Center while any child is present for care or before an individual age 17 or older resides in the Center. The Comprehensive Records Check Determination must have a Records Check Clearance Date that is no older than the preceding 12 months of the hire date; provided, however, if the Employee has had a lapse of employment from the child care industry that lasted for 180 days (6 months) or longer, a new satisfactory Comprehensive Records Check Determination is required. The program's owner or an officer/member of the corporation must view the A to Z Background Check video units pertaining to this records check rule and return the signed affidavit within one week from this visit date. The center will complete all steps to ensure the CRC rules are maintained.

Correction Deadline: 9/29/2020

591-1-1-.33 Staff Training**Not Met****Finding**

591-1-1-.33(1) requires all Employees and Provisional Employees to receive Initial Center orientation prior to assignment to children or task. It was determined based on a review of records that one staff member hired in August of 2020 did not have evidence of completed orientation on file prior to assignment to children as required.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will develop and provide orientation for all new Staff prior to their staff's assignment to children or task.

Correction Deadline: 10/6/2020**Defer**

591-1-1-.33(5)- This citation will be evaluated at the next licensing study conducted after January 1, 2021.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will plan and schedule the required 10 hours of annual training each year and follow up to ensure the training is completed.

Correction Deadline: 2/7/2020

Technical Assistance

Please ensure a temperature check and health screening is conducted on all children and staff entering the building to comply with the executive order effective August 15, 2020. Please ensure there is a staff member available to complete health screenings before children enter the classroom.

Technical Assistance

Please ensure that the Center Director who is responsible for the supervision, operation and maintenance of the Center must be on the Center's premises at least 80 percent of operating hours.

Correction Deadline: 9/29/2020

Staffing and Supervision

Correction Deadline: 2/5/2020

Corrected on 9/29/2020

.32(2) - This citation was observed to be corrected on this date. Appropriate ratios were observed throughout.

Finding

591-1-1-.32(7) requires that children be supervised at all times and that the persons supervising in the child care area be alert, able to respond promptly to the needs and actions of the children being supervised, as well as the actions of the chaperones and Students-in-Training, and provide timely attention to the children's actions and needs. It was determined based on observation that a staff member in classroom B left five three-year-old children unattended in the classroom briefly while she walked to the front door to unlock it.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will train Staff and monitor to ensure they are providing supervision and watchful oversight to the children at all times. The staff members will ensure that when children are using the hall bathroom, all children are with the staff member until all children are finished and then will return to the classroom at the same time.

Correction Deadline: 9/29/2020

Recited on 9/29/2020