



**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:** 6/30/2022    **VisitType:** POI Follow Up    **Arrival:** 9:30 AM    **Departure:** 10:30 AM

**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@dec.al.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.
06/30/2022	POI Follow Up	Good Standing	
05/18/2022	POI Follow Up	Support	
03/25/2022	Licensing Study	Support	

**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	1	8	NC	8	C	NA	NA	Outside, Transitioning
Main	B	Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds and Five Year Olds	1	9	C	8	NC	11	C	Transitioning, Outside
Main	C	Two Year Olds and Three Year Olds	2	10	C	9	NC	NA	NA	Outside, Transitioning
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 25			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 28							
Total # Children this Date: 27			Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 25			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 28				

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	Playground A	39	C

**Comments**

A Plan of Improvement Follow-Up visit was conducted on June 30, 2022. The visit report was closed on this date and emailed to the owner. All Criminal Background Checks were reviewed on this date.

Plan of Improvement: Developed This Date 06/30/2022

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



### Important Quality Rated/CAPS Update:

As January 1, 2022, child care providers must be Quality Rated to receive Childcare and Parent Services (CAPS). Newly licensed, or new to CAPS providers may be eligible for the new CAPS/QR Provisional Status, allowing for scholarships while working toward a star rating.

**Contact the Quality Rated help desk at 855-800-7747 or [qualityrated@dec.state.ga.us](mailto:qualityrated@dec.state.ga.us) for more information. Free technical assistance is available!**

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), do the following:

- 1) Log into DECAL KOALA [www.decalkoala.com](http://www.decalkoala.com) with the userid for your program
- 2) On the home page scroll down to the Inspection Reports and select 'Refute Citation' for the visit report in dispute
- 3) Select the specific rule number(s) that you are refuting, add the reason for disagreement regarding the rule citation, and upload supporting documentation
- 4) Submit the refutation in DECAL KOALA to Child Care Services (CCS) within 10 business days of the completion date.

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)

Resa Smith, Program Official

Date

Jerica Davis, Consultant

Date



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**Findings Report**

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The following information is associated with a POI Follow Up:

	<b>Facility</b>
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**591-1-1-.19 License Capacity(CR)**

**Not Met**

**Finding**

591-1-1-.19(1) requires a Center to provide 35 square feet of usable space per child, which will determine the Center's License capacity. It was determined based on observation that classroom B had nine children present in a classroom licensed for eight children. Additionally, classroom C had 10 children present in a classroom licensed for nine children. The center's total licensed capacity is 25 children and 27 were children present on this date.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

The Center will limit the number of children in this space to the licensed capacity.

**Correction Deadline: 6/30/2022**

**Recited on 6/30/2022**

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

**Met**

**Correction Deadline: 5/18/2022**

**Corrected on 6/30/2022**

**.25(13) - This citation was observed to have been corrected on this date. All hazards were observed stored inaccessible to children.**

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

**Met**

**Correction Deadline: 6/1/2022**

**Corrected on 6/30/2022**

**.26(6) - This citation was observed to have been corrected on this date. All damaged equipment was observed to have been removed from the playground.**

**Correction Deadline: 6/1/2022**

**Corrected on 6/30/2022**

**.26(8) This citation was observed to have been corrected on this date. The center has added mulch in the fall zones.**

## Staff Records

Records Reviewed: 8

Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 1

Staff # 1 Date of Hire: 06/01/2017	Met
Staff # 2 Date of Hire: 06/01/2017	Met
Staff # 3 <u>"Missing/Incomplete Components"</u> .09-Criminal Records Check Missing	Not Met
Staff # 4 Date of Hire: 05/18/2022	Met <u>Reminder - Health &amp; Safety training is required within 90 calendar days of hired</u>
Staff # 5 Date of Hire: 01/08/2019	Met
Staff # 6 Date of Hire: 06/01/2017	Met
Staff # 7 Date of Hire: 03/12/2018	Met
Staff # 8 Date of Hire: 07/15/2021	Met

### Staff Credentials Reviewed: 2

**591-1-1-.09 Criminal Records and Comprehensive Background Checks(CR)** **Not Met**

#### 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 staff member #3 did not submit both a Records Check Application to the Department and Fingerprints to an authorized fingerprinting site before employment as required.

#### POI (Plan of Improvement)

IMMEDIATE CORRECTION - The Center will complete the provided affidavit form 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: 6/30/2022**

**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 staff member #3 did not have 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 as required.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

IMMEDIATE CORRECTION - The Center will complete the provided affidavit form 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: 6/30/2022**

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

**Defer**

**Defer**

591-1-1-.33(5)- This citation will be evaluated at the next Licensing Study.

**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: 1/1/2023**

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

**Not Met**

**Finding**

591-1-1-.31(1)(b)2 requires the Director to possess at least one of the sets of minimum academic requirements and qualifying child care experience listed in Rule 591-1-1-.31(1)(b)2.(i-xiii). It was determined based on a review of records that the director did not possess at least one of the sets of minimum academic requirements as required.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

The Center will ensure that the Director meets the minimum education and work requirements and secure the necessary documentation.

**Correction Deadline: 6/30/2022**

**Recited on 6/30/2022**

**Finding**

591-1-1-.31(2)(b)1 requires teachers/lead caregivers to be at least 18 years of age. It was determined based on observation that a staff member who was 17 years of age was in the infant and one-year-old classroom with eight children present and was not supervised by a qualified staff member as required.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

The Director will immediately place qualified staff to supervise the children in care and any teenage helpers and will never leave anyone under 18 years of age alone with children.

**Correction Deadline: 6/30/2022**

**Defer**

591-1-1-.31(2)(b)2.- This citation will be evaluated at the next regulatory visit. Center staff have enrolled in a CDA course.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

A teacher/lead caregiver will be hired that meets the minimum academic requirements and qualifying work experience.

**Correction Deadline: 6/15/2022**

<b>Staffing and Supervision</b>
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**591-1-1-.32 Staff:Child Ratios and Group Size(CR)**

**Not Met**

**Finding**

591-1-1-.32(2) requires the Center maintain Staff:child ratios in mixed-age groups based on the age of the youngest group of children that includes more than twenty percent of the total number of children in the mixed-age group. It was determined based on observation that one staff member was present in classroom A with two infant children and six one-year-old children when two staff members were required.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

The Center will provide adequate staff when there is a mixed-age group.

**Correction Deadline: 6/30/2022**