



**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:** 1/11/2023    **VisitType:** Licensing Study    **Arrival:** 10:15 AM    **Departure:** 2:00 PM

**CCLC-33042**

**Valley Oaks Learning Center**

154 Valley Hill Rd. Suite A and B Riverdale, GA 30274 Clayton County  
 (770) 471-3377 valleyoakslearningcenter@gmail.com

**Regional Consultant**

Nadia Bernard

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**Mailing Address**

1415 hwy 85 n, Ste. 310-194  
 Fayetteville, GA 30214

**Quality Rated:** ★ ★

<b>Compliance Zone Designation</b>		
01/11/2023	Licensing Study	Good Standing
08/25/2022	Monitoring Visit	Good Standing
06/23/2022	Licensing Study	Good Standing

**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	Room A - Far Right	One Year Olds	1	4	C	13	C	NA	NA	Free Play
Main	Room B - 2nd Right	Two Year Olds	1	6	C	13	C	NA	NA	Free Play
Main	Room C - Left		0	0	C	30	C	41	C	
Main	Room D; 3yr olds	Three Year Olds	1	5	C	7	C	NA	NA	Outside
Main	Room E; 4 yr olds	Four Year Olds	1	6	C	7	C	NA	NA	Outside
Main	Room F; Infant	Infants	1	4	C	5	C	NA	NA	Floor Play
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 75					Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 86					
Total # Children this Date: 25			Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 75			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 86				

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	Main Playground	26	C

**Comments**

Plan developed on this date.

Plan of Improvement: Developed This Date 01/11/2023

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), do the following:

- 1) Log into DECAL KOALA [www.decalkoala.com](http://www.decalkoala.com) with the user id 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)



**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!**

Teneria Green, Program Official

Date

Nadia Bernard, 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-.03 Activities**

**Technical Assistance**

**Technical Assistance**

591-1-1-.03(2) - Please ensure lesson plan are updated.

**Correction Deadline: 1/11/2023**

**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**

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

**Technical Assistance**

**Technical Assistance**

591-1-1-.08(1) - Please ensure that name(s) and addresses of the person(s) to whom the child may be released including address, telephone numbers, relationship to child and to Parent(s), and other identifying information; name(s) and telephone number(s) of person(s) to contact in emergencies when the Parent cannot be reached; name and telephone number of the child's primary source of health care; and a statement regarding known allergies, physical problems, mental health disorders, intellectual disabilities or developmental disabilities which limit the child's participation in the program

**Correction Deadline: 1/11/2023**

**Facility**

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

**Comment**

Please monitor bathrooms for necessary supplies.

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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**

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

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**591-1-1-.26 Playgrounds(CR)** **Not Met**

**Finding**

591-1-1-.26(4) requires that playgrounds be protected from traffic or other hazards by a (4) four foot high fence or other barrier approved by this Department. Fencing material shall not present a hazard to children and shall be maintained so as to prevent children from leaving the playground area by any means other than through an approved access route. Fence gates shall be kept closed except when persons are entering or exiting the area. It was determined based on observation that there was seven and half inch gap located on the fence exit gate that restricted the rear gate from closing.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

The Center will routinely check the fence to determine if it is in good repair and remains at least 4 feet high, and will repair any hazards. The Center will train Staff to identify and report any fence hazards and to keep the fence gates closed when not in use.

**Correction Deadline: 1/11/2023**

**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 there was an Inadequate amount of resilient surface under the red slide measuring less than 3 inches when a depth requirement of six inches is needed for equipment measuring five feet or higher.

**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.

**Correction Deadline: 1/21/2023**

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<b>Food Service</b>
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**591-1-1-.15 Food Service & Nutrition** **Not Met**

**Finding**

591-1-1-.15(3) requires baby bottles and formula to be labeled with the individual child's name; supplied by the Parent daily in bottles; and refrigerated at a temperature of forty (40) degrees Fahrenheit or less. Only the current day's formula or breast milk shall be served. If formula must be provided by the Center, only commercially prepared, ready-to-feed formula shall be used. Refrigerated or frozen breast milk shall only be heated or thawed under warm running water or in a container of warm water. It was determined based on observation that powder form not commercially prepared formula was used in Room F.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

The Center will train Staff to follow the required procedures, ensure that parents are fully informed, and will review and monitor regularly.

**Correction Deadline: 1/11/2023**

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

**Comment**

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

**Health and Hygiene**

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

**Met**

**Comment**

Staff state proper knowledge of diapering procedures.

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

**Technical Assistance**

**Technical Assistance**

591-1-1-.17(6) - Please ensure that garbage and organic waste to be stored in containers that are lined with plastic liners and have tight-fitting covers.

**Correction Deadline: 1/11/2023**

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

**Met**

**Comment**

The Provider currently does not dispense/administer medication.

**Policies and Procedures**

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

**Not Met**

**Finding**

591-1-1-.21(3) requires that the Center conduct drills for fire, tornado and other emergency situations. The fire drills will be conducted monthly and tornado and other emergency situation drills will be conducted every six months. The Center shall maintain documentation of the dates and times of these drills for two years. It was determined based on review of documents that fire drills for the month of August and December were incomplete for the year 2022.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

The Center will hold the drills as required and keep the documentation of the drills on file for two years.

**Correction Deadline: 1/16/2023**

**591-1-1-.27 Posted Notices**

**Met**

**Comment**

Please make sure that all required signs are posted and up to date.

**Safety**

**591-1-1-.05 Animals**

**Met**

**Comment**

Center does not keep animals on premises.

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

**Met**

**Comment**

Age-appropriate discussion and/or redirection observed.

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

**Met**

**Comment**

Center does not participate in field trips at this time.

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

Please include address of destinations on transportation checklist.

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**Sleeping & Resting Equipment**

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**591-1-1-.30 Safe Sleeping and Resting Requirements(CR)****Not Met****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 staff statement that crib sheets are changed weekly.

**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: 1/11/2023**

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**Staff Records**

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

Director provided two files for employees hired since last visit.

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**591-1-1-.09 Criminal Records Check(CR)****Met****Comment**

Criminal records checks were observed to be complete.

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

Complete first aid kits observed in center and on vehicles.

**Comment**

Evidence observed of 50% of center staff certified in First Aid and CPR.

**Finding**

Previously Cited: 591-1-1-.33(6) requires, in the first year of employment and then by calendar year thereafter, all supervisory and caregiver Personnel, except independent contractors, Students-in-Training and volunteers to attend ten (10) clock hours of training which is task-focused in early childhood education or child development or subjects relating to job assignment and is offered by an accredited college, university or vocational program or other Department-approved source. It was determined based on consultant's review of records that six out of six staff did not have evidence of annual training for 2018. One staff obtained 6 hours of annual training for 2018 and a second staff obtained 2 hours of annual training for 2018.

91-1-1-.33(5) requires that every calendar year after the first year of employment, all supervisory and caregiver Personnel, except independent contractors, Students-in-Training and volunteers shall attend ten (10) clock hours of diverse training which is task-focused in on-going health, safety and early childhood or child development related topics and which is offered by an accredited college, university or vocational program or other Department-approved source. The annual ten (10) clock hours of training shall be chosen from the following fields: child development, including discipline, guidance, nutrition, injury control and safety; health, including sanitation, disease control, cleanliness, detection and disposition of illness; child abuse and neglect, including identification and reporting, and meeting the needs of abused and/or neglected children; and business related topics, including parental communication, recordkeeping, etc.; provided however that such business related training shall be limited to no more than two (2) of the required ten (10) clock hours of training. Records of completion of such training shall be maintained, as required by these rules. It was determined based on a review of records that two out of seven applicable center staff were missing valid proof of 10 hours of annual training for 2022.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

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

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: 12/31/2023**

**Recited on 1/11/2023**

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

**Met**

**Correction Deadline: 10/7/2022**

**Corrected on 1/11/2023**

**.31(2)(c) - Citation observed to be correct on this date. Staff members are enrolled in CDA program.**

**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**

Center observed to maintain appropriate staff:child ratios.