



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: 10/27/2025 **VisitType:** Licensing Study

Arrival: 10:35 AM **Departure:** 3:15 PM

CCLC-16520

Countryside Childcare, Inc.

174 Hooker Road Chatsworth, GA 30705 Murray County
(706) 695-0189

Lead Consultant

Dianne Clarke

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Joint with: Megan O'Mary

Mailing Address

Same

Quality Rated: ★ ★

Compliance Zone Designation			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.
10/27/2025	Licensing Study	Good Standing	
12/11/2024	Licensing Study	Good Standing	
05/30/2024	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	A-1st Left	Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds	2	14	C	15	C	21	C	Circle Time
Main	B-1st Right	Infants and One Year Olds and Two Year Olds	2	11	C	19	C	NA	NA	Free Play, Feeding
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 34			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 34							
Total # Children this Date: 25			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 34							

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
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Enrolled Children						
Under 1 years	1 years	2 years	3 years	4 years	5 years (Prekonly)	5 years and older
2	7	2	7	7	0	0

Comments

Reminders:

- First Aid and CPR: Effective July 1, 2025, new staff are required to obtain pediatric First Aid and pediatric CPR training within 45 days of employment. At least one person in each classroom must have current pediatric and CPR training.
- Please update the center's policies and procedures to include the programs practices regarding the expulsion and suspension of children enrolled for care within the description of behavior management and discipline actions.
- Please ensure a description of practices followed by the center on the prevention of shaking baby syndrome and abusive head trauma in children up to five years of age.
- Effective July 1, 2025, all staff are required to obtain at least two hours in evidence based, developmentally appropriate language and literacy practices at least two hours in on-going child development and health and safety related topics as part of their 10 hours of annual training.

Please be sure to utilize the indicator manual for any clarification needed on rules and regulations. The indicator manual can be found here: https://www.dec.al.ga.gov/documents/attachments/CCLC_IndicatorManual.pdf

One Day letter left.

Plan of Improvement: Developed This Date

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.al.ga.gov/CCS/RulesAndRegulations.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 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)

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.al.ga.gov for more information. Free technical assistance is available!



Summary Report

Date: 10/27/2025 **VisitType:** Licensing Study

Arrival: 10:35 AM **Departure:** 3:15 PM

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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 on this date.

591-1-1-.35 Swimming Pools & Water-related Activities(CR)

N/A

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 on this date.

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

Not Met

Correction Deadline: 12/11/2024

Corrected on 10/27/2025

.25(13) - The previous citation was corrected in that there were no cleaning supplies accessible to the children in the B-1st Right classroom.

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 classroom on the A-1st left had wet one wipes, insect repellent, a package of wipes, Ziploc bags, three tubes of diaper changing cream in children's bags that were accessible to children. Additionally there was a broom and dust pan in the bathroom accessible to children.

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: 10/27/2025

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

Technical Assistance

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.26(4) - Please ensure to check the double gate towards the back of the playground before the children go out after weekend.

Correction Deadline: 10/27/2025

Correction Deadline: 12/21/2024

Corrected on 10/27/2025

.26(6) - The previous citation was corrected on this date.

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.26(9) - Please ensure that equipment that is disassembled is not accessible to the children on the playground.

Correction Deadline: 10/27/2025

Health and Hygiene

591-1-1-.07 Children's Health

Technical Assistance

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.07(5) - Please ensure attachments are not used for pacifiers

Correction Deadline: 10/27/2025

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

Met

Comment

Staff stated proper knowledge of diapering procedures.

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

Met

Comment

Proper hand washing observed throughout the center on this date.

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

Not Met

Finding

591-1-1-.20(4) requires the Center to keep medication in a cabinet or container that is locked or otherwise not accessible to the children and to be stored separate from cleaning chemicals, supplies or poisons. Medications requiring refrigeration shall be placed in a leak-proof container in a refrigerator that is not accessible to the children. It was determined based on observation that the following medications were accessible to children in their backpacks in the cubbies of classroom A-1st Left; two bottles of Motrin, Cetirizine, two bottles of Acetaminophen, two bottles of cough syrup, saline, gas drops, eye itch relief, two suppositories and Triamcinolone Acetonide cream.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will train Staff on the safe and proper storage of medication and monitor to ensure that the rule is met. The bags were given to the staff to place in an area inaccessible to the children.

Correction Deadline: 10/27/2025

Policies and Procedures

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

Technical Assistance

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.21(2)(r) - New - Discussed updating the Center's policies and procedures to include the program's practices regarding the expulsion and suspension of children enrolled for care within the description of behavior management and discipline actions used by the Center.

Also discussed to ensure a description of the practices followed by the Center to prevent shaken baby syndrome and abusive head trauma in children up to five years of age that includes the following information: how to recognize, respond to, and report the signs and symptoms of shaken baby syndrome and abusive head trauma; strategies to assist staff members in understanding how to care for infants and how to cope with a crying, fussing, or distraught child; strategies to ensure staff members understand the brain development of children up to five years of age; and a list of prohibited behaviors when dealing with children.

Additional information can be found in the CCLC Indicator Manual found on DECAL's website at:

<https://www.dec.al.gov/CCS/RulesAndRegulations.aspx> or through the Center on Shaken Baby Syndrome found at: <https://dontshake.org/>.

Correction Deadline: 11/1/2025

Safety

591-1-1-.11 Discipline(CR)	Met
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Comment

Staff were observed to maintain a positive learning environment on this date.

591-1-1-.13 Field Trips(CR)	N/A
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Comment

Center does not participate in field trips at this time.

591-1-1-.36 Transportation(CR)	N/A
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Comment

Center does not provide routine transportation.

Sleeping & Resting Equipment

591-1-1-.30 Safe Sleeping and Resting Requirements(CR)	Not Met
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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 infant cribs in the back right corner of the B-1st right classroom had sheets that were not tight-fitting.

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: 10/27/2025

Staff Records

Records Reviewed: 6

Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 2

Staff # 2

Not Met

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.09-Criminal Records Check Missing

Staff # 6

Not Met

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.09-Criminal Records Check Missing

591-1-1-.09 Criminal Records and Comprehensive Background Checks(CR)	Not Met
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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 #2, hired on September 29, 2025, and staff #6, hired on October 20, 2025, did not have evidence of completing a fingerprint application.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

IMMEDIATE CORRECTION - The Center will ensure to complete a fingerprint application for staff prior to them being present at the center 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 director and/or staff responsible for staffing will review the CRC modules regarding criminal records to ensure the CRC rules are maintained. The owner director and/or staff responsible for staffing will review the CRC modules regarding criminal records to ensure the CRC rules are maintained. The staff submitted an application for fingerprints during the visit.

Correction Deadline: 10/27/2025

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 #2, hired on September 29, 2025, and staff #6, hired on October 20, 2025, did not have evidence of comprehensive records check determination on file.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

IMMEDIATE CORRECTION - The Center will ensure to receive a completed a records check determination for staff prior to them being present at 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 childcare 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 director and/or staff responsible for staffing will review the CRC modules regarding criminal records to ensure the CRC rules are maintained. The staff submitted an application for fingerprints during the visit.

Correction Deadline: 10/27/2025

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

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

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

591-1-1-.33(1) - Discussed that all Employees, including volunteers, independent contractors, students-in-training, etc. should have a completed initial program orientation form on file.

Correction Deadline: 10/27/2025

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.33(4) - Please ensure that nutrition training is maintained on file and also completed within the first year for individual responsible for food preparation.

Correction Deadline: 11/26/2025

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.33(5)(b)1. - New - Discussed that effective July 1, 2025, all staff are required to obtain at least two hours in evidence based, developmentally appropriate language and literacy practices and at least two hours in on-going child development and health and safety related topics as part of their 10 hours of annual training.

Correction Deadline: 11/26/2025

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

Staff observed to be compliant with applicable laws and regulations.

Staffing and Supervision

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

Correction Deadline: 12/11/2024

Corrected on 10/27/2025

.32(4) - The previous citation was corrected.

591-1-1-.32 Supervision(CR)**Met****Comment**

Center observed to maintain appropriate staff:child ratios.