



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: 5/12/2025 **VisitType:** Incident Investigation & Follow Up **Arrival:** 2:00 PM **Departure:** 4:30 PM

CCLC-63880

Child Development Center - Blackshear

5218 Highway 121 North Blackshear, GA 31516 Pierce County
 (912) 449-6765 afountain@ymcawaycross.org

Regional Consultant

Connie Boatright

Phone: (912) 544-9701

Fax: (912) 544-9700

connie.boatright@decal.ga.gov

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.
05/12/2025	Incident Investigation & Follow Up	Good Standing	
02/17/2025	Complaint Closure	Good Standing	
01/31/2025	Complaint Investigation & Monitoring Visit	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 - Main Hall-Right	One Year Olds	3	10	C	18	C	NA	NA	Outside,Transiti oning,Nap
Main	B- Main Hall-Left	One Year Olds	2	9	C	18	C	NA	NA	Nap,Outside,Tra nsitioning
Main	C Right Hall - Left	Two Year Olds	2	14	C	22	C	NA	NA	Nap,Transitionin g
Main	D-Right Hall-Right	Three Year Olds	2	16	C	23	C	NA	NA	Nap,Transitionin g,Outside
Main	E- Left Hall-Right		0	0	C	22	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
Main	F-Left Hall-Left		0	0	C	21	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
Main	G-Lunchroom	Six Year Olds and Over	1	19	C	28	C	NA	NA	Transitioning,Ho mework,Art
Main	H - Library	Four Year Olds	1	11	C	9	NC	NA	NA	Outside,Story,Tr ansitioning
Main	I-Behind Lunchroom	One Year Olds	2	3	C	14	C	NA	NA	Transitioning,Ou tside,Nap
		Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 115			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0			Building @35 capacity limited by Fire Marshall Limitations		
Total # Children this Date: 82		Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 115			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0					

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	A	126	C
Main	B	91	C

Comments

The provider stated no medication is administered, no field trips, routine transportation or swimming activities are provided.

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:

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 CAPS/ QR Provisional Status, allowing for scholarships while working toward an initial star rating. Provisional Status eligibility will be determined at the time of CAPS enrollment as part of the CAPS application process.

Contact the Quality Rated help desk at 855-800-7747 or qualityrated@dec.al.ga.gov for more information. Free technical assistance is available!



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: 5/12/2025 **VisitType:** Incident Investigation & Follow Up **Arrival:** 2:00 PM **Departure:** 4:30 PM

CCLC-63880

Child Development Center - Blackshear

5218 Highway 121 North Blackshear, GA 31516 Pierce County
(912) 449-6765 afountain@ymcawaycross.org

Regional Consultant

Connie Boatright

Phone: (912) 544-9701

Fax: (912) 544-9700

connie.boatright@decal.ga.gov

Mailing Address

Same

The following information is associated with a Incident Investigation & Follow Up:

Activities and Equipment

591-1-1.12 Equipment & Toys(CR)

Not Met

Technical Assistance

591-1-1.12(2) - The center will ensure that all equipment and furniture be free from hazardous conditions such as, but not limited to, sharp rough edges or toxic paint; and be kept clean. The blue sofa located in classroom C was peeling and the blue sofa located in classroom E was ripped exposing foam. Additionally, the large white rug located in the front hallway and the rug located in classroom C were soiled.

Correction Deadline: 5/12/2025

Finding

591-1-1.12(2) requires that all equipment and furniture be free from hazardous conditions such as, but not limited to, sharp rough edges or toxic paint; and be kept clean. It was determined based on observation that the metal on the legs of classroom chairs were rusting. Additionally, wood classroom shelves were chipping paint.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will ensure that equipment and furniture are hazard free to include but not limited to rust and chipping paint.

Correction Deadline: 5/23/2025

Recited on 5/12/2025

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.

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 a broom and dust pan was stored by the cots in classroom D and accessible to the three-year-old children. Additionally, a toilet plunger and mop was stored beside the handwashing sink in the bathroom between classrooms C and D and accessible to the two and three-year-old children. Additionally, a broom and dust pan was stored beside the trash can and small white freezer in the cafeteria and accessible to the after school 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: 5/23/2025

Recited on 5/12/2025

Finding

591-1-1-.25(3) requires the Center and surrounding premises to be kept clean, free of debris and in good repair. Hygienic measures such as, but not limited to, screened windows and proper waste disposal procedures shall be utilized to minimize the presence of rodents, flies, roaches and other vermin at the Center. It was determined based on observation that the white particle board located at the bottom of the toilets in the bathroom located between the Pre-K classrooms is peeling and exposing cardboard, and accessible to the children. One of 8 seats located on one of four round tables and one of twelve seats located on one of two long tables in the cafeteria were missing seats, leaving a metal bar exposing rough edges and accessible to the children in care. Additionally, the large air vent located on the wall on the left side of classroom I was rusting and accessible to the one-year-old children.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will have the Center and surrounding areas cleaned, make repairs where needed, and remove all debris is removed. The Center will implement a plan to keep areas clean and in good repair that includes regular monitoring.

Correction Deadline: 5/23/2025

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

Discussed maintenance of resilient surface. Please fluff and redistribute.

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 the playground fence was not attached at the bottom of both playgrounds in random areas, and had a gap that measured 2 inches to more than 4 inches causing an entrapment hazard. The fence separating the toddler playground from the after school playground was detached from the support bar causing an entrapment hazard. Additionally, there was a twelve inch gap at the bottom of the gate located on the top right side of the after school playground causing an entrapment hazard.

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: 5/23/2025

Recited on 5/12/2025

Finding

591-1-1-.26(6) requires that playground equipment provide an opportunity for the children to engage in a variety of experiences and shall be age-appropriate. For example, toddlers shall not be permitted to swing in swings designed for School-age Children. The outdoor equipment shall be free of lead-based paint, sharp corners and shall be regularly maintained in such a way as to be free of rust and splinters that could pose significant safety hazard to the children. All equipment shall be arranged so as not to obstruct supervision of children. It was determined based on observation that the large blue composite on the playground was accessible to the two, three, and four-year-old children when the manufacture age is 5-12. Additionally, there was a two to four inch gap between the black asphalt tricycle circle and the ground causing a potential tripping hazard.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will provide a variety of age-appropriate equipment that is arranged so as not to obstruct supervision of children. Staff will check the equipment daily to ensure that the equipment is free of hazards, rust and splinters. The center will repair the orange caution barrier around the playground and ensure that it is upright, tight, and wooden stakes are not exposed to the children.

Correction Deadline: 6/11/2025

Recited on 5/12/2025

Health and Hygiene**591-1-1-.10 Diapering Areas & Practices(CR)****Not Met**

Correction Deadline: 10/10/2024

Corrected on 5/12/2025

.10(1) - The previous citation was observed to be corrected on this day. The center installed a ventilation fan in this classroom.

Finding

591-1-1-.10(4) requires that if diapers are changed on a diaper changing surface, the surface shall be smooth, nonporous, and equipped with a guard or rails to prevent falls. Between each diaper change, the diaper changing surface shall be cleaned with a disinfectant and dried with a single-use disposable towel. It was determined based on observation that the diaper changing surface located in Classroom I was not nonporous as required.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will ensure there is a smooth, nonporous changing surface that has a guard or rails for safety in each classroom that houses children wearing diapers. Center Staff will be trained and have adequate supplies to properly clean the diaper changing surface between each diaper change.

Correction Deadline: 5/23/2025

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

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

Center does not provide routine transportation.

Sleeping & Resting Equipment

Comment

The correct number of mats, sheets and blankets were observed on this date. Cleaning and disinfecting of mats was discussed with the director on this date.

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.30(4) - The center will ensure that if cots and mats are stored in the children's activity room or area, they shall be stored to prevent children's access to them and to allow maximum use of play space. When storage is available and used for the storage of cots and mats that allows the cots, mats and any bedding to be stored without touching any other cots, mats or bedding, the bedding may be left on the cot or mat. When such storage is not available for the cots and mats, each child's bedding shall be kept separate from other children's bedding and stored in containers marked for individual use, such as, but not limited to, bins, cubbies, or bags. Ensure that zip lock bags used to store mats and covers are kept zipped and stored away from the children.

Correction Deadline: 5/12/2025

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

Criminal record checks were observed to be complete.

Comment

Director provided 2 file(s) for employees hired since last visit.

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

Documentation observed of required staff training.

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****Comment**

Center observed to maintain appropriate staff:child ratios.

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

Adequate supervision observed on this date.