



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: 7/29/2025 **VisitType:** Licensing Study

Arrival: 10:45 AM **Departure:** 1:30 PM

CCLC-1233

Little Country Day Care Preschool #1

7955 Hwy. 21 Port Wentworth, GA 31407 Chatham County
 (912) 844-0042 cstar729@aol.com

Regional Consultant

Jerica Davis

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jerica.davis@dec.al.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.
07/29/2025	Licensing Study	Good Standing	
03/26/2025	Complaint Closure	Good Standing	
03/26/2025	Complaint Investigation Follow Up	Good Standing	
			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	Back left	Three Year Olds	1	10	C	18	C	NA	NA	Centers
Main	Left front	One Year Olds and Two Year Olds	1	10	C	10	C	NA	NA	Transitioning, Lunch
Main	Right Back	Infants and One Year Olds	1	7	NC	9	C	NA	NA	Lunch
Main	Right front, entry		0	0	C	16	C	NA	NA	
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 53			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0							
Preschool I Building	Middle Room	Four Year Olds and Five Year Olds and Six Year Olds and Over	1	16	C	19	C	NA	NA	Lunch, Centers
Preschool I Building	Pre-K (left)		0	0	C	24	C	NA	NA	
Preschool I Building	Right Room	Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds	1	15	C	16	C	NA	NA	Lunch, Centers
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 59			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0							
Total # Children this Date: 58			Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 112			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0				

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	Playground A	38	C
Main	Toddler Playground	23	C
Preschool Building	Playground A	83	C

Enrolled Children						
Under 1 years	1 years	2 years	3 years	4 years	5 years (Prekonly)	5 years and older
5	3	26	15	15	0	14

Comments

The visit report was reviewed with the Director on this date.

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!



(Findings Report)

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The following information is associated with a LS:

Activities and Equipment

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

Met

Correction Deadline: 3/26/2025

Prior Visits: 01/10/2025

Corrected on 7/29/2025

.12(2) - This citation was observed to be corrected on this date. The blue couch had been removed and the potty seat had been replaced.

Correction Deadline: 3/26/2025

Prior Visits: 08/02/2024

Corrected on 7/29/2025

.12(4) - This citation was observed to be corrected on this date. The TV was observed to be secured.

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

Met

Comment

Records were observed to be complete and well organized.

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)

Met

Comment

No hazards observed accessible to children on this date.

591-1-1-.26 Playgrounds(CR)**Not Met****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 on the preschool playground, there was a red, brown, and tan climbing structure on the left side of the playground that had several cracks that posed a potential pinching 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.

Correction Deadline: 8/8/2025**Prior Visits: 01/10/2025****Food Service****591-1-1-.15 Food Service & Nutrition****Not Met****Finding**

591-1-1-.15(7) requires that food be served according to manufacturer's instructions and recommendations. Foods that are associated with young children's choking incidents, such as, but not limited to, peanuts, hot dogs, raw carrots, popcorn, fish with bones, cheese cubes, grapes and any other food that is of similar shape and size of the trachea/windpipe shall not be served to the children less than four (4) years of age. Children older than four (4) years of age may be served these foods provided that the foods are cut in such a way as to minimize choking. Food shall not be accessible or served to children until it has been chopped, diced, cut or mashed and is appropriate for each child's age and individual eating, chewing and swallowing ability. It was determined based on observation that 14 three-year-old children in classroom Right Room in the Preschool Building were served whole hot dogs for lunch which should not be served to children under four years of age.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will train Staff and monitor food served and accessible to children to ensure that the food does not present a choking hazard.

Correction Deadline: 7/29/2025**Prior Visits: 08/02/2024****Health and Hygiene****591-1-1-.10 Diapering Areas & Practices(CR)****Technical Assistance****Technical Assistance**

Please ensure that the diaper changing surface be smooth, nonporous, and free from rips or tears. Please replace the changing pad in classroom Left front in the Main building.

Correction Deadline: 7/29/2025**Prior Visits: 02/13/2024****591-1-1-.17 Hygiene(CR)****Met****Comment**

Proper hand washing observed throughout the center on this date.

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.

Comment

Center does not provide routine transportation.

Sleeping & Resting Equipment

591-1-1-.30 Safe Sleeping and Resting Requirements(CR)

Technical Assistance

Technical Assistance

Please ensure that mats are of sound construction and of sufficient size to accommodate comfortably the size and weight of the child; and that mats are in good repair, washable, covered with a waterproof material and at least two inches (2") thick. Please ensure mats are free from rips and tears.

Correction Deadline: 7/29/2025**Prior Visits: 08/02/2024****Technical Assistance**

Please ensure mats and any bedding be stored without touching any other cots, mats or bedding. Please ensure mat sheets are not touching when stored if not washed daily.

Correction Deadline: 7/29/2025**Prior Visits: 01/27/2023****Staff Records**

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

Met

Comment

Consultant requested to view all Criminal Record checks for employees hired after last visit. Director stated that there have been no new hires since last visit

Comment

Criminal record checks were observed to be complete.

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

Technical Assistance

Comment

Discussed that effective July 1, 2025, new staff are required to obtain pediatric First Aid and pediatric CPR training within 45 days of employment. It was further discussed that programs must have at least one person with current pediatric First Aid and pediatric CPR training in each classroom at all times.

Technical Assistance

Please ensure that CPR and First Aid training are conducted by a licensed trainer and include an in-person skills check.

Correction Deadline: 8/28/2025

591-1-1-.33 Staff Training

Defer

Defer

591-1-1-.33(5)- This citation will be evaluated at the next Licensing Study conducted after January 1, 2026.

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: 1/1/2026

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)

Not Met

Correction Deadline: 3/26/2025**Prior Visits: 03/26/2025**

Corrected on 7/29/2025

.32(1) - This citation was observed to be corrected on this date.

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 in classroom Right Back in the Main Building, two infants and five 1-year-old children were observed with one staff member for a ratio of 1:7 when a ratio of 2:7 was required.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

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

Correction Deadline: 7/29/2025

Prior Visits: 02/13/2024

591-1-1-.32 Supervision(CR)

Not Met

Finding

591-1-1-.32(7) requires that children be supervised at all times appropriate to the individual age, needs and capabilities of each child. Such supervision must include, but not be limited to, indoor and outdoor activities, mealtimes, naptime, transportation, field trips, and transitions between activities. "Supervision" means that the appropriate number of Staff members are physically present in the area where children are being cared for and are providing watchful oversight to the children, volunteers and Students-in-Training. The persons supervising in the child care area must be alert, positioned to maximize their ability to hear and see the children at all times, and able to respond promptly to the needs and actions of the children being supervised, as well as the actions of the volunteers and Students-in-Training, and provide timely attention to the children's actions and needs. Staff shall be attentive and participating with all children during mealtimes and shall be seated within an arm's length away from children thirty-six (36) months of age and younger. It was determined based on investigation that in classroom Right Back in the Main Building, the staff member was not seated within arm's length away from one infant and four 1-year-old children during lunch. Three children were observed seated at a table in the front left corner of the classroom while an infant and one 1-year-old child were observed seated in the front right corner of the classroom during lunch and the staff member was observed seated in the back middle section of the classroom. The two areas had a partial wall between them that did not allow the teacher to supervise all children at one time while eating.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will ensure that all infant and 1-year-old children are seated within an arm's length away from the staff member during all meals.

Correction Deadline: 7/29/2025

Prior Visits: 03/26/2025

Recited on 7/29/2025