



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: 4/7/2025

VisitType: Incident Investigation Closure from II/FollowUp on 03/13/2025

CCLC-62564

Forsyth Methodist Church - Caring for Kids

68 West Johnston Street Forsyth, GA 31029 Monroe County
(478) 994-5706 Lwhite1966@aol.com

Special Investigations Unit Sr. Specialist

Tomekia Sherman

Phone: (678) 717-5406

Fax: (770) 344-5863

tomekia.sherman@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. 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.
04/07/2025	Incident Investigation Closure	Deficient	
03/13/2025	Incident Investigation & Follow Up	Good Standing	
03/13/2024	Initial Licensing Study	Good Standing	

Comments

Investigative findings were concluded on this date.

Advisement of Potential for Repeated Rule Violations during Pending Investigations

This report shall serve as official notice of potential rule violations. These potential rule violations have been detailed in this report and discussed with you by the consultant. The department shall conduct a thorough investigation to determine if in fact the alleged rule violation(s) should or should not be substantiated. Please be aware that the investigation may take some time to be finalized to ensure fairness and accuracy. During this investigation period, any violations of an identical rule or rules will require the department to treat any and all substantiated rule violations identified in the investigation as repeated rule violation(s).

Further, from time to time the department discovers additional rule violations during the course of an investigation. If there are new rule violation(s), your consultant shall inform you of the violation(s) as soon as possible. However, as stated above, any violations of identical rule(s) will require the department to treat any and all additional rule violations identified in the investigation as repeated rule violations.

All rule violations found in relation to a complaint or incident investigation will be associated with the date the investigation was closed.



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)

I have read and understand the Rules and Regulations for Child Care Learning Centers, 591-1-1. I acknowledge that the items noted in this report have been discussed with me and I have agreed to a Plan of Improvement (POI) as indicated in this report. I understand that correction of these deficiencies, while required, will not necessarily prevent DECAL from taking adverse action against this facility. I understand that if I disagree with any of the deficiencies cited, I have the right to refute them on this report or any other form that I choose to send to Child Care Services.



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Summary Report

Date: 4/7/2025 **VisitType:** Incident Investigation Closure from II/FollowUp on 03/13/2025 **Arrival:** 11:00 AM **Departure:** 3:00 PM

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The following information is associated with a Incident Investigation Closure:

Health and Hygiene

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

Not Met

Finding Associated with Complaint

591-1-1-.20(1) requires Personnel to obtain specific written authorization from the child's physician or parent in order to dispense prescription or non-prescription medications, except for first aid. Such authorization will include when applicable, date; full name of the child; name of the medication; prescription number, if any; dosage; the dates to be given; the time of day to be dispensed; and signature of parent. It was determined based on an investigation that on March 3, 2025 at 12:36 p.m., during naptime, one staff member was observed to dispense over the counter Benadryl to two 2-year-old children. On March 5, 2025, at approximately 12:21 p.m., a Staff member administered Benadryl to three two-year-old children and did not document that medication had been dispensed as required. In addition, the documentation that was completed on the medical authorization form requires a parent's signature and date authorizing the dispensation of medication as well as the time, dosage amount, and dates to be given which none of these items had not been obtained from the children's parents prior to the medication being dispensed.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

All Corrections Expected Immediately.

Correction Deadline: 4/7/2025

Finding Associated with Complaint

591-1-1-.20(3) requires the Center to maintain a record of medication dispensed that includes the date, time and amount of medication, any noticeable adverse reaction, and the signature or initials of the person administering the medication. It was determined based on an investigation that on March 3, 2025, at approximately 12:00 p.m., a staff member dispensed over the counter Benadryl to two 2-year-old children and on March 5, 2025, the staff member also dispensed Benadryl to three two-year-old children without obtaining parental authorization prior to dispensing the medication.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

All Corrections Expected Immediately

Correction Deadline: 4/7/2025

Policies and Procedures

Finding Associated with Complaint

591-1-1-.29(1) requires that within twenty-four (24) hours or the next work day, the Director or designated person-in-charge shall report or cause to be reported any suspected incidents of child abuse, neglect or deprivation to the local County Division of Family and Children Services in accordance with state law and to the Department, notifying that such a report was made. It was determined based on an investigation that a staff member dispensed Benadryl on March 3, 2025, to two 2-year-old children and on March 5, 2025, to three two-year-old children without obtaining parent authorization prior to dispensing. It was observed on video footage that on March 3, 2025, at 12:58 p.m., the staff member was heard in the video footage saying to the child "I gave you Benadryl, why aren't you asleep?". On March 5, 2025, at 1:30 p.m., it was reported to the center Director that the staff member was administering medication to the children without parental authorization. The center failed to report the incidents to the local County Division of Family and Children Services within the required 24 hours as required.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

All Corrections Expected Immediately.

Correction Deadline: 4/7/2025

Safety**591-1-1-.11 Discipline(CR)****Not Met****Finding Associated with Complaint**

591-1-1-.11(2) requires that Personnel not: physically or sexually abuse a child or engage or permit others to engage in sexually overt conduct in the presence of any child enrolled in the Center; inflict corporal/physical punishment upon a child; shake, jerk, pinch or handle a child roughly; verbally abuse or humiliate a child which includes, but is not limited to, the use of threats, profanity or belittling remarks about a child or his family; isolate a child in a dark room, closet or unsupervised area; use mechanical or physical restraints or devices to discipline children; use medication to discipline or control children's behavior without written medical authorization issued by a licensed professional and given with the parent's written consent; restrict unreasonably a child from going to the bathroom; punish toileting accidents; force-feed a child or withhold feeding a child regularly scheduled meals and/or snacks; force or withhold naps; allow children to discipline or humiliate other children; or confine a child for disciplinary purposes to a swing, highchair, infant carrier, walker or jump seat. It was determined based on an investigation that staff members routinely raised their voices at children when redirecting them. Staff members also routinely handled the two-year-old children roughly when they wrestled with them by picking them up and throwing them on to their mats. On March 3, 2025, around 9:51 a.m., a staff member pulled a child from underneath a table forcefully by their arms. Also, around naptime it was observed that the staff member kicked two children's cots, jostling them about. It was also observed on video footage that the staff member dispensed medication to two 2-year-old children on March 3, 2025. The staff member was heard in the video footage saying to the child "I gave you Benadryl, why aren't you asleep?" On March 5, 2025, medication was dispensed to three children. On March 5, 2025, it was observed on video footage that throughout the day there were multiple instances where multiple children were snatched, grabbed, shoved, and yelled at as a form of discipline. On March 6, 2025, it was observed on video footage around 12:41 p.m., a staff member pulled a child by the arm and forced them to lay down. Also, at 5:40 p.m., it was observed that the staff member forcefully pushed a child to the floor causing the child to say "Owy", the staff member then checked the child then threw a marker at the child. On March 7, 2025, at 8:40 a.m., it was observed on video footage that the staff member pulled a child out of a chair by their right arm and pulled the child by both arms over to the play area to put up a toy.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

All Corrections Expected Immediately. .

Correction Deadline: 4/7/2025

Staff Records

Finding Associated with Complaint

591-1-1-.31(13) prohibits Center Staff from committing any criminal act, as defined under Georgia law, in the presence of any child enrolled in the Center and requires Center staff to comply with all applicable laws and regulations. It was determined based on an investigation that a staff member dispensed Benadryl to two 2-year-old child on March 3, 2025, and to three two-year-old children on March 5, 2025, without parental authorization, three staff members were arrested. One staff member was arrested and charged with three counts of Failure to Report Suspected Child Abuse when a staff member used medication to control the children's behavior. Another staff member was arrested and charged with one count of Cruelty to Children in the first degree and Simple Battery as a result of engaging in inappropriate discipline. The last staff member was arrested and charged with five counts of Simple Battery, two counts of Reckless Conduct, and three counts of Cruelty to Children in the first degree as a result of engaging in inappropriate discipline.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

All Corrections Expected Immediately

Correction Deadline: 4/7/2025