



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: 11/7/2023 **VisitType:** Licensing Study **Arrival:** 8:00 AM **Departure:** 10:30 AM

CCLC-24210

A Brighter Choice Early Learning Center, Inc.

106 Morris Street Fort Valley, GA 31030 Peach County
 (478) 825-9555 abrighterchoice@bellsouth.net

Regional Consultant

Brandi Mangino

Phone: (478) 314-9726

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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.
11/07/2023	Licensing Study	Support	
07/27/2023	Complaint Closure	Good Standing	
06/26/2023	Complaint Investigation Follow Up	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
Building 2	A: Right		0	0	C	4	C	NA	NA	
Building 2	B: Middle		0	0	C	17	C	NA	NA	
Building 2	C: Left		0	0	C	4	C	NA	NA	
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 25			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0							
Main	A - Middle	Two Year Olds	1	4	C	24	C	NA	NA	Circle Time
Main	B - 1st Left (intants)	Infants and One Year Olds	2	5	C	26	C	NA	NA	Nap,Diapering,Floor Play
Main	C - Right	Three Year Olds	1	9	C	14	C	NA	NA	Circle Time
Main	D - Far Rear Right room	One Year Olds and Two Year Olds	1	7	C	20	C	NA	NA	Circle Time
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 84			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0							
Total # Children this Date: 25			Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 109							
			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0							

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	A	15	C
Main	B	76	C

Comments

Plan of Improvement to be submitted in decal koala by November 21, 2023.

Plan of Improvement: To Be Submitted 11/22/2023

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

Florine Dodson, Program Official

Date

Brandi Mangino, Regional 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

Not Met

Finding

591-1-1-.03(2) requires the Center to keep current lesson plans on site that reflect appropriate instruction practices and activities to support children's development The Center shall have sufficient and varied play and learning equipment and materials to support the above program of activities in all developmental areas. It was determined based on observation that center lesson plans were not current. Rooms A, B and D were dated for the week including October 26, 2023, and the Room C lesson plan was not dated.

Correction Deadline: 11/7/2023

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

Child # 1 Not Met
"Missing/Incomplete Components"
 .08(3)-Address of Release Person Missing

Child # 2 Not Met
"Missing/Incomplete Components"
 .08(3)-Address of Release Person Missing

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

Technical Assistance

Technical Assistance

Please ensure that full addresses are listed for release person(s) and emergency contacts.

Correction Deadline: 11/7/2023

	Facility
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591-1-1-.19 License Capacity(CR)

Met

Comment

Licensed capacity observed to be routinely met by center.

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

Not Met

Technical Assistance

Consultant discussed the toilet bolts in Room C restrooms need to be cut flush.

Correction Deadline: 12/7/2023

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 following hazards were accessible to children in care:

Room A:

- Rubber gloves on the sink counter
- A hole puncher on the staff desk
- A first aid kit on a shelf within children's reach

Room C:

- A fan in the chair of the room within children's reach
- Two staplers on shelves
- Ajax and lysol wipes within reach of the children enrolled in the classroom were in an unlocked cabinet in the restroom:

Room D:

- Sanitizing wipes on the side of the sink
- Lysol, petroleum jelly, trash bags, bleach cleaner, baby wipes and rubber gloves on the side of the diapering station
- Rug Doctor cleaner

Correction Deadline: 11/7/2023

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

Not Met

Technical Assistance

Consultant discussed the ball goal on the left playground needs to be secured.

Correction Deadline: 11/7/2023

Finding

591-1-1-.26(9) requires the playground to be kept clean, free from litter and free of hazards, such as but not limited to rocks, exposed tree roots and exposed sharp edges of concrete. It was determined based on observation that both playgrounds had tree limbs present, and the toys on the right side of the playground were in need of being cleaned. It was further determined that on the left side of the playground the picnic table was in need of being cleaned.

Correction Deadline: 11/7/2023

Food Service

591-1-1-.15 Food Service & Nutrition

Not Met

Finding

591-1-1-.15(2) requires that a signed written feeding plan for children less than one (1) year of age shall be obtained from Parent(s) and that instructions from the Parent(s) shall be updated regularly as new foods are added or other dietary changes are made. The feeding plan shall be posted in the child's assigned room and must include the child's feeding schedule, the amount of formula or breast milk to be given, instructions for the introduction of solid foods, the amount of food to be given and notation of any type(s) of commercially premixed formula which may not be used in an emergency because of food allergies. It was determined based on observation that infant feeding plans were not posted and available within the classroom when requested and were within the office. It was further determined that three of four infant feeding plans did not have directions on introduction to solid foods, and one did not have the parent's initials on the introductions to solid foods.

Correction Deadline: 11/7/2023

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 and staff statement that bottles are being made by the center and not coming premade.

Correction Deadline: 11/7/2023

591-1-1-.18 Kitchen Operations

Not Met

Finding

591-1-1-.18(4) requires kitchen lights to be shielded. It was determined based on observation that the kitchen lights were not shielded.

Correction Deadline: 11/17/2023

Finding

591-1-1-.18(8) requires that containers of food be stored above the floor on clean surfaces protected from splash and other contamination. Containers for food storage other than the original container or package in which the food was obtained shall be impervious and non-absorbent, have tight-fitting lids or covers and labeled as to contents. It was determined based on observation that frozen items that were no in the original containers were not labeled as to their contents.

Correction Deadline: 11/7/2023

Health and Hygiene

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

Met

Comment

Proper diapering procedures observed.

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

Not Met

Finding

591-1-1-.17(7) requires that children wash their hands with liquid soap and warm running water upon arrival for care, when moving from one child care group to another, upon re-entering the child care area after outside play, before and after eating meals and snacks, handling or touching food, playing in water; after toileting and diapering, playing in sand, touching animals or pets, and contact with bodily fluids and after contamination by any other means. It was determined based on observation that an infant with proper head control was not required to wash hands after diapering.

Correction Deadline: 11/7/2023

Finding

591-1-1-.17(8) requires staff to wash their hands with liquid soap and warm running water upon arrival for the day, when moving from one child care group to another, upon re-entering the child care area after outside play, before and after diapering each child, dispensing medication, applying topical medications, handling and preparing food, eating, drinking, preparing bottles, feeding each child, assisting children with eating and drinking, after toileting or assisting children with toileting, using tobacco products, handling garbage and organic waste, touching animals or pets, handling bodily fluids and after contamination by any means. It was determined based on observation that a staff member did not wash their hands prior to diapering as required.

Correction Deadline: 11/7/2023

591-1-1-.20 Medications(CR)**Not Evaluated****Comment**

The Provider currently does not dispense/administer medication.

Policies and Procedures

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**Not Evaluated****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)**Not Evaluated****Comment**

Center does not participate in field trips at this time.

591-1-1-.36 Transportation(CR)**Not Evaluated****Comment**

Center does not provide routine transportation.

Sleeping & Resting Equipment

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 observation that two of six cribs sheets were not tight-fitting as required.

Correction Deadline: 11/7/2023

Finding

591-1-1-.30(2) requires the Center to provide a safe sleep environment in accordance with American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) and American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) recommendations as listed in these rules for all infants. Center Staff shall place an infant to sleep on the infant's back in a crib unless the Center has been provided a physician's written statement authorizing another sleep position for that particular infant that includes how the infant shall be placed to sleep and a time frame that the instructions are to be followed. When an infant can easily turn over from back to front and back again, Staff shall continue to put the infant to sleep initially on the infant's back but allow the infant to roll over into his or her preferred position and not re-position the infant. Sleepers, sleep sacks and wearable blankets that fit according to the commercial manufacturer's guidelines and will not slide up around the infant's face may be used when necessary for the comfort of the sleeping infant. Swaddling shall not be used unless the Center has been provided a physician's written statement authorizing its use for a particular infant that includes instructions and a time frame for swaddling the infant. Center Staff shall not place objects or allow objects to be placed in or on the crib with an infant such as but not limited to toys, pillows, quilts, comforters, bumper pads, sheepskins, stuffed toys, or other soft items and shall not attach objects or allow objects to be attached to a crib with a sleeping infant, such as, but not limited to, crib gyms, toys, mirrors and mobiles. It was determined based on observation that an infant was observed to be sleeping with a hand toy inside the crib. It was further determined based on staff statement that when infants are placed to sleep they are "placed on their stomach".

Correction Deadline: 11/7/2023

Staff Records

Records Reviewed: 12

Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 2

Staff # 1

Not Met

Date of Hire: 09/21/2023

Reminder - Health & Safety training is required within 90 calendar days of hired

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.24(1)-Evidence of Orientation Missing

Staff # 11

Not Met

Date of Hire: 09/21/2023

Reminder - Health & Safety training is required within 90 calendar days of hired

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.24(1)-Evidence of Orientation Missing

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

Met

Comment

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

Finding

591-1-1-.31(2)(b)2. requires teachers and lead caregivers to meet minimum academic requirements and qualifying experience at the time of employment. It was determined based on a review of records that four of four classrooms did not have a lead teacher meeting the minimum academic requirements.

Correction Deadline: 11/7/2023

Technical Assistance

Please ensure that documentation of orientation is fully completed on all staff prior to being placed in the classroom.

Correction Deadline: 11/7/2023

Staffing and Supervision

Comment

Adequate supervision observed on this date.

Comment

Center observed to maintain appropriate staff:child ratios.