



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: 1/28/2025 **VisitType:** Monitoring Visit

Arrival: 10:30 AM **Departure:** 1:15 PM

CCLC-55055

Brilliant Minds Academy of Georgia

2408 Bemiss Road Valdosta, GA 31602 Lowndes County
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Process & QI Unit Consultant

Jeanne Noble-Duncan

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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.
01/28/2025	Monitoring Visit	Good Standing	
07/23/2024	Licensing Study	Good Standing	
07/31/2023	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	Room A - front left		0	0	C	7	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
Main	Room B - back left	One Year Olds and Two Year Olds	1	4	C	6	C	NA	NA	Free Play
Main	Room C - across from lobby area	Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds	2	5	C	6	C	NA	NA	Transitioning, Free Play, Circle Time
Main	Room D - Right side right classroom		0	0	C	6	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
Main	Room E - Rt side mid		0	0	C	4	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
Main	Room F - Rt side left classroom		0	0	C	5	C	NA	NA	Not In Use

Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 34

Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0

Total # Children this Date: 9

Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 34

Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	Playground A	31	C

Enrolled Children						
Under 1 years	1 years	2 years	3 years	4 years	5 years (Prekonly)	5 years and older
1	4	4	5	0	0	6

Comments

The purpose of this visit was to conduct a Monitoring Visit and follow up on previous citations.

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



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(Findings Report)

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The following information is associated with a Monitoring Visit:

Activities and Equipment

591-1-1-.03 Activities

Met

Correction Deadline: 7/23/2024

Corrected on 1/28/2025

.03(9) - Previous citation corrected. The consultant observed age appropriate activities throughout the center on this date.

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

Met

Correction Deadline: 7/23/2024

Corrected on 1/28/2025

.12(4) - Previous citation corrected in that the consultant observed the television securely mounted to the wall in Classroom A on this date.

Correction Deadline: 8/22/2024

Corrected on 1/28/2025

.12(6) - Previous citation corrected. The consultant observed a variety of age appropriate toys and equipment available in the classrooms that were in use on this day.

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.

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

Met

Correction Deadline: 7/23/2024

Corrected on 1/28/2025

.25(13) - The previous citation was corrected in that the consultant did not observe hazards accessible to children on this date.

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 fencing on Playground A, along the perimeter of the playground, was damaged due to fallen trees from a storm. Additionally, the wood panels along the base of the fence had gaps with exposed nails.

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: 1/28/2025

Correction Deadline: 7/23/2024

Corrected on 1/28/2025

.26(9) - The previous citation was corrected in that the consultant did not observe active ants beds on the playground or fencing and the white sandbox did not have an exposed torn plastic liner underneath on this date.

Food Service

Correction Deadline: 7/23/2024

Corrected on 1/28/2025

.15(3) - Previous citation corrected in that the consultant did not observe a refrigerator in Classroom A on this date.

Correction Deadline: 7/23/2024

Corrected on 1/28/2025

.15(4) -The previous citation corrected. The consultant observed age-appropriate feeding chairs for one-year-old children in Classroom B on this date.

Health and Hygiene**Comment**

Proper diapering procedures observed.

Comment

Staff were observed to remind children to wash hands.

Comment

The Provider currently does not dispense/administer medication.

Safety**Comment**

Age-appropriate discussion and/or redirection observed.

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

Center does not provide routine transportation.

Sleeping & Resting Equipment

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

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 one files for employees hired since last visit.

591-1-1-.14 First Aid & CPR**Met**

Correction Deadline: 8/22/2024

Corrected on 1/28/2025

.14(1) - The previous citation was corrected. Based on a review of records the consultant observed the center director to have completed First Aid and CPR training as required on this date.

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

Correction Deadline: 8/22/2024

Corrected on 1/28/2025

.33(5) - The previous was citation corrected based on a review of the records, Staff #1 has completed the required ten hours of annual training as required.

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.