



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

Investigation Report

Date: 11/13/2025 **VisitType:** Complaint Investigation Closure from CI/MV on 11/13/2025

CCLC-36982

Tabernacle of Praise Early Learning Center

1640 Highway 42 North McDonough, GA 30253 Henry County
(770) 692-4606 director@topearlylearningcenter.com

Child Care Services Manager

Rukiya Thomas

Phone: (770) 357-7046

Fax: (770) 357-7045

rukiya.thomas@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.
11/13/2025	Complaint Closure	Good Standing	
11/13/2025	Complaint Investigation & Monitoring Visit	Good Standing	
07/31/2024	Licensing Study	Good Standing	

Comments

A complaint investigation was conducted 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.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)

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: 11/13/2025 **VisitType:** Complaint Investigation Closure
from CI/MV on 11/13/2025

Arrival: 10:35 AM **Departure:** 12:30 PM

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The following information is associated with a Complaint Closure:

Health and Hygiene

591-1-1-.07 Children's Health

Not Met

Finding Associated with Investigation

591-1-1-.07(3) requires Center Staff to follow the Department's current communicable disease chart of recommendations for exclusion of sick children from the Center and their readmission. Parents of all children enrolled shall be notified in writing of the occurrence of any of the illnesses on the most current version of the communicable disease chart as found on the Department's website, or any cases or suspected cases of viruses or illnesses (COVID-19, etc.) identified during a public health emergency, within twenty-four (24) hours after the Center becomes aware of the illness or the next working day. It was determined based on investigative findings that the center failed to notify parents of all enrolled children within 24 hours after the center became aware of a case of hand, foot, and mouth disease on October 20, 2025. Based on the statements and documentation, Owlets' and Little Lambs' parents were notified on October 20, 2025. All other families in the the program were not notified until October 24, 2025.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center director will ensure Center Staff are familiar with the communicable disease chart or have the chart available for reference and will train Staff to follow the recommendations on the chart as well as recommendations for any cases or suspected cases of illnesses or viruses identified during a public health emergency. The Center will develop and/or review a plan for notifying parents, as required, and will train Staff and monitor to ensure compliance.

Correction Deadline: 11/13/2025