



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: 6/4/2025

VisitType: Complaint Investigation &
Monitoring Visit

Arrival: 11:00 AM **Departure:** 3:20 PM

CCLC-53257

Excel Early Learning Center

54 Seventh Street Emerson, GA 30137 Bartow County
(770) 382-9040 Vironis@excelca.org

Regional Consultant

Sharnette Glenn

Phone: (404) 651-8365

Fax: (404) 334-4612

sharnette.glenn@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.
06/04/2025	Complaint Investigation & Monitoring Visit	Good Standing	
12/06/2024	Complaint Closure	Good Standing	
10/29/2024	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
Main	Cafeteria		0	0	C	72	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
Main	Room A	Infants	3	7	C	23	C	NA	NA	Floor Play, Diapering
Main	Room B	One Year Olds and Two Year Olds	1	7	C	23	C	NA	NA	Lunch
Main	Room C		0	0	C	23	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
Main	Room D: infants	Infants and One Year Olds	2	5	C	12	C	NA	NA	Nap, Feeding, Lunch
Main	Room E	Three Year Olds	1	11	C	23	C	NA	NA	Lunch
Main	Room F		0	0	C	23	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
Main	Room G	Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds	1	10	C	23	C	NA	NA	Lunch

Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 144

Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0

Building @35 capacity limited by Playground Limitations

Total # Children this Date: 40

Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 144

Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	Front Playground	48	C

Enrolled Children						
Under 1 years	1 years	2 years	3 years	4 years	5 years (Prekonly)	5 years and older
11	11	9	12	11	0	26

Comments

The purpose of this visit was to conduct a monitoring visit.

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.decga.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@decga.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

Records Reviewed: 15

Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 1

Staff # 9

Not Met

Date of Hire: 05/30/2025

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

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.09-Criminal Records Check Missing

591-1-1.12 Equipment & Toys(CR)

Technical Assistance

Comment

A variety of equipment and toys were observed throughout the center.

Comment

Equipment and furniture observed to be properly secured, as applicable.

Technical Assistance

591-1-1.12(4) - The consultant discussed with the provider to ensure the colorful alphabet and number rug in classroom B is placed on the floor flat, with no lumps that could be a potential tripping hazard.

Correction Deadline: 6/4/2025

591-1-1.35 Swimming Pools & Water-related Activities(CR)

N/A

Comment

Center does not provide swimming activities.

Facility

Records Reviewed: 15

Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 1

Staff # 9

Not Met

Date of Hire: 05/30/2025

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

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.09-Criminal Records Check Missing

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****Comment**

No hazards observed accessible to children on this date.

Correction Deadline: 10/10/2024

Corrected on 6/4/2025

.25(3) - The previous citation was corrected. The consultant observed that the ceiling tiles had been replaced. The consultant did not observe any torn equipment or chipped paint on any equipment.

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 on the playground, that the light blue, pink, and green playground equipment had several chipped paint. It was further observed that the light blue playground equipment was missing a sterling wheel. It was also observed that on the colorful slide playground equipment, one of the plexiglass was broken on the right side of the equipment.

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: 6/14/2025

Health and Hygiene**Records Reviewed: 15****Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 1**

Staff # 9

Not Met

Date of Hire: 05/30/2025

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

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.09-Criminal Records Check Missing

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

Proper diapering procedures observed.

Comment

Staff state proper knowledge of diapering procedures.

591-1-1-.17 Hygiene(CR)**Met****Comment**

Proper hand washing observed throughout the center.

591-1-1-.20 Medications(CR)**Met****Comment**

Documentation for medication dispensing observed complete.

Safety**Records Reviewed: 15****Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 1**

Staff # 9

Not Met

Records Reviewed: 15**Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 1**

Date of Hire: 05/30/2025

Reminder - Health & Safety training is required within 90 calendar days of hired"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.09-Criminal Records Check Missing

591-1-1-.11 Discipline(CR)**Met****Comment**

Age-appropriate discussion and/or redirection observed.

591-1-1-.13 Field Trips(CR)**Met****Comment**

Field trip documentation observed to be complete.

591-1-1-.36 Transportation(CR)**Met****Comment**

A current/completed inspection was observed for all vehicles used in transporting children this date.

Comment

Complete documentation of transportation observed.

Comment

The vehicle had an approved fire extinguisher and first aid kit on this date.

Sleeping & Resting Equipment**Records Reviewed: 15****Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 1**

Staff # 9

Not Met

Date of Hire: 05/30/2025

Reminder - Health & Safety training is required within 90 calendar days of hired"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.09-Criminal Records Check Missing

591-1-1-.30 Safe Sleeping and Resting Requirements(CR)**Not Met****Comment**

Discussed SIDS and infant sleeping position.

Comment

Pleasant naptime environment observed.

Comment

Please ensure that cribs/cots are labeled for individual use.

Finding

591-1-1-.30(1)(a)2 requires that a crib mattress is firm, tight-fitting without gaps, at least 2 inches thick and covered with a waterproof, washable material. Before a change of occupant, each mattress shall be cleaned with a disinfectant. It was determined, based on observation, that in classroom A, three out of six mattresses had tight-fitting sheets with gaps between the bottom of the cribs.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The center will ensure that a crib mattress is firm, tight-fitting without gaps, at least

Correction Deadline: 6/4/2025**Staff Records****Records Reviewed: 15****Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 1**

Staff # 9

Not Met

Date of Hire: 05/30/2025

Reminder - Health & Safety training is required within 90 calendar days of hired"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.09-Criminal Records Check Missing

591-1-1-.09 Criminal Records and Comprehensive Background Checks(CR)**Not Met****Finding**

591-1-1-.09(1)(a) requires that a Center ensure that every actual and potential Director, Employee and Provisional Employee of a Child Care Learning Center submit both a Records Check Application to the Department and Fingerprints to an authorized fingerprinting site. It was determined based on a review of staff files that staff #9 was hired on May 30, 2025. The staff submitted the records check application to the Department on May 31, 2025, and fingerprints to an authorized fingerprinting site on June 3, 2025.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

IMMEDIATE CORRECTION - The Center will ensure that every actual and potential Director, Employee and Provisional Employee of a Child Care Learning Center submit both a Records Check Application to the Department and Fingerprints to an authorized fingerprinting site as required. The program's owner or an officer/member of the corporation must view the A to Z Background Check video units pertaining to this records check rule and return the signed affidavit within one week from this visit date. The Center will ensure the CRC rules are maintained.

Correction Deadline: 6/4/2025**Finding**

591-1-1-.09(1)(b) requires the Center to ensure that every Director has a valid and current satisfactory Comprehensive Records Check Determination on file prior to being present at the Center while any child is present for care or before an individual age 17 or older resides in the Center. The Comprehensive Records Check Determination must have a Records Check Clearance Date that is no older than the preceding 12 months of the hire date; provided, however, if the Director has had a lapse of employment from the child care industry that lasted for 180 days (6 months) or longer, a new satisfactory Comprehensive Records Check Determination is required. It was determined based on a review of staff files that staff #9 was hired on May 30, 2025 and did not have a valid satisfactory Comprehensive Background Check on file.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

IMMEDIATE CORRECTION - The Center will ensure that the Director has a valid and current satisfactory Comprehensive Records Check Determination on file prior to being present at the Center while any child is present for care or before an individual age 17 or older resides in the Center. The Comprehensive Records Check Determination must have a Records Check Clearance Date that is no older than the preceding 12 months of the hire date; provided, however, if the Director has had a lapse of employment from the child care industry that lasted for 180 days (6 months) or longer, a new satisfactory Comprehensive Records Check Determination is required. The program's owner or an officer/member of the corporation must view the A to Z Background Check video units pertaining to this records check rule and return the signed affidavit within one week from this visit date. The center will ensure the CRC rules are maintained.

Correction Deadline: 6/4/2025**591-1-1-.14 First Aid & CPR****Met****Comment**

The consultant discussed CPR certifications with the provider. Bright from the Start only accepts CPR certifications that are completed in person, not online.

591-1-1-.31 Staff(CR)**Met****Comment**

Staff observed to be compliant with applicable laws and regulations.

Staffing and Supervision**Records Reviewed: 15****Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 1**

Staff # 9

Not Met

Date of Hire: 05/30/2025

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

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.09-Criminal Records Check Missing

591-1-1-.32 Staff:Child Ratios and Group Size(CR)	Met
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Comment

Center observed to maintain appropriate staff:child ratios.

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

Adequate supervision observed on this date.