



**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:** 6/24/2025 **VisitType:** POI Follow Up

**Arrival:** 1:30 PM **Departure:** 3:30 PM

**CCLC-56441**

**Watch Me Grow Learning Place**

500 E. Martin Luther King Jr Drive Valdosta, GA 31601 Lowndes  
County  
(229) 262-2967

Regional Consultant

Kayla Coats

Phone: (470) 676-8185

Fax:

kayla.coats@decal.ga.gov

**Mailing Address**

Same

**Quality Rated:** ★ ★

| Compliance Zone Designation |                                            |               | <b>Compliance Zone Designation</b> - 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.<br><br><b>Good Standing</b> - Program is demonstrating an acceptable level of performance in meeting the rules.<br><b>Support</b> - Program performance is demonstrating a need for improvement in meeting rules.<br><b>Deficient</b> - Program is not demonstrating an acceptable level of performance in meeting the rules. |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------------------|---------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 06/24/2025                  | POI Follow Up                              | Good Standing |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| 03/25/2025                  | Licensing Study                            | Deficient     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| 09/09/2024                  | Complaint Investigation & Monitoring Visit | 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 | One Year Olds and Two Year Olds | 1     | 6        | C                             | 17         | C            | NA         | NA           | Nap                |
| Main                           | Room B | Infants                         | 1     | 4        | C                             | 10         | C            | NA         | NA           | Nap                |
| Main                           | Room C | Two Year Olds                   | 1     | 10       | C                             | 11         | C            | NA         | NA           | Nap                |
| Main                           | Room D | One Year Olds                   | 1     | 5        | C                             | 28         | C            | NA         | NA           | Transitioning, Nap |
| Main                           | Room E | Six Year Olds and Over          | 2     | 25       | C                             | 26         | C            | NA         | NA           | Snack, Free Play   |
| Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 92 |        |                                 |       |          | Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0 |            |              |            |              |                    |
| Total # Children this Date: 50 |        |                                 |       |          | Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0 |            |              |            |              |                    |

| Building | Playground   | Playground Occupancy | Playground Compliance |
|----------|--------------|----------------------|-----------------------|
| Main     | Playground A | 72                   | C                     |

**Comments**

A copy of the POI follow up visit report was left with the Provider on this date.

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.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.

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#### 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](http://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.

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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](mailto:qualityrated@decal.ga.gov) for more information. Free technical assistance is available!**



## Summary Report

Date: 6/24/2025 VisitType: POI Follow Up

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The following information is associated with a POI Follow Up:

### Activities and Equipment

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

Met

Correction Deadline: 4/4/2025

Corrected on 6/24/2025

.12(4) - This citation was observed to be corrected on this date. The Center had removed the large rug from Room A and had made sure that all other furniture and equipment was secured.

### Children's Records

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

Met

Correction Deadline: 4/4/2025

Corrected on 6/24/2025

.08(1) - This citation was observed to be corrected on this date. The Center had updated all child files with required information including physician phone numbers, parent contact information, emergency contact information, and names, phone numbers, and addresses of authorized release persons.

### Facility

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

Not Met

Correction Deadline: 3/25/2025

Corrected on 6/24/2025

.25(13) - This citation was observed to be corrected on this date. The Center had stored all hazardous materials and supplies in locked cabinets that were inaccessible to the children in care.

#### Finding

591-1-1-.25(3) requires the Center and surrounding premises to be kept clean, free of debris and in good repair. Hygienic measures such as, but not limited to, screened windows and proper waste disposal procedures shall be utilized to minimize the presence of rodents, flies, roaches and other vermin at the Center. It was determined based on observation that the back left portion of the blue wall in classroom A had several damaged sections of drywall.

#### POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will have the Center and surrounding areas cleaned, make repairs where needed, and remove all debris is removed. The Center will implement a plan to keep areas clean and in good repair that includes regular monitoring.

Correction Deadline: 6/30/2025

Recited on 6/24/2025

Correction Deadline: 3/25/2025

Corrected on 6/24/2025

.25(8) - This citation was observed to be corrected on this date. All classrooms in the Center had the required child protective caps over all electrical outlets.

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

Not Met

**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 on the playground to the left, a wooden fence panel was split in half, exposing sharp edges.

**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: 6/24/2025

**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 that on the playground to the left, a red and black tricycle had rust on the handlebars and was missing a pedal.

**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: 7/4/2025

**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 on the playground to the left, landscape fabric was exposed underneath and around the blue ABC play structure which posed a tripping hazard.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

The Center will remove any litter and fix or remove hazards from the playground and will routinely monitor the playground and remove litter and hazards.

Correction Deadline: 6/24/2025

Recited on 6/24/2025

|  |                     |
|--|---------------------|
|  | <b>Organization</b> |
|--|---------------------|

591-1-1-.16 Governing Body & License

Met

Correction Deadline: 4/4/2025

Corrected on 6/24/2025

.16(f) - This citation was observed to be corrected on this date. The Center submitted the required amendment request to divide room D into two rooms and change room D to a diapered room. The amendment was completed by the Consultant and approved by the Department.

|  |               |
|--|---------------|
|  | <b>Safety</b> |
|--|---------------|

591-1-1-.36 Transportation(CR)

Met

Correction Deadline: 3/25/2025

Corrected on 6/24/2025

.36(4)(b) - This citation was observed to be corrected on this date. The van with tag number TES9490 had made necessary repairs including a broken seat belt latch and rips in the leather seating. Both vans used for transportation had complete first aid kits on board.

Correction Deadline: 3/25/2025

Corrected on 6/24/2025

.36(6) - This citation was observed to be corrected on this date. All children transported during the last two weeks of the school year from May 12, 2024 through May 23, 2024 had up to date and signed parental authorizations on file.

Correction Deadline: 3/25/2025

Corrected on 6/24/2025

.36(7)(b) - This citation was observed to be corrected on this date. All transportation files contained emergency medical information for each child who is transported by the Center.

## Sleeping & Resting Equipment

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

Not Met

### 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 a thin electrical wire for lighting was dangling over the edge of one infant's crib while the infant was sleeping.

### POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will take all steps necessary to provide a safe sleep environment for infants as listed in these rules; will train Staff to follow these rules; and will monitor for compliance.

Correction Deadline: 6/24/2025

Recited on 6/24/2025

### Finding

591-1-1-.30(2)(c) requires that infants shall not sleep in equipment other than safety-approved cribs, such as, but not limited to, a car safety seat, bouncy seat, highchair, or swing. Infants who arrive at the Center asleep or fall asleep in such equipment, on the floor or elsewhere, shall be transferred to a safety-approved crib. It was determined based on observation that in infant Classroom B, two infants under the age of twelve months were napping in bouncy seats.

### POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will only place infants in safe cribs to sleep and will transfer them to a safe crib when the infants are asleep in other equipment.

Correction Deadline: 6/24/2025

Correction Deadline: 3/25/2025

Corrected on 6/24/2025

.30(4) - This citation was observed to be corrected on this date. Cots in all classrooms were stored properly with appropriate coverings to prevent children's access to them. Sheets are currently being used to cover cots while cot covers are on order. The Director provided the Consultant a copy of the purchase order for cot covers.

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**591-1-1-.09 Criminal Records and Comprehensive Background Checks(CR)****Met****Correction Deadline: 3/26/2025****Corrected on 6/24/2025**

**.09(1)(a) - This citation was observed to be corrected on this date. Staff #1 has a current satisfactory Comprehensive Criminal Records Determination letter on file, and submitted the required Records Check Application to the Department and Fingerprints to an authorized fingerprinting site.**

**Correction Deadline: 3/26/2025****Corrected on 6/24/2025**

**.09(1)(c) - This citation was observed to be corrected on this date. All current staff members at the Center had current satisfactory Comprehensive Records Check Determination letters on file as required.**

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**591-1-1-.14 First Aid & CPR(CR)****Met****Correction Deadline: 4/24/2025****Corrected on 6/24/2025**

**.14(1) - This citation was observed to be corrected on this date. All current staff members had evidence of completed First Aid and CPR training on file.**

**Correction Deadline: 3/25/2025****Corrected on 6/24/2025**

**.14(1)(a) - This citation was observed to be corrected on this date. All transportation drivers had current First Aid and CPR certification documentation on file.**

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**591-1-1-.24 Personnel Records****Met****Correction Deadline: 3/25/2025****Corrected on 6/24/2025**

**.24(1) - This citation was observed to be corrected on this date. All staff members' files contained documentation of orientation that was signed and dated by the center Director.**