



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: 9/17/2025 **VisitType:** Monitoring Visit

Arrival: 8:45 AM **Departure:** 10:40 AM

CCLC-58549
Bethesda Early Learning Center
1700 Osceola Avenue Waycross, GA 31503 Ware County
(912) 285-1024

Regional Consultant
Connie Boatright
Phone: (912) 544-9701
Fax: (912) 544-9700
connie.boatright@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.
09/17/2025	Monitoring Visit	Good Standing	
07/16/2025	Complaint Closure	Good Standing	
06/24/2025	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	A: Infant (first left)	One Year Olds	1	3	C	8	C	NA	NA	Floor Play,Nap,Transitioning
Main	B: Ones (Back Left)	One Year Olds	1	5	C	7	C	NA	NA	Circle Time,Art
Main	C: Twos (First Right)	Two Year Olds	2	9	C	17	C	NA	NA	Centers,Diapering
Main	D: Threes (Second Left)	Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds	2	7	C	18	C	NA	NA	Centers
Main	E: Fours (End Right)		0	0	C	10	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
Main	F: MultiPurpose/ After School (End)		0	0	C	79	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 139					Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0					
Total # Children this Date: 24					Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0					

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	Playground A (Right)	13	C
Main	Playground B (Left)	13	C

Enrolled Children						
Under 1 years	1 years	2 years	3 years	4 years	5 years (Prekonly)	5 years and older
5	6	12	8	4	0	7

Comments

The provider stated medication is administered, no field trips, routine transportation, or swimming activities are provided. The CCS Consultant discussed and left a copy of the updated Child Care Weather Watch Chart with the program today. Weather does not permit outdoor play when there is active precipitation or when weather advisories are in effect. Consult the Child Care Weather Watch Chart resource.

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



Summary 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: 7/16/2025

Corrected on 9/17/2025

.03(11) - The previous citation was observed to be corrected. Water is taken outside for each class when they are on the playground and readily available.

Comment

Lesson Plans were observed to be posted and reflected the current weeks activities in each classroom.

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

Met

Comment

Discussed adding equipment and toys to enhance variety.

Comment

Discussed rotating toys to support the procedures of daily disinfecting.

591-1-1-.35 Swimming Pools & Water-related Activities(CR)

Met

Comment

Center does not provide swimming activities.

Children's Records

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

Met

Comment

591-1-1-.08(6) - Twenty four children were present during this visit and twenty four children were signed in.

Correction Deadline: 9/17/2025

Facility

591-1-1-.06 Bathrooms

Met

Comment

Bathrooms observed to be clean and well maintained.

591-1-1-.19 License Capacity(CR) **Met**

Comment

Licensed capacity observed to be routinely met by center on this date. The consultant observed twenty four children to be present during this visit.

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

Comment

Please be mindful to keep items that pose a hazard inaccessible to children.

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

Correction Deadline: 7/4/2025

Corrected on 9/17/2025

.26(6) - The previous citation was observed to be corrected. The center purchased new tarps for the sand box.

Health and Hygiene

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

Comment

Proper diapering procedures observed.

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

Correction Deadline: 7/16/2025

Corrected on 9/17/2025

.17(2) - The previous citation was observed to be corrected.

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

Comment

Documentation for medication dispensing observed completed on this date.

Correction Deadline: 6/24/2025

Corrected on 9/17/2025

.20(1) - The previous citation was observed to be corrected on this day.

Correction Deadline: 6/24/2025

Corrected on 9/17/2025

.20(3) - The previous citation was observed to be corrected on this day.

Policies and Procedures

591-1-1-.21 Operational Policies & Procedures **Technical Assistance**

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.21(1)(a-o) - Discussed updating the Center's policies and procedures to include the program's practices regarding the expulsion and suspension of children enrolled for care within the description of behavior management and discipline actions used by the Center.

Correction Deadline: 9/22/2025

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.21(1)(r) - New - Discussed to ensure a description of the practices followed by the Center to prevent shaken baby syndrome and abusive head trauma in children up to five years of age that includes the following information: how to recognize, respond to, and report the signs and symptoms of shaken baby syndrome and abusive head trauma; strategies to assist staff members in understanding how to care for infants and how to cope with a crying, fussing, or distraught child; strategies to ensure staff members understand the brain development of children up to five years of age; and a list of prohibited behaviors when dealing with children.

Additional information can be found in the CCLC Indicator Manual found on DECAL's website at: <https://www.dec.al.gov/CCS/RulesAndRegulations.aspx> or through the Center on Shaken Baby Syndrome found at: <https://dontshake.org/>.

Correction Deadline: 9/22/2025

591-1-1-.05 Animals

Met

Comment

Center does not keep animals on premises.

591-1-1-.11 Discipline(CR)

Met

Comment

Age-appropriate discussion and/or redirection observed.

Comment

Staff were observed to maintain a positive learning environment on this date.

Correction Deadline: 7/16/2025

Corrected on 9/17/2025

.11(1) - The previous citation was observed to be corrected on this date.

591-1-1-.13 Field Trips(CR)

Met

Comment

Center does not participate in field trips at this time.

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

Met

Comment

Center does not provide routine transportation.

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

Not Met

Correction Deadline: 6/24/2025

Corrected on 9/17/2025

.30(1)(a)3 - The previous citation was observed to be corrected on this date.

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 1-year-old child was sleeping in a safety approved infant crib wearing a hair bow. The bow had come loose from the child's hair and laying under the child's head near the child's throat.

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: 9/17/2025

Staff Records

Comment

Criminal record checks were observed to be complete.

Comment

Director provided 1 file(s) for employees hired since last visit.

591-1-1-.14 First Aid & CPR(CR)**Technical Assistance****Correction Deadline: 7/31/2025****Corrected on 9/17/2025****.14(1) - The previous citation was observed to be corrected.****Technical Assistance**

591-1-1-.14(2)(a) - New - Discussed that effective July 1, 2025, new staff are required to obtain pediatric First Aid and pediatric CPR training within 45 days of employment. It was further discussed that programs must have at least one person with current pediatric First Aid and pediatric CPR training in each classroom at all times.

Correction Deadline: 10/17/2025**591-1-1-.33 Staff Training****Technical Assistance****Technical Assistance**

591-1-1-.33(1) - Discussed that all Employees, including volunteers, independent contractors, students-in-training, etc. should have a completed initial program orientation form on file.

Correction Deadline: 9/17/2025**Correction Deadline: 7/5/2025****Corrected on 9/17/2025****.33(3)(a)-(k) - The previous citation was observed to be corrected on this day. Staff # 12 is no longer employed.****Technical Assistance**

591-1-1-.33(5)(b)1. - New - Discussed that effective July 1, 2025, all staff are required to obtain at least two hours in evidence based, developmentally appropriate language and literacy practices and at least two hours in on-going child development and health and safety related topics as part of their 10 hours of annual training.

Correction Deadline: 10/17/2025**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.