



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: 9/25/2025 **VisitType:** Licensing Study

Arrival: 8:40 AM **Departure:** 11:15 AM

CCLC-57258

Bells Ferry Learning Center

11 Hamilton Blvd Cartersville, GA 30120 Bartow County
 (770) 386-0105

Regional Consultant

Sharnette Glenn

Phone: (404) 651-8365

Fax: (404) 334-4612

sharnette.glenn@dec.al.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.
09/25/2025	Licensing Study	Good Standing	
10/07/2024	Licensing Study	Good Standing	
06/14/2024	Incident Investigation Closure	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 1 (1st Left)	Infants and One Year Olds	2	9	C	10	C	NA	NA	Nap,Feeding,Flo or Play
Main	Room 2 (2nd Left)	One Year Olds	1	3	C	8	C	NA	NA	Free Play
Main	Room 3 (3rd Left)	One Year Olds	1	4	C	8	C	NA	NA	Free Play
Main	Room 4 (4th Left)		0	0	C	9	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
Main	Room 5 (5th Left)	Two Year Olds	1	10	C	10	C	NA	NA	Breakfast
Main	Room 6 (6th Left)	Two Year Olds	2	10	C	10	C	NA	NA	Breakfast,Transi tioning
Main	Room 7 (3rd Right)	GA PreK	2	17	C	30	C	42	C	Outside
Main	Room 8 (2nd Right)	Three Year Olds	1	9	C	21	C	30	C	Music
Main	Room 9 (1st Right)	Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds	3	10	C	21	C	29	C	Music

Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 127

Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0

Total # Children this Date: 72

Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 127

Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
----------	------------	----------------------	-----------------------

Enrolled Children						
Under 1 years	1 years	2 years	3 years	4 years	5 years (Prekonly)	5 years and older
8	18	21	18	20	2	17

Comments

The consultant reviewed the weather chart and new rule changes that took effect on July 1, 2025. The consultant went over the report with the provider.

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!



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

Summary Report

Date: 9/25/2025 VisitType: Licensing Study

Arrival: 8:40 AM Departure: 11:15 AM

CCLC-57258

Bells Ferry Learning Center

11 Hamilton Blvd Cartersville, GA 30120 Bartow County
(770) 386-0105

Regional Consultant

Sharnette Glenn

Phone: (404) 651-8365

Fax: (404) 334-4612

sharnette.glenn@decal.ga.gov

Mailing Address
Same

The following information is associated with a Licensing Study:

Activities and Equipment

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

Met

Comment

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

Comment

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

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

N/A

Comment

Center does not provide swimming activities.

Children's Records

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

Met

Comment

Parent agreements observed obtained/completed.

Comment

Parent authorizations obtained/completed.

Comment

Records were observed to be complete and well organized.

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.

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

Met

Comment

No hazards observed accessible to children on this date.

Correction Deadline: 10/7/2024

Corrected on 9/25/2025

.25(13) - The previous citation was corrected. The consultant did not observe any hazardous items accessible to the children on today's visit.

Correction Deadline: 10/7/2024

Corrected on 9/25/2025

.25(3) - The previous citation was corrected. The consultant observed that the fans in the classrooms were clean during today's visit.

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

Comment

Playground observed to be clean and in good repair on this date.

Food Service

591-1-1-.15 Food Service & Nutrition **Met**

Comment

Center menu meets USDA guidelines.

591-1-1-.18 Kitchen Operations **Met**

Comment

Discussed proper steps for dishwashing on this date.

Comment

Kitchen appears clean and well organized on this date.

Health and Hygiene

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

Comment

Staff stated proper knowledge of diapering procedures.

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

Comment

Proper hand washing observed throughout the center on this date.

Correction Deadline: 10/7/2024

Corrected on 9/25/2025

.17(7) - The previous citation was corrected. The consultant observed a child washing their hands after using the restroom.

Correction Deadline: 10/7/2024

Corrected on 9/25/2025

.17(8) - The previous citation was corrected. The consultant observed a staff member washing their hands before giving out breakfast.

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

Comment

Documentation for medication dispensing observed completed on this date.

Safety

591-1-1-.05 Animals **N/A**

Comment

Center does not keep animals on premises.

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

Comment

Age-appropriate discussion and/or redirection observed.

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

Comment

Center does not participate in field trips at this time.

Comment

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

Comment

Complete documentation of transportation observed on this date.

Comment

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

Sleeping & Resting Equipment

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

Met

Comment

Discussed SIDS and infant sleeping position.

Comment

Pleasant naptime environment observed.

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

Records Reviewed: 26

Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 10

Staff # 1

Not Met

Date of Hire: 07/26/2022

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training

Staff # 2

Not Met

Date of Hire: 06/03/2025

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(3)-Health & Safety Certificate

Staff # 3

Not Met

Date of Hire: 01/25/2022

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training

Staff # 7

Not Met

Date of Hire: 05/12/2025

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(3)-Health & Safety Certificate

Staff # 9

Not Met

Date of Hire: 08/08/2022

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training

Staff # 11

Not Met

Date of Hire: 09/23/2024

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training

Staff # 16 Not Met

Date of Hire: 03/05/2023

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training

Staff # 18 Not Met

Date of Hire: 07/27/2022

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training

Staff # 20 Not Met

Date of Hire: 10/16/2023

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training

Staff # 25 Not Met

Date of Hire: 11/14/2022

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training

591-1-1-.09 Criminal Records and Comprehensive Background Checks(CR) Met

Comment

Criminal record checks were observed to be complete.

591-1-1-.14 First Aid & CPR(CR) Met

Comment

Complete first aid kits observed in center and on vehicles on this date.

Comment

Evidence observed of 50% of center Staff certified in First Aid and CPR.

591-1-1-.33 Staff Training Not Met

Comment

Discussed staff training. Please obtain required documentation.

Finding

591-1-1-.33(3)(a)-(k) requires each Staff member with direct care responsibilities to complete health and safety orientation training within the first 90 days of employment. The state-approved training hours obtained will count toward required first year training hours. The training must address the following health and safety topics: a) prevention and control of infectious diseases (including immunizations); b) prevention of sudden infant death syndrome and use of safe sleeping practices; c) administration of medication, consistent with standards for parental consent; d) prevention of and response to emergencies due to food and allergic reactions; e) building and physical premises safety, including identification of and protection from hazards that can cause bodily injury such as electrical hazards, bodies of water, and vehicular traffic; f) prevention of shaken baby syndrome, abusive head trauma and child maltreatment; g) emergency preparedness and response planning for emergencies resulting from a natural disaster or a human-caused event (such as violence at a child care facility); h) handling and storage of hazardous materials and the appropriate disposal of bio contaminants; i) precautions in transporting children; j) recognition and reporting of child abuse and neglect; and k) child development to include all major domains: cognitive; social and emotional; physical development and motor skills; communication, language, and literacy; and approaches to play and learning. It was determined, based on a review of staff files, that staff members #2, #7, and #20 did not have evidence of completing their Health and Safety Orientation Training.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will develop and implement a plan to schedule and track this training for all employees based on their hire dates and will ensure that the training includes all required components as required.

Correction Deadline: 10/25/2025

Comment

Discussed: Health and Safety Training is required for each staff member with direct care responsibilities within 90 calendar days of their hire date.

Finding

591-1-1-.33(5)(a) requires that every calendar year after the first year of employment, all supervisory and caregiver Personnel, except independent contractors, Students-in-Training and volunteers, shall attend ten (10) clock hours of diverse training which is offered by an accredited college, university or vocational program or other Department-approved source. It was determined, based on a review of staff files, that staff members #1, #3, #9, #11, #16, #18, and #25 did not have evidence of completing their annual ten-hour training for the year 2024.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will plan and schedule the required 10 hours of annual training each year and follow up to ensure the training is completed.

Correction Deadline: 10/25/2025

Finding

Previously Cited: 91-1-1-.33(5) requires that every calendar year after the first year of employment, all supervisory and caregiver Personnel, except independent contractors, Students-in-Training and volunteers shall attend ten (10) clock hours of diverse training which is task-focused in on-going health, safety and early childhood or child development related topics and which is offered by an accredited college, university or vocational program or other Department-approved source. The annual ten (10) clock hours of training shall be chosen from the following fields: child development, including discipline, guidance, nutrition, injury control and safety; health, including sanitation, disease control, cleanliness, detection and disposition of illness; child abuse and neglect, including identification and reporting, and meeting the needs of abused and/or neglected children; and business related topics, including parental communication, recordkeeping, etc.; provided however that such business related training shall be limited to no more than two (2) of the required ten (10) clock hours of training. Records of completion of such training shall be maintained, as required by these rules. It was determined based on a review of staff files, that staff member #8 did not have evidence of their annual 10 hours of diverse training for the year 2023.

591-1-1-.33(5)(a) requires that every calendar year after the first year of employment, all supervisory and caregiver Personnel, except independent contractors, Students-in-Training and volunteers, shall attend ten (10) clock hours of diverse training which is offered by an accredited college, university or vocational program or other Department-approved source. It was determined [].

POI (Plan of Improvement)

Previously Cited: The Center will plan and schedule the required 10 hours of annual training each year and follow up to ensure the training is completed.

The Center will plan and schedule the required 10 hours of annual training each year and follow up to ensure the training is completed.

Recited on 9/25/2025

591-1-1-.31 Staff(CR)

Met

Comment

Discussed that all lead staff must enroll in an approved education program within 6 months of hire and complete degree within 18 months.

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.

