



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: 11/19/2025 VisitType: Licensing Study

Arrival: 2:15 PM Departure: 5:30 PM

CCLC-16221

Giggle & Grow

2188 Graysville Rd. Ringgold, GA 30736 Catoosa County
(423) 505-8009

Regional Consultant

Jermecia Moore-Fulton

Phone: (470) 214-7043

Fax:

jermecia.moore-fulton@dec.al.ga.gov

Mailing Address

Same

Quality Rated: No

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.
11/19/2025	Licensing Study	Good Standing	
12/10/2024	Licensing Study	Good Standing	
07/20/2023	Licensing Study	Good Standing	
			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.

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-Upstairs Back	One Year Olds and Two Year Olds	1	10	C	10	C	NA	NA	Free Play
Main	B-Upstairs (1st RT)	Infants	2	6	C	13	C	NA	NA	Nap,Floor Play
Main	C-(Downstairs 1st)	Two Year Olds	2	15	C	17	C	NA	NA	Outside
Main	D-(Downstairs 2nd)	Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds	1	14	C	19	C	NA	NA	Outside
			Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 59			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0				
Total # Children this Date: 45			Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 59			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0				

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
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Enrolled Children						
Under 1 years	1 years	2 years	3 years	4 years	5 years (Prekonly)	5 years and older
7	10	17	8	8	0	2

Comments

*Updates/Reminders:

• First Aid and CPR:

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.

• Operational Policies & Procedures:

-Please update 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.

-Also please 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.decal.ga.gov/CCS/RulesAndRegulations.aspx> or through the Center on Shaken Baby Syndrome found at: <https://dontshake.org/>.

• Staff Training:

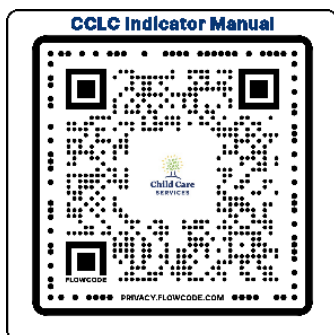
-Initial Program Orientation- All Employees, including volunteers, independent contractors, students-in-training, etc. should have a completed initial program orientation form on file.

• Annual Training:

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.

• Discussed and emailed 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 for further guidance, considering specific weather conditions.

Plan of Improvement: Developed This Date



For additional information regarding any licensing topics discussed during this visit, please consult the Rules and Regulations Indicator Manual. This manual provides comprehensive clarification of each rule, including evaluation indicators, related best practices, and relevant considerations to support your program's continued and sustained compliance.

To access the Indicator Manual, please scan the QR code below or visit our website at <https://www.decal.ga.gov/CCS/RulesAndRegulations.aspx>.

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



Summary Report

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The following information is associated with a Licensing Study:

Activities and Equipment

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

Technical Assistance

Correction Deadline: 12/10/2024

Corrected on 11/19/2025

.12(2) - The previous citation was observed to be corrected. The Consultant did not observe a ripped red sofa in classroom D.

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.12(3) - requires that equipment and furniture be placed so as to permit the children's freedom of movement and to minimize danger of accident and collision. Discussed with the Director the placement of swings in classroom A- Upstairs Back . The Consultant suggested removing them due to them possibly posing a hazard. Director stated that the swings have been there since she started working at the center years ago.

Correction Deadline: 11/19/2025

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

Correction Deadline: 12/10/2024

Corrected on 11/19/2025

.08(1) - The previous citation was observed to be corrected. The Consultant observed five children's files to be completed with the required information.

Facility

591-1-1-.06 Bathrooms

Met

Correction Deadline: 1/9/2025

Corrected on 11/19/2025

.06(4) - The previous citation was observed to be corrected. The Consultant observed the bathroom ventilation to be working properly in classroom A.

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

Licensed capacity observed to be routinely met by center on this date.

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

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

Correction Deadline: 12/10/2024

Corrected on 11/19/2025

.25(13) - The previous citation was observed to be corrected. The Consultant did not observe any potentially hazardous equipment, materials or supplies to be accessible to children on this date.

591-1-1-.25 Physical Plant-Structural/Mechanical	Met
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Correction Deadline: 1/9/2025

Corrected on 11/19/2025

.25(14) -The previous citation was observed to be corrected. The Consultant observed all classrooms to be well lit on this date.

591-1-1-.26 Playgrounds(CR)	Not Met
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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 large playground the red car and three yellow and blue play structures had chipping paint throughout and on the stairs posing a hazard.

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: 12/19/2025

Recited on 11/19/2025

Health and Hygiene

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

Staff stated proper knowledge of diapering procedures.

Correction Deadline: 11/21/2025

Corrected on 11/19/2025

.10(2) - The previous citation was observed to be corrected. The Consultant observed a hand-washing sink with warm running water in classroom B.

591-1-1-.17 Hygiene(CR)	Defer
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Defer

591-1-1-.17(7)-The Consultant did not observe diapering in classroom B during the visit.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will train Staff on required handwashing for children and Staff will ensure children's hands are washed when required. The Director will monitor for compliance.

Correction Deadline: 12/10/2024

Defer

591-1-1-.17(8)-The Consultant did not observe diapering during the visit in classroom B.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will ensure liquid soap and warm running water are available for handwashing, train Staff on the handwashing requirements, review the requirements with Staff periodically, and monitor handwashing.

Correction Deadline: 12/10/2024

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

N/A

Comment

The Provider currently does not dispense/administer medication.

Policies and Procedures

591-1-1-.21 Operational Policies & Procedures

Technical Assistance

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.21(2)(r) - New - Discussed that the Center's policies and procedures should be updated to include 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.

Correction Deadline: 11/24/2025

Safety

591-1-1-.05 Animals

Met

Comment

Center does not keep animals on premises.

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

Met

Comment

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

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

N/A

Comment

Center does not participate in field trips at this time.

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

N/A

Comment

Center does not provide routine transportation.

Sleeping & Resting Equipment

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

Met

Comment

Discussed SIDS and infant sleeping position.

Correction Deadline: 12/10/2024

Corrected on 11/19/2025

.30(2) - The previous citation was observed to be corrected. The Consultant observed one infant to be napping in their crib during the visit with no items or blankets present in the crib.

Staff Records

Records Reviewed: 13

Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 12

Staff # 1

Not Met

Date of Hire: 11/15/2022

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training

Staff # 2

Not Met

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training

Staff # 3

Not Met

Date of Hire: 07/26/2021

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training

Staff # 4

Not Met

Date of Hire: 08/01/2025

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.14(2)-CPR missing,.14(2)-First Aid Missing,.33(3)-Health & Safety Certificate

Staff # 5

Not Met

Date of Hire: 01/21/2020

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training

Staff # 6

Not Met

Date of Hire: 10/01/2021

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training

Staff # 8

Not Met

Date of Hire: 05/13/2023

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training,.14(2)-CPR missing,.14(2)-First Aid Missing

Staff # 9

Not Met

Date of Hire: 06/09/2025

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(3)-Health & Safety Certificate

Staff # 10

Not Met

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training

Staff # 11

Not Met

Date of Hire: 08/06/2009

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training

Staff # 12

Not Met

Date of Hire: 05/22/2023

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training

Staff # 13

Not Met

Date of Hire: 08/10/2021

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training

Comment

Director provided two files for employees hired since the last visit was conducted on December 10, 2024. The Consultant observed two new staff members to have evidence of a satisfactory comprehensive criminal background check on file.

Correction Deadline: 12/10/2024

Corrected on 11/19/2025

.09(1)(c) - The previous citation was observed to be corrected. The Consultant observed the previous cited staff member to have a current completed Comprehensive Records Check Determination.

Correction Deadline: 12/10/2024

Corrected on 11/19/2025

.09(1)(l)2. - The previous citation was observed to be corrected. The previous cited staff member is no longer employed at the center.

Correction Deadline: 12/10/2024

Corrected on 11/19/2025

.09(1)(l)3. - The previous citation was observed to be corrected. The Consultant observed the previous cited staff member to have a current completed Comprehensive Records Check Determination.

591-1-1-.14 First Aid & CPR(CR)**Not Met****Finding**

591-1-1-.14(1)(a) requires all Staff who provide direct care to children must obtain certification in a biennial training program in pediatric cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and a triennial training program in pediatric first aid within the first 45 days of employment. Current and valid evidence of the successful completion of such training shall be maintained on the Center's premises. The hours obtained completing this certification will not count towards the required annual training hours. It was determined based on review of records a new staff member hired on August 1, 2025 did not obtain pediatric first aid and CPR within the first 45 days of employment. It was further determined a staff member hired on May 13, 2023 did not have evidence of current pediatric first aid and CPR.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

All caregiver Staff will complete the required training. The Director will send copies via email verification of completed CPR/First Aid certification to the Consultant upon completion and will develop a plan to ensure all caregiver Staff have completed this training within the first 45 days of employment and that evidence of successful completion of the training is on file available for inspection.

Correction Deadline: 12/19/2025

591-1-1-.33 Staff Training**Not Met****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 observation, two new staff members hired on June 9, 2025 and August 1, 2025 did not complete health and safety orientation training within the first 90 days of employment.

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: 12/19/2025

Correction Deadline: 1/9/2025

Corrected on 11/19/2025

.33(4) - The previous citation was observed to be corrected. The Center does not provide or prepare meals for the children in their care. Children bring sack lunches from home.

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 observation that four staff were observed to be without 10 hours of training for 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 based on observation ten staff members did not attend 10 hours of diverse training as required.

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.

Correction Deadline: 11/21/2025

Recited on 11/19/2025

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: 12/19/2025

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.

Staffing and Supervision

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

Met

Comment

Center observed to maintain appropriate staff:child ratios.

Correction Deadline: 12/10/2024

Corrected on 11/19/2025

.32(1) - The previous citation was observed to be corrected. The Consultant observed the appropriate staff:child ratios for each classroom on this date.

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

Met

Comment

Adequate supervision observed on this date.