



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: 8/12/2025 VisitType: Monitoring Visit

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

CCLC-33877

Prime Time A.J. McClung

1175 Martin Luther King Blvd. Columbus, GA 31906 Muscogee
County
(706) 322-2579

Regional Consultant

Penny Svenson

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Mailing Address

1175 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
Columbus, GA 31906

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.
08/12/2025	Monitoring Visit	Good Standing	
01/30/2025	Licensing Study	Good Standing	
11/05/2024	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
One bldg.	A	Six Year Olds and Over	2	12	C	20	C	NA	NA	Snack
One bldg.	B		0	0	C	10	C	NA	NA	
One bldg.	C		0	0	C	12	C	NA	NA	
One bldg.	D-gym	Five Year Olds and Six Year Olds and Over	2	14	C	146	C	NA	NA	Free Play
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 188			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0							
Total # Children this Date: 26			Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 188				Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0			

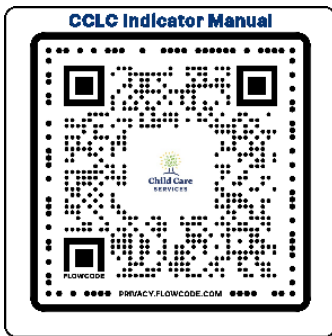
Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
One bldg.	Playground A	10	C
One bldg.	Playground B	57	C

Enrolled Children						
Under 1 years	1 years	2 years	3 years	4 years	5 years (Prekonly)	5 years and older
0	0	0	0	0	0	30

Comments

August 12, 2025--Technical Assistance provided for rule changes on this date.

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.dec.al.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!



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Summary Report

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The following information is associated with a Monitoring Visit:

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.

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

Met

Comment

Center does not provide swimming activities.

Facility

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

Correction Deadline: 1/30/2025

Corrected on 8/12/2025

The previous citation was observed corrected on this date. There was not a first aid kit with aspirin or antacid in the classroom on this date.

591-1-1-.25 Physical Plant-Structural/Mechanical

Met

Correction Deadline: 1/30/2025

Corrected on 8/12/2025

The previous citation was observed corrected on this date. The unit was observed to be operable for air.

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 the first gate on the left had the bolts missing from the back of the gate and the gate could be pushed open to an area where items were stored. Further, there was a 4 inch gap present at the second pole, a 9 1/2 inch gap present at the third pole, and a 9 inch gap present at the fourth pole along the fence on the left as you entered the play area.

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: 8/12/2025

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 these hazards were observed on the playground:

An active ant bed next to the second panel of the fence as you entered the play area.

Large pieces of new play equipment that was purchased to be installed and the equipment and large heavy boxes were observed to be propped against the building and a fall hazard was posed.

Exposed sharp concrete along the concrete pad outside the red door.

Exposed concrete, bricks and rocks in the area of the wooden bench.

Black and white plastic tarp like material lying on the ground next to the new equipment that was leaned against the building.

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: 8/12/2025

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

No children enrolled who require diapering. School age children attend only for after school hours.

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

Staff were observed to remind children to wash hands on this date.

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

The Provider currently does not dispense/administer medication.

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

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: 8/17/2025

Technical Assistance

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

Correction Deadline: 8/17/2025

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

Age-appropriate discussion and/or redirection observed.

Finding

591-1-1-.36(4)(b) requires that the interior of a transportation vehicle be clean, in safe repair and free of hazardous items, objects and/or other non-essential items which could cause injury. It was determined based on observation that these hazards were present on the following buses:

Vehicle that ended in license plate 0170 the first left seat and the second right seat had exposed foam or vinyl that was not present.

Vehicle that ended in license plate 0169 the first buckle on the first left seat was missing and the second buckle on the second left seat was not accessible when it was found to be stuck underneath the seat and could not be fed back through the seat.

Vehicle that ended in license plate 7677 the first seat belt was frayed. Further, it was discovered that each seat belt had a second mechanism that was required to secure the belt in place and the second mechanism was not used.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The center will maintain that all transportation vehicles are clean, in safe repair, and free from hazards.

Correction Deadline: 8/15/2025

Recited on 8/12/2025

Finding

591-1-1-.36(7)(b) requires that an emergency medical information record be maintained in the vehicle for each child being transported. The emergency medical information record for each child shall include a listing of the child's full name, date of birth, allergies, special medical needs and conditions, current prescribed medications that the child is required to take on a daily basis for a chronic condition, the name and telephone number of the child's doctor, the local medical facility that the Center uses in the area where the Center is located and the telephone numbers where the Parents can be reached. It was determined based on a review of records that emergency medical information was not maintained on the vehicle for each child being transported as follows:

One child transported from May A Buckner missing emergency medical information.

Two children transported from Wynnton Elementary missing emergency medical information.

Four children transported from Richards Middle School missing emergency medical information.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will obtain a complete emergency medical information record for each child that is transported and maintain a copy on the vehicle.

Correction Deadline: 8/13/2025

Sleeping & Resting Equipment

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

Met

Comment

Sleeping/Naps are not required for this program. School age children attend only for after school hours.

Staff Records

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

Met

Correction Deadline: 1/30/2025

Corrected on 8/12/2025

The previous citation was observed corrected on this date. All staff submitted both a Records Check Application to the Department and Fingerprints to an authorized fingerprinting site as required.

Correction Deadline: 1/30/2025

Corrected on 8/12/2025

The previous citation was observed corrected on this date. All staff obtained a valid and current satisfactory Comprehensive Records Check Determination.

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

Technical Assistance

Correction Deadline: 3/1/2025

Corrected on 8/12/2025

The previous citation was observed corrected on this date. All staff required to have first aid and CPR by this date had the training.

Technical Assistance

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: 9/11/2025

591-1-1-.33 Staff Training

Defer

Technical Assistance

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

Correction Deadline: 8/12/2025

Defer

Training for 2025 will be checked on the following regulatory visit.

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: 3/1/2025

Technical Assistance

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

Correction Deadline: 9/11/2025

Technical Assistance

Discussed that effective July 1, 2025, all staff are required to obtain 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: 9/11/2025

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

Correction Deadline: 1/30/2025

Corrected on 8/12/2025

The previous citation was observed corrected on this date. Children were observed to have watchful oversight.