



**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:** 8/22/2025 **VisitType:** Complaint Investigation & Licensing Study **Arrival:** 11:10 AM **Departure:** 5:00 PM

**CCLC-50264**

**Big Blue Marble - East Cherokee**

8991 E. Cherokee Drive Canton, GA 30115 Cherokee County  
(770) 704-4925 center26@bbmacademy.com

Regional Consultant

Randy Gaytan

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**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. |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------------|---------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 08/22/2025                  | Complaint Investigation & Licensing Study | Good Standing |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| 07/25/2025                  | TA Follow Up                              | NA            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| 06/18/2025                  | TA Follow Up                              | NA            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |

**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 Building | A-1st Left side                  | Two Year Olds                     | 2     | 16       | C    | 29         | C            | NA         | NA           | Lunch              |
| Main Building | B- 2nd left -2nd right side      | One Year Olds                     | 2     | 11       | C    | 23         | C            | NA         | NA           | Centers            |
| Main Building | C-3rd left 1st right             | Infants                           | 2     | 8        | C    | 24         | C            | NA         | NA           | Feeding,Floor Play |
| Main Building | D-Middle Room                    | Two Year Olds and Three Year Olds | 2     | 15       | C    | 34         | C            | NA         | NA           | Lunch              |
| Main Building | E-Right side 1st left            | GA PreK                           | 2     | 19       | C    | 21         | C            | NA         | NA           | Lunch              |
| Main Building | F-Toddlers- Right side 1st right | Three Year Olds                   | 2     | 13       | C    | 16         | C            | NA         | NA           | Lunch              |
| Main Building | G-Pre-K Right Side 2nd Left      | GA PreK                           | 2     | 19       | C    | 22         | C            | NA         | NA           | Lunch              |
| Main Building | H-Two's Right Side- 2nd Right    | GA PreK                           | 2     | 19       | C    | 20         | C            | NA         | NA           | Story              |
| Main Building | I-Right Side 2nd right           | Two Year Olds                     | 3     | 13       | C    | 20         | C            | NA         | NA           | Music              |
| Main Building | J-1st Right Side                 | One Year Olds and Two Year Olds   | 2     | 11       | C    | 30         | C            | NA         | NA           | Transitioning      |

Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 239

Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0

Total # Children this Date: 144

Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 239

Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0

| Building | Playground | Playground<br>Occupancy | Playground<br>Compliance |
|----------|------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|
|----------|------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|

| Enrolled Children |         |         |         |         |                    |                   |
|-------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|--------------------|-------------------|
| Under 1 years     | 1 years | 2 years | 3 years | 4 years | 5 years (Prekonly) | 5 years and older |
| 10                | 24      | 36      | 32      | 58      | 1                  | 10                |

#### Comments

The purpose of this visit was to conduct a Licensing Study and Complaint Investigation.

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.

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

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

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.

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 for further guidance, considering specific weather conditions.

Plan of Improvement: No Plan Developed

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



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**Summary Report**

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**Study**

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The following information is associated with a CI/LS:

**Activities and Equipment**

**591-1-1-.03 Activities**

**Met**

**Comment**

591-1-1-.03(3) - Age-appropriate activities observed throughout the center.

**Comment**

591-1-1-.03(3) - 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**

591-1-1-.12 - A variety of equipment and toys were observed throughout the center on this date.

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

**N/A**

**Comment**

591-1-1-.35 - Center does not provide swimming activities.

**Children's Records**

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

**Met**

**Comment**

591-1-1-.08 - Records were observed to be complete and well organized.

**Facility**

**591-1-1-.06 Bathrooms**

**Met**

**Comment**

591-1-1-.06 - Bathrooms observed to be clean and well maintained.

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

**Met**

**Comment**

591-1-1-.19 - Licensed capacity observed to be routinely met by center on this date.

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

**Met**

**Comment**

591-1-1-.25 - The Center appeared clean and well maintained on this date.

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

591-1-1-.26 - Playground not observed on this date due to the roof of the building being replaced this weekend. Children have not been present on the playgrounds.

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

591-1-1-.15 - Center menu meets USDA guidelines.

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

591-1-1-.18 - Kitchen appears clean and well organized on this date.

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

591-1-1-.10 - Proper diapering procedures observed.

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

591-1-1-.17 - Proper hand washing observed throughout the center on this date.

**591-1-1-.20 Medications(CR)****N/A****Comment**

591-1-1-.20 - The Provider currently does not dispense/administer medication.

**Policies and Procedures****591-1-1-.21 Operational Policies & Procedures****Met****Comment**

591-1-1-.21(3) - Program observed complete emergency drills

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

591-1-1-.05 - Center does not keep animals on premises.

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

591-1-1-.11 - Age-appropriate discussion and/or redirection observed.

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

591-1-1-.13 - Center does not participate in field trips at this time.

**591-1-1-.36 Transportation(CR)****Met****Comment**

591-1-1-.36 - A current/completed inspection was observed for all vehicles used in transporting children this date.

**Comment**

591-1-1-.36 - Complete documentation of transportation observed on this date.

**Comment**

591-1-1-.36 - The vehicle had an approved fire extinguisher and first aid kit on this date.

**Sleeping & Resting Equipment**

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

591-1-1-.30 - Discussed SIDS and infant sleeping position.

**Comment**

591-1-1-.30 - 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.

|                      |
|----------------------|
| <b>Staff Records</b> |
|----------------------|

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

591-1-1-.09(1) - Criminal record checks were observed to be complete.

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**591-1-1-.09 Criminal Records Check(CR)****Met****Comment**

591-1-1-.09 - Criminal records checks were observed to be complete.

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

591-1-1-.14 - Complete first aid kits observed in center and on vehicles on this date.

**Comment**

591-1-1-.14 - Evidence observed of 50% of center Staff certified in First Aid and CPR.

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**591-1-1-.33 Staff Training****Met****Comment**

591-1-1-.33 - Documentation observed of required staff training.

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**591-1-1-.31 Staff(CR)****Met****Comment**

591-1-1-.31 - Staff observed to be compliant with applicable laws and regulations.

|                                 |
|---------------------------------|
| <b>Staffing and Supervision</b> |
|---------------------------------|

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

591-1-1-.32 - Center observed to maintain appropriate staff:child ratios.

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**591-1-1-.32 Supervision(CR)****Met****Comment**

591-1-1-.32 - Adequate supervision observed on this date.