



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: 7/17/2025 **VisitType:** Complaint Investigation & Licensing Study **Arrival:** 9:05 AM **Departure:** 3:50 PM

CCLC-1114
Growing Room CDC
 1200 Manchester Expressway Columbus, GA 31904 Muscogee County
 (706) 596-1234 jcarpenter@growingroomusa.com

Regional Consultant
 Penny Svenson
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Mailing Address
 PO Box 4216
 Columbus, GA 31914-0126

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.
07/17/2025	Complaint Investigation & Licensing Study	Good Standing	
04/02/2025	Complaint Closure	Good Standing	
04/02/2025	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	Room 1	Two Year Olds	2	18	C	21	C	NA	NA	Outside, Transitioning
Main	Room 10	Five Year Olds and Six Year Olds and Over	1	12	C	26	C	36	C	TV
Main	Room 11		0	0	C	21	C	NA	NA	
Main	Room 12	Six Year Olds and Over	2	12	C	22	C	31	C	Outside
Main	Room 13	One Year Olds and Two Year Olds	3	12	C	19	C	NA	NA	Lunch, Transitioning
Main	Room 14		0	0	C	16	C	NA	NA	
Main	Room 2	Two Year Olds	3	15	C	21	C	NA	NA	Transitioning, Outside
Main	Room 3	One Year Olds	2	6	C	10	C	NA	NA	Nap, Floor Play
Main	Room 4	Three Year Olds	2	20	C	20	C	NA	NA	Centers
Main	Room 5	Four Year Olds	1	13	C	21	C	NA	NA	Centers, Free Play
Main	Room 6	One Year Olds	2	13	C	15	C	NA	NA	Centers, Free Play, Diapering
Main	Room 7	Infants and One Year Olds	5	19	C	23	C	NA	NA	Nap, Diapering, Floor Play
Main	Room 8	Three Year Olds	2	11	C	21	C	NA	NA	Transitioning
Main	Room 9	Three Year Olds	2	14	C	21	C	NA	NA	Story

	Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 277	Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 296
Total # Children this Date: 165	Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 277	Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 296

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	Playground 1	62	C
Main	Playground 2	76	C

Enrolled Children						
Under 1 years	1 years	2 years	3 years	4 years	5 years (Prekonly)	5 years and older
17	27	17	66	31	0	46

Comments

July 17, 2025--Technical Assistance was provided for rule changes on this date.

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.decal.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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(Findings Report)

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The following information is associated with a CI/LS:

Activities and Equipment

591-1-1-.03 Activities

Met

Correction Deadline: 4/2/2025

Prior Visits: 03/31/2023

Corrected on 7/17/2025

The previous citation was observed corrected on this date. The citation occurred from a complaint investigation.

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

Technical Assistance

Technical Assistance

The Consultant discussed with the Director to monitor shelves for wear and tear and to recover or replace as needed.

Correction Deadline: 7/17/2025

Prior Visits: 01/24/2024

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

Records were observed to be complete and well organized.

Facility

591-1-1-.06 Bathrooms

Technical Assistance

Technical Assistance

The Consultant discussed with the Director to ensure light switches, door handles, doors, upper and lower baseboards, light switches, etc., were included when the bathroom was cleaned.

Correction Deadline: 7/17/2025

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)

Not Met

Comment

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

Finding

591-1-1-.25(3) requires the Center and surrounding premises to be kept clean, free of debris and in good repair. Hygienic measures such as, but not limited to, screened windows and proper waste disposal procedures shall be utilized to minimize the presence of rodents, flies, roaches and other vermin at the Center. It was determined based on observation that there was chipped paint throughout the center, walls, doors, and vent covers needed to be cleaned and/or painted to cover rust, and screws at the bottom of toilets where rust was present needed to be covered with caps.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will have the Center and surrounding areas cleaned, make repairs where needed, and remove all debris is removed. The Center will implement a plan to keep areas clean and in good repair that includes regular monitoring.

Correction Deadline: 7/17/2025

Prior Visits: 07/26/2022

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

Not Met

Technical Assistance

The Consultant discussed with the Director to monitor any toys or equipment for rust present and to sand and paint as needed.

Correction Deadline: 7/27/2025

Prior Visits: 01/24/2024

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 the first wall along the building on the Playground 1 had chipped concrete material and there were sharp areas present. Further, there were weeds along the back of the fence and near the bathroom on Playground 2.

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: 7/17/2025

Prior Visits: 07/26/2022

Food Service

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

Met

Comment

Center menu meets USDA guidelines.

591-1-1-.18 Kitchen Operations

Technical Assistance

Technical Assistance

The Consultant discussed with the Director to ensure any residue present in the bottom of freezers, refrigerators, stoves and ovens was wiped up and cleaned.

Correction Deadline: 7/17/2025

Health and Hygiene

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

Met

Comment

Hand washing requirements for diapering were discussed with the director on this date.

Finding

591-1-1-17(7) requires that children wash their hands with liquid soap and warm running water upon arrival for care, when moving from one child care group to another, upon re-entering the child care area after outside play, before and after eating meals and snacks, handling or touching food, playing in water; after toileting and diapering, playing in sand, touching animals or pets, and contact with bodily fluids and after contamination by any other means. It was determined based on observation that a staff member washed a one-year-old's hands for a few seconds after a diaper change in Room 6. Further, a staff member did not wash hands for an infant after a diaper change in Room 7. Also, three-year-old children washed their hands for a few seconds after they came in from outside play in Room 8.

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: 7/17/2025

Prior Visits: 07/26/2022

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.

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

Correction Deadline: 7/22/2025

591-1-1-.27 Posted Notices

Met

Comment

Observed all required posted notices.

591-1-1-.29 Required Reporting

Met

Comment

Thank you for reporting as required.

Safety

591-1-1-.05 Animals

Met

Comment

Center does not keep animals on premises.

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

Met

Correction Deadline: 4/2/2025

Prior Visits: 04/02/2025

Corrected on 7/17/2025

The previous citation was observed corrected on this date. The citation occurred from a complaint investigation. Redirection and discussion were observed to be used for disciplinary purposes on this date.

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

Met

Comment

Field trip documentation observed to be complete on this date.

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

Met

Comment

Complete documentation of transportation observed on this date.

Sleeping & Resting Equipment

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

Met

Comment

Discussed SIDS and infant sleeping position.

Staff Records

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

Met

Comment

Criminal record checks were observed to be complete.

591-1-1-.09 Criminal Records Check(CR)

Met

Comment

Criminal records checks were observed to be complete.

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

Technical Assistance

Comment

Evidence observed of 100% of center Staff certified in First Aid and CPR containing emergency care for infants and children that were required to have the training by this date.

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: 8/16/2025

591-1-1-.33 Staff Training

Technical Assistance

Comment

Documentation observed of required staff training.

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: 7/18/2025

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 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: 8/16/2025

Comment

Staff observed to be compliant with applicable laws and regulations.

Staffing and Supervision

Comment

Center observed to maintain appropriate staff:child ratios.

Comment

Adequate supervision observed on this date.