



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: 6/11/2025 **VisitType:** Monitoring Visit

Arrival: 9:00 AM **Departure:** 1:45 PM

CCLC-58687

The Sweetpea Experience Daycare and Learning Center
3765 Riverwatch Parkway Martinez, GA 30907 Columbia County
(706) 723-9998 blountshonda@yahoo.com

Regional Consultant
Christina Jennings
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Joint with: Carrie Spangler

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.
06/11/2025	Monitoring Visit	Good Standing	
11/07/2024	Licensing Study	Good Standing	
11/06/2024	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	A-Two year old	Two Year Olds and Three Year Olds	2	18	C	33	C	NA	NA	Art,Centers
Main	B-Three Year old /Afterschool	Four Year Olds and Six Year Olds and Over	2	16	C	37	C	NA	NA	Centers
Main	C-Right Infants and One year olds	Infants and One Year Olds	2	13	C	21	C	NA	NA	Floor Play,Centers
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 91			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0							
Total # Children this Date: 47			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0							

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	Playground	46	C

Enrolled Children						
Under 1 years	1 years	2 years	3 years	4 years	5 years (Prekonly)	5 years and older
3	12	13	8	13	0	6

Comments

The Consultant reviewed the visit report and discussed best practices with the Director.

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 user id 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:

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 CAPS/ QR Provisional Status, allowing for scholarships while working toward an initial star rating. Provisional Status eligibility will be determined at the time of CAPS enrollment as part of the CAPS application process.

Contact the Quality Rated help desk at 855-800-7747 or qualityrated@decgal.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 Monitoring Visit:

Activities and Equipment

591-1-1.12 Equipment & Toys(CR)

Not Met

Technical Assistance

591-1-1.12(2) - The Consultant and Provider discussed ensuring that the equipment and furniture is free from hazardous conditions such as, but not limited to, sharp rough edges, ensuring that the children's cubbies are securely anchored, and other hazards through out the Center.

Correction Deadline: 6/11/2025

Finding

591-1-1.12(4) requires that equipment and furniture is secured if it is of a weight or mass that could cause injury from tipping, falling, or being pulled or pushed over. It was determined based on observation that there were eight cots stacked in the back right corner and 14 cots stacked against the front right wall and accessible to children causing a potential tipping hazard in Classroom A. It was further determined that there were 24 cots stacked against the right side of the wall and accessible to children causing a potential tipping hazard in Classroom B.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will ensure that the identified equipment or furniture and any other such existing or future items are secured adequately and will have a system for checking these for stability.

Correction Deadline: 6/11/2025

591-1-1.35 Swimming Pools & Water-related Activities(CR)

N/A

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.

Finding

591-1-1-.25(13) requires that potentially hazardous equipment, materials and supplies be stored in a locked area inaccessible to children. It was determined based on observation that the following hazards were accessible to children on this date:

Classroom A:

- An Expo marker in a red basket on top of the counter on the left side of the handwashing sink.
- One pair of adult scissors in a red basket on top of the counter on the left side of the handwashing sink.
- A yellow plastic Dollar General bag in a red basket on top of the counter on the left side of the handwashing sink.
- A box of vinyl synthetic gloves in a red basket on top of the counter on the left side of the handwashing sink.
- A bottle of Ajax soap on the counter of the handwashing sink in the children's bathroom.
- A pack of Parent's Choice wipes on the counter of the handwashing sink in the children's bathroom.
- A black toilet plunger in an unlocked cabinet under the handwashing sink in the children's bathroom.

Classroom B:

- A red dry erase marker under the window on the back wall of the classroom.
- A pack of Parent's Choice wipes on the counter of the handwashing sink in the children's bathroom.
- A black toilet plunger and a large opened black trash bag in an unlocked cabinet under the handwashing sink in the children's bathroom.
- A broom in an open closet space on the right side of the classroom door.
- A container of Proclaim protein styling gel in an open closet space on the right side of the classroom door.
- A spray bottle of Personal Care Spray Detangler in an open closet space on the right side of the classroom door.
- A bottle of Happy Hair People hair gel in an open closet space on the right side of the classroom door.
- A spray bottle of Lysol All Purpose Cleaner in an open closet space on the right side of the classroom door.
- A spray bottle of Fabuloso water mixture in an open closet space on the right side of the classroom door.
- Two packs of Parent's Choice wipes in an unlocked cabinet under the handwashing sink on the right side of the classroom door.
- An opened staff bag in a chair behind the teacher's desk.
- A Combat Source Kill bug and insect bait in an unlocked cabinet under the handwashing sink on the right side of the classroom door.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will identify all hazardous items and keep them in a locked area inaccessible to children. The Center will inform all Staff about hazardous items and the safe storage of those items.

Correction Deadline: 6/11/2025

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.25(3) - The Consultant and Provider discussed ensuring that the Center is in good repair and kept clean such as but not limited to water damage and peeling paint on the classroom walls.

Correction Deadline: 6/11/2025

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 following fencing hazards were observed:

- An unsecured wooden fencing panel causing two finishing nails to be exposed on the right side of the playground.
- The bottom of a wooden fence panel was cracked and splintering on the back right corner of the fencing on the right side of the playground.
- There was one finishing nail protruding more than two threads on the bottom of a wooden fence panel on the backside of the playground.
- There was a six inch by seven inch gap on the bottom of the fencing causing a potential entrapment hazard on the right side of the playground.
- There was a four inch by six inch gap on the bottom of the fencing on the back side of the playground.
- There was a two inch by two foot gap on the bottom of the fencing on the back side of the playground.

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: 6/27/2025

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 that the following hazards were observed on the playground equipment and accessible to children:

- A pole protruding from the middle of one out of three plastic picnic tables and accessible to children under the blue canopy.
- The back right tire of the Step 2 dumptruck play structure was bent causing the structure to lean and to not be properly secured while in use.
- There was a missing handle on a rocking horse.
- There was plastic child's size table that was not in good repair and disassembled near the large play structure.
- The Consultant and Provider discussed adding a variety of age appropriate equipment to the outdoor play area.

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: 6/21/2025

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 the following playground hazards were accessible to children:

- Exposed cement on the bottom of one out of four poles under the blue canopy.
- Exposed tree roots through out the playground.
- Two out of two black mats were not flush to the ground under the slides of the play structure causing a potential tripping hazard on the back right side of the playground.
- A black mat was not flush to the ground in front of the cement pad outside of the second classroom door causing a potential tripping hazard on the top front side of the playground.
- An uncovered metal water spicket protruding from the building outside of the second classroom door on the top front side of the playground.
- Tall grass that was uncut which had sharp edges on the left side of the playground.

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: 6/27/2025

Food Service

591-1-1-.18 Kitchen Operations**Technical Assistance****Technical Assistance**

591-1-1-.18(5) - The Consultant and Provider discussed ensuring that all perishable foods are refrigerated at 40 degrees Fahrenheit or below such as but not limited to milk served to the children.

Correction Deadline: 6/11/2025

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

Met

Comment

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

591-1-1-17 Hygiene(CR)

Not Met

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 1-year-old child did not wash their hands with liquid soap and warm running water after the assigned teacher wiped the 1-year-old child's nose in Classroom C. It was further determined that a 1-year-old child did not immediately wash their hands upon arrival with liquid soap and warm running water as required in Classroom C.

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: 6/11/2025

Finding

591-1-1-17(8) requires staff to wash their hands with liquid soap and warm running water upon arrival for the day, when moving from one child care group to another, upon re-entering the child care area after outside play, before and after diapering each child, dispensing medication, applying topical medications, handling and preparing food, eating, drinking, preparing bottles, feeding each child, assisting children with eating and drinking, after toileting or assisting children with toileting, using tobacco products, handling garbage and organic waste, touching animals or pets, handling bodily fluids and after contamination by any means. It was determined based on observation that the assigned teacher in Classroom A did not immediately wash their hands upon arrival with liquid soap and warm running as required. It was further determined that the assigned teacher in Classroom B did not immediately wash their hands with liquid soap and warm running water after assisting a 4-year-old child in the bathroom.

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: 6/11/2025

591-1-1-20 Medications(CR)

N/A

Comment

The Provider currently does not dispense/administer medication.

Safety

591-1-1-11 Discipline(CR)

Technical Assistance

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-11(2) - The Consultant and Provider discussed ensuring that Center Staff utilize proper discipline techniques that are age appropriate when engaging with children.

Correction Deadline: 6/11/2025

591-1-1-36 Transportation(CR)

N/A

Comment

Center does not provide routine transportation.

Sleeping & Resting Equipment

Comment

Discussed SIDS and infant sleeping position.

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.30(1)(b)3 - The Consultant and Provider discussed ensuring that the sheets or similar coverings for the children's cots or mats are marked for individual use or laundered daily. If the sheets or coverings are marked for individual use, the Consultant and Provider discussed ensuring that the sheets or coverings are laundered weekly or more frequently if needed.

Correction Deadline: 6/11/2025

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-.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**

Discussed combining children of mixed ages.

591-1-1-.32 Supervision(CR)**Not Met****Finding**

591-1-1-.32(7) requires that children be supervised at all times appropriate to the individual age, needs and capabilities of each child. Such supervision must include, but not be limited to, indoor and outdoor activities, mealtimes, naptime, transportation, field trips, and transitions between activities. "Supervision" means that the appropriate number of Staff members are physically present in the area where children are being cared for and are providing watchful oversight to the children, volunteers and Students-in-Training. The persons supervising in the child care area must be alert, positioned to maximize their ability to hear and see the children at all times, and able to respond promptly to the needs and actions of the children being supervised, as well as the actions of the volunteers and Students-in-Training, and provide timely attention to the children's actions and needs. Staff shall be attentive and participating with all children during mealtimes and shall be seated within an arm's length away from children thirty-six (36) months of age and younger. It was determined based on observation that the assigned teacher was not seated within arm's length away while seven out of seven 2-year-old children were eating lunch in Classroom A. The assigned teacher was observed preparing the classroom for nap time by laying out the children's cots.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will train Staff and monitor to ensure they are providing supervision and watchful oversight to the children at all times.

Correction Deadline: 6/11/2025

Recited on 6/11/2025