



**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:** 10/31/2023 **VisitType:** Licensing Study

**Arrival:** 10:00 AM

**Departure:** 3:30 PM

**CCLC-50426**

**Bright Start Preschool #1**

109 South Forrest Street Valdosta, GA 31601 Lowndes County  
 (229) 333-0018 bspvaldosta1@yahoo.com

**Regional Consultant**

Lindsey Ray

Phone: (404) 478-4441

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 lindsey.ray@decal.ga.gov

Joint with: Rena Keene

**Mailing Address**

109 S Barack Obama Blvd  
 Valdosta, GA 31601

**Quality Rated:** ★ ★ ★

| <b>Compliance Zone Designation</b> |                  |               | <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. |
|------------------------------------|------------------|---------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 10/31/2023                         | Licensing Study  | Good Standing |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| 06/27/2023                         | Monitoring Visit | Good Standing |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| 12/19/2022                         | Licensing Study  | 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                |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------------------|----------|------|------------|--------------|------------|--------------|----------------------|
| Bld 2-rm<br>8 infant-1 yr      | Rm 1 - 1's                 | Infants                            | 2                               | 3        | C    | 20         | C            | NA         | NA           | Floor Play           |
| Bld 2-rm<br>8 infant-1 yr      | Rm 2 older infants and 1's | One Year Olds                      | 2                               | 9        | C    | 15         | C            | NA         | NA           | Floor Play           |
| Bld 2-rm<br>8 infant-1 yr      | Rm 3 - infants             |                                    | 0                               | 0        | C    | 6          | C            | NA         | NA           | Not In Use           |
| Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 41 |                            |                                    | Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 220 |          |      |            |              |            |              |                      |
| Main                           | Rm 1                       | Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds | 1                               | 13       | C    | 16         | C            | NA         | NA           | Lunch                |
| Main                           | Rm 2                       | Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds | 1                               | 13       | C    | 14         | C            | 20         | C            | Lunch                |
| Main                           | Rm 3                       | Four Year Olds                     | 2                               | 17       | C    | 22         | C            | 30         | C            | Lunch                |
| Main                           | Rm 4                       | Two Year Olds and Three Year Olds  | 2                               | 11       | C    | 24         | C            | 33         | C            | Lunch                |
| Main                           | Rm 5                       | Four Year Olds                     | 2                               | 19       | C    | 17         | NC           | NA         | NA           | Transitioning, Lunch |
| Main                           | Rm 6                       | Two Year Olds                      | 2                               | 13       | C    | 17         | C            | NA         | NA           | Lunch                |
| Main                           | Rm 7 afterschool room      |                                    | 0                               | 0        | C    | 33         | C            | 46         | C            | Not In Use           |

|                                |                                 |                                 |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
|                                | Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 143 | Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 156 |
| Total # Children this Date: 98 | Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 184 | Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 220 |

| Building               | Playground   | Playground Occupancy | Playground Compliance |
|------------------------|--------------|----------------------|-----------------------|
| Bld 2-rm 8 infant-1 yr | playground 3 | 16                   | C                     |
| Main                   | Playground A | 65                   | C                     |
| Main                   | Playground B | 18                   | C                     |

#### Comments

The purpose of today's visit is to conduct a Licensing Study.

Plan of Improvement: Developed This Date 10/31/2023

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.state.ga.us/CCS/Regulations.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](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.

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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Shelbra McKnight, Program Official

Date

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Lindsey Ray, Regional Consultant

Date

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Rena Keene, Regional Consultant

Date



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(Findings Report)

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The following information is associated with a Licensing Study:

Activities and Equipment

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

Met

Comment

Discussed rotating toys to support the procedures of daily disinfecting.

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

Comment

Parent agreements observed obtained/completed.

Facility

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

Met

Comment

Licensed capacity observed to be routinely met by center.

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

Met

Correction Deadline: 6/27/2023

Corrected on 10/31/2023

.25(13) - This citation was observed to be corrected on this date.

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**591-1-1-.26 Playgrounds(CR)****Not Met****Correction Deadline: 6/27/2023****Corrected on 10/31/2023****.26(4) - This citation was observed to be corrected on this date.****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 three live fire ant beds were present on left side of the toddler playground. It was also observed that a pipe with sharp edges was protruding from the building to the right of the door. On the sidewalk along the building, there was a white PVC pipe with a cap protruding from the ground posing a tripping hazard to the children in care.

**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: 10/31/2023**

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**Food Service**

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

Please ensure that infant feeding forms are updated regularly.

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

Please ensure that all food items are stored in airtight containers and properly labeled.

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**Health and Hygiene**

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

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

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**591-1-1-.17 Hygiene(CR)****Not Met****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 staff in the infant room failed to wash hands after diapering each child.

**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: 10/31/2023**

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

The Provider currently does not dispense/administer medication.

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**Policies and Procedures**

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

Program observed complete emergency drills

**Safety**

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**591-1-1-.05 Animals****Met****Comment**

Center does not keep animals on premises.

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

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

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**591-1-1-.13 Field Trips(CR)****N/A****Comment**

Center does not participate in field trips at this time.

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**591-1-1-.36 Transportation(CR)****Not Met****Technical Assistance**

591-1-1-.36(6) - requires written Parental authorization for routine transportation provided by or on behalf of the Center. Written authorization must include the routine pick-up location, routine pick-up time, routine delivery location, routine delivery times and the name of any person authorized to receive the child. The consultant and the director discussed complete parental authorization forms.

**Correction Deadline: 11/1/2023****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 transportation records for the current and past week, and staff statements, that thirteen (13) children were transported from their schools to the center while their emergency medical information was not present on the vehicle while they were transported. The information was missing for the children as follows:

1. One child who was transported from Sallas Mahone Elementary School to the center on 10/23/2023, 10/24/2023, 10/25/2023, 10/26/2023, 10/27/2023 and on 10/30/2023
2. One child who was transported from Pinevale Elementary School to the center on 10/23/2023, 10/24/2023, 10/25/2023, 10/26/2023, 10/27/2023 and on 10/30/2023
3. Two children were transported from Pinevale Elementary School to the center on 10/24/2023, 10/25/2023, 10/26/2023, 10/27/2023 and on 10/30/2023
4. One child was transported from Pinevale Elementary School to the center on 10/23/2023 and 10/30/2023
5. One child was transported from Pinevale Elementary School to the center on 10/25/2023, 10/26/2023, and on 10/27/2023
6. Three children were transported from W. G. Nunn Elementary School to the center on 10/23/2023, 10/24/2023, 10/25/2023, 10/26/2023, 10/27/2023 and on 10/30/2023
7. Two children were transported from W. G. Nunn Elementary School to the center on 10/23/2023, 10/27/2023 and on 10/30/2023
8. One child was transported from W. G. Nunn Elementary School to the center on 10/30/2023
9. One child was transported from W. G. Nunn Elementary School to the center on 10/23/2023, 10/24/2023, 10/25/2023, 10/26/2023, and on 10/30/2023

**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: 11/1/2023**

**Technical Assistance**

591-1-1-.36(7)(c) - requires the center to use passenger transportation checklists, in a format approved by the Department, to account for each child during transportation. The consultant and the director discussed including dates of transportation on checklists.

**Correction Deadline: 11/1/2023**

|                                         |
|-----------------------------------------|
| <b>Sleeping &amp; Resting Equipment</b> |
|-----------------------------------------|

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**591-1-1-.30 Safe Sleeping and Resting Requirements(CR)****Not Met****Finding**

591-1-1-.30(1)(a)3 requires that each crib shall have only an individual, tight-fitting sheet which is changed daily or more often as needed and prior to a change of occupant. It was determined based on observation that the sheet on crib labeled # 2 in the infant room was soiled and had not been changed as needed.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

The center will ensure that each crib has an individual, tight-fitting sheet which is changed daily or more often as needed and prior to a change of occupant.

**Correction Deadline: 10/31/2023**

**Finding**

591-1-1-.30(1)(b)2 requires that cots and mats are used by the same child daily and marked for individual use. It was determined based on observation that the cots in classrooms #1, and #3, were not marked for individual use.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

The Center will ensure that cots and mats are used by the same child daily and marked for individual use.

**Correction Deadline: 10/31/2023**

**Finding**

591-1-1-.30(4). requires that if cots and mats are stored in the children's activity room or area, they shall be stored to prevent children's access to them and to allow maximum use of play space. When storage is available and used for the storage of cots and mats that allows the cots, mats and any bedding to be stored without touching any other cots, mats or bedding, the bedding may be left on the cot or mat. When such storage is not available for the cots and mats, each child's bedding shall be kept separate from other children's bedding and stored in containers marked for individual use, such as, but not limited to, bins, cubbies, or bags. It was determined based on observation that the cots in the front infant and toddler room were not stored in a way that did not allow the bedding to touch other cots.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

The Center will store cots and mats so children do not have access to them and they don't take up play space and will store them so each child's bedding is separate from the others.

**Correction Deadline: 10/31/2023**

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

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

Criminal record checks were observed to be complete.

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**591-1-1-.33 Staff Training****Technical Assistance****Technical Assistance**

591-1-1-.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. The consultant and the director discussed employee requirements for training.

**Correction Deadline: 11/30/2023**

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**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.

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

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

Center observed to maintain appropriate staff:child ratios.

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

Staff observed to provide direct supervision and be attentive to children's needs.