



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: 9/24/2026 **VisitType:** Licensing Study

Arrival: 8:30 AM **Departure:** 5:30 PM

CCLC-157

The Sunshine House #8

330 N. Belair Road Evans, GA 30809 Columbia County
 (706) 860-8507

Process & QI Unit Consultant

Melyn Smith

Phone: (404) 276-7254

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Joint with: Haley Carwile

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.
09/24/2026	Licensing Study	Good Standing	
03/17/2026	Monitoring Visit	Good Standing	
10/02/2025	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
Main	1st Right Rear	Infants	1	3	C	7	C	NA	NA	Nap,Floor Play,Feeding
Main	1st Left Rear	Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds	2	11	C	32	C	NA	NA	Centers,Circle Time
Main	2nd Left Rear	One Year Olds	2	9	C	21	C	NA	NA	Floor Play,Diapering,F ree Play
Main	2nd Right Rear	Infants and One Year Olds	1	7	C	19	C	NA	NA	Free Play,Transitionin g,Breakfast
Main	3rd Left Rear	GA PreK	2	20	C	34	C	NA	NA	Circle Time,Centers
Main	Front Left	Two Year Olds and Three Year Olds	2	16	C	30	C	NA	NA	Story,Transitioni ng,Centers
Main	Front Right		0	0	C	31	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 174					Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0					
Total # Children this Date: 66					Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0					

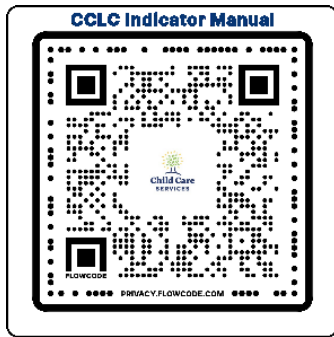
Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	PG- Back Right Playground	126	C
Main	PG- Front Playground	105	C
Main	PG- Infant Playground	10	C
Main	PG- Left Playground	84	C

Enrolled Children					
Infant (0-12 months)	Toddler (1-2 yrs)	Preschool (3-5yrs/full time care)	School Age (before/after care only)	GA PreK only	Summer Only
12	27	13	5	20	0

Comments

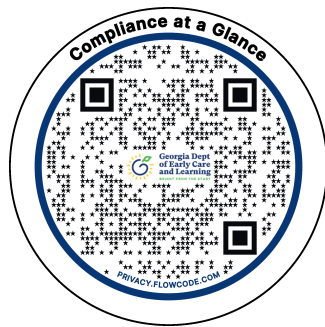
The visit report was reviewed with the Director. Resources were provided which included the Weather Watch Chart, Chop Look Listen Food Safety, Record Keeping and Organization Tips, How to Use the Indicator Manual, and information on the various programs within DECAL. The updated Infant Feeding Plan form was provided and reviewed with the Director.

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.state.ga.us/CCS/RulesAndRegulations.aspx>.



For additional information regarding the full compliance inspection results of this program or any licensed program in the state, access the Child Care Services Compliance-at-a Glance website by scanning this QR code or visiting: <https://families.dec.state.ga.us>.

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 Licensing Study:

Activities and Equipment

591-1-1-.03 Activities

Met

Comment

Age-appropriate activities observed throughout the center.

Comment

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

A variety of equipment and toys were observed throughout the center on this date.

Correction Deadline: 3/17/2026

Corrected on 9/24/2026

.12(2) - The previous citation was observed corrected on this date. The vinyl furniture not in good repair was replaced or removed from the classrooms.

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

Nine children's records were reviewed and observed to be complete and well organized.

Facility

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

Met

Comment

Licensed capacity observed to be routinely met by center on this date.

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 cabinet located beneath the diapering table in the Front Left Classroom was partially open and accessible to children. The cabinet contained diapering wipes, two boxes of gloves, and two containers of diapering cream, which were not maintained in a locked or otherwise secured location as required.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will identify all hazardous items and keep them in a locked or secured area inaccessible to children. The Center will also inform all Staff about hazardous items and the proper safe storage of those items. The Center will place a child safe lock on the cabinet doors.

Correction Deadline: 9/25/2026

Recited on 9/24/2026

Finding

591-1-1-.25(17) requires that the Center premises be free of plants and shrubs which are poisonous or hazardous. It was determined based on observation that the following poisonous or hazardous plants and substances were present:

- PG - Back Right Playground - Mushrooms were present growing throughout the playground. Fuzzy white mold was observed covering ant beds that had been treated by the Center using grits. Virginia creeper, poison ivy, and morning glory vines, which were toxic to children, were present and accessible to children as they grew through and over the back fence along with bamboo, vines, and other foliage.

- PG - Front Playground - Mushrooms were present growing throughout the playground. Virginia creeper, poison ivy, and morning glory vines, which were toxic to children, were present and accessible to children as they grew through and over the front fence, left-side fence, and back fence along with bamboo, vines, and other foliage. Additionally, a poison ivy vine was hanging from a tree branch close to the ground in front of the eighth section of the back fence from the left corner.

- PG - Left Playground - Mushrooms were present growing throughout the playground. Fuzzy white mold was observed covering ant beds that had been treated by the Center using grits. Virginia creeper, poison ivy, and morning glory vines, which were toxic to children, were present and accessible to children as they grew through and over the back fence along with bamboo, vines, and other foliage. Additionally, a pokeweed plant with white berries and a thick purple stem, identified as toxic to children, was present growing between trees near tree stumps and large mushrooms and measured approximately 14 inches in height at its highest point.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The harmful items will be removed and cut back from the fence and playgrounds. The Center will also treat the playgrounds to prevent growth of potentially toxic plants and will research different ways to treat ant beds in the future.

Correction Deadline: 10/3/2026

Correction Deadline: 3/17/2026

Corrected on 9/24/2026

.25(3) - The previous citation was observed corrected on this date. The Center repaired the broken and damaged cabinet doors in the 1st Left Rear Classroom and the Front Right Classroom. The Center and surrounding premises were observed clean, free of debris, and in good repair.

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 fences were not maintained or in good repair:

- PG - Front Playground - An 8-inch gap was present at the bottom of the front fence near the fifth pole from the front gate. Additionally, a gap measuring between 3.5 inches and 5 inches in height was present along the bottom of the front fence extending from the fifth to the seventh fence panel from the front gate. Both gaps were potential entrapment hazards.
- A gap measuring 7 inches to 8 inches in height was present at the bottom of the fence between the PG-Left Playground and the PG-Back Right Playground, which posed a potential entrapment hazard. Additionally, the fence was not attached to the support poles from the middle to the bottom, resulting in a gap between the support poles and the chain-link fencing material.
- the fence between the PG-Infant Playground and the PG-Back Right Playground was detached from the top horizontal support pole. Additionally, two fence poles were missing protective caps and had exposed sharp edges. Two bolts near the gate and the right corner protruded more than two threads. A gap measuring 7 inches in height was present at the bottom of the fence and posed a potential entrapment hazard.

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: 10/16/2026

Recited on 9/24/2026

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 present:

- PG - Back Right Playground - Active ant beds were present throughout the playground.
- PG - Front Playground - Active ant beds and exposed tree roots were present throughout the playground. Additionally, detached top horizontal fence rails were present on the ground near the gate leading to the PG-Back Right Playground.
- PG - Left Playground - Active ant beds and tree branches were present throughout 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: 10/2/2026

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

Not Met

Comment

Center menu meets USDA guidelines.

Finding

591-1-1-.15(2) requires that a signed written feeding plan for children less than one (1) year of age shall be obtained from Parent(s) and that instructions from the Parent(s) shall be updated regularly as new foods are added or other dietary changes are made. The feeding plan shall be posted in the child's assigned room and must include the child's feeding schedule, the amount of formula or breast milk to be given, instructions for the introduction of solid foods, the amount of food to be given and notation of any type(s) of commercially premixed formula which may not be used in an emergency because of food allergies. It was determined based on a review of records that the Center was using outdated infant feeding plan forms. The forms lacked the Introduction to Solid Foods section, including the developmental skills questions and the statement requiring acknowledgment that the child was developmentally ready for the introduction of solid foods.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center Director will provide the updated infant feeding plan forms and will develop and implement a plan to obtain and post the completed feeding plan as part of the enrollment process and to have parents update the plans on a regular basis that will include center staff involved with enrollment and those working in the infant classrooms. The correct updated infant feeding plan was provided to the Director.

Correction Deadline: 9/28/2026

Finding

591-1-1-.15(2)(f) requires that food for infants or children less than one (1) year of age be cut into pieces one-quarter inch or smaller and food for toddlers shall be cut into pieces one-half inch or smaller to prevent choking. It was determined based on observation that infants and toddlers in the 2nd Left Rear Classroom, the 2nd Right Rear Classroom, and the Front Left Classroom were served whole blueberries during breakfast. The blueberries had not been cut into smaller pieces, as appropriate for infants and toddlers, to reduce the risk of choking as required.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will ensure that food for infants and children less than one (1) year of age is cut into pieces one-quarter inch or smaller and food for toddlers is cut into pieces one-half inch or smaller to prevent choking.

Correction Deadline: 9/25/2026

Finding

591-1-1-.15(3) requires baby bottles and formula to be labeled with the individual child's name; supplied by the Parent daily in bottles; and refrigerated at a temperature of forty (40) degrees Fahrenheit or less. Only the current day's formula or breast milk shall be served. If formula must be provided by the Center, only commercially prepared, ready-to-feed formula shall be used. Refrigerated or frozen breast milk shall only be heated or thawed under warm running water or in a container of warm water. It was determined based on observation that two baby bottles stored in the refrigerator located in the 2nd Right Rear Classroom were not labeled with the individual child's name as required. Additionally, the bottles were stored without protective caps covering the nipples, which did not ensure protection from contamination during storage.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will train Staff to follow the required procedures, ensure that parents are fully informed, and will review and monitor regularly.

Correction Deadline: 9/25/2026

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

Proper diapering procedures observed.

Comment

Staff stated proper knowledge of diapering procedures.

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

Proper hand washing observed throughout the center on this date.

591-1-1-.20 Medications(CR)**Not Evaluated****Comment**

The Provider does dispense/administer medication but currently had no children enrolled who required medication..

Policies and Procedures**591-1-1-.21 Operational Policies & Procedures****Not Met****Finding**

591-1-1-.21(3) requires that the Center conduct drills for fire, tornado and other emergency situations. The fire drills will be conducted monthly and tornado and other emergency situation drills will be conducted every six months. The Center shall maintain documentation of the dates and times of these drills for two years. It was determined based on a review of records that the Center did not maintain documentation demonstrating that other emergency situation drills had been conducted at least every six months as required. Documentation indicated that the most recent other emergency situation drill was conducted on July 23, 2024.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will hold the drills as required and keep the documentation of the drills on file for two years.

Correction Deadline: 9/30/2026

Finding

591-1-1-.27 requires each Center to post in a designated area for public viewing near the front entrance the following: the Center's current License or Permit; a copy of these rules; a copy of the current communicable disease chart; a statement allowing Parent(s) access to all child care areas upon notifying any staff member of his or her presence; names of persons responsible for the administration of the Center in the administrator's absence; the dated current week's menu for meals and snacks; emergency plans for severe weather, fire, and other emergency situations; a statement requiring visitors to check in with Staff when entering the Center; no smoking signs; and a notice provided by the Department which advises Parents of their right to review a copy of the Center's most recent licensure evaluation report upon request to the Center Director. The Center shall provide any Parent with a copy of this evaluation report upon request. It was determined based on observation that the Center had not posted the current week's menu for meals and snacks; emergency plans for severe weather, fire, and other emergency situations; the names of persons responsible for the administration of the Center in the administrator's absence; information regarding where important safety information from the Consumer Product Safety Commission concerning recalled children's products could be accessed; and the Center's current license or permit near the front entrance for public viewing, as required.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will post the notices as required and ensure they remain posted. The Center had the 2025 License posted.

Correction Deadline: 9/25/2026

Safety**591-1-1-.05 Animals**

N/A

Comment

Center does not keep animals on premises.

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

Met

Comment

Age-appropriate discussion and/or redirection observed.

Correction Deadline: 5/8/2023

Corrected on 9/24/2026

.11(2) - The previous citation was observed corrected on this date. Center staff stated that redirection and discussion were primarily used as discipline on this date.

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

Met

Comment

Field trip documentation observed to be complete on this date for the field trip taken on July 21, 2026, to the Augusta Quarry.

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

Met

Comment

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

Comment

Complete documentation of transportation observed on this date.

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

Met

Comment

Pleasant naptime environment observed.

Staff Records

Records Reviewed: 19

Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 6

Staff # 4

Not Met

Date of Hire: 03/25/2024

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.14(2)-CPR missing,.14(2)-First Aid Missing

Staff # 5 Not Met

Date of Hire: 05/21/2026

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.14(2)-CPR missing,.14(2)-First Aid Missing

Staff # 7 Not Met

Date of Hire: 04/13/2026

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.14(2)-CPR missing,.14(2)-First Aid Missing,.33(3)-Health & Safety Certificate

Staff # 11 Not Met

Date of Hire: 06/29/2026

Reminder - Health & Safety training is required within 90 calendar days of hired

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.14(2)-CPR missing,.14(2)-First Aid Missing

Staff # 12 Not Met

Date of Hire: 07/23/2026

Reminder - Health & Safety training is required within 90 calendar days of hired

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.14(2)-CPR missing,.14(2)-First Aid Missing

Staff # 13 Not Met

Date of Hire: 07/23/2026

Reminder - Health & Safety training is required within 90 calendar days of hired

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.14(2)-CPR missing,.14(2)-First Aid Missing

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

Met

Comment

Criminal record checks were observed to be complete.

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

Not Met

Comment

Complete first aid kits observed in center and on vehicles on this date.

Comment

Evidence observed of 50% of center Staff certified in First Aid and CPR.

Finding

591-1-1-.14(1)(a) requires all Staff who provide direct care to children must obtain certification in a biennial training program in pediatric cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and a triennial training program in pediatric first aid within the first 45 days of employment. Current and valid evidence of the successful completion of such training shall be maintained on the Center's premises. The hours obtained completing this certification will not count towards the required annual training hours. It was determined based on a review of records that the following staff did not have documentation demonstrating completion of a biennial training program in pediatric cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and a triennial training program in pediatric first aid within the first 45 days of employment, as required:

- Staff # 5, hired May 21, 2026
- Staff #7, hired April 13, 2026
- Staff #11, hired June 29, 2026
- Staff #12, hired July 23, 2026
- Staff #13, hired July 23, 2026

POI (Plan of Improvement)

All caregiver Staff will complete the required training. The Director will send copies via email verification of completed CPR/First Aid certification to the consultant upon completion and will develop a plan to ensure all caregiver Staff have completed this training within the first 45 days of employment and that evidence of successful completion of the training is on file available for inspection.

Correction Deadline: 10/22/2026

Recited on 9/24/2026

591-1-1-.33 Staff Training**Not Met****Comment**

Documentation observed of required staff training.

Finding

591-1-1-.33(3)(a)-(k) requires each Staff member with direct care responsibilities to complete health and safety orientation training within the first 90 days of employment. The state-approved training hours obtained will count toward required first year training hours. The training must address the following health and safety topics: a) prevention and control of infectious diseases (including immunizations); b) prevention of sudden infant death syndrome and use of safe sleeping practices; c) administration of medication, consistent with standards for parental consent; d) prevention of and response to emergencies due to food and allergic reactions; e) building and physical premises safety, including identification of and protection from hazards that can cause bodily injury such as electrical hazards, bodies of water, and vehicular traffic; f) prevention of shaken baby syndrome, abusive head trauma and child maltreatment; g) emergency preparedness and response planning for emergencies resulting from a natural disaster or a human-caused event (such as violence at a child care facility); h) handling and storage of hazardous materials and the appropriate disposal of bio contaminants; i) precautions in transporting children; j) recognition and reporting of child abuse and neglect; and k) child development to include all major domains: cognitive; social and emotional; physical development and motor skills; communication, language, and literacy; and approaches to play and learning. It was determined based on a review of records that Staff #7, hired April 13, 2026, did not have documentation verifying timely completion of the Health and Safety Orientation training within the first 90 days of employment, as required.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will develop and implement a plan to schedule and track this training for all employees based on their hire dates and will ensure that the training includes all required components as required.

Correction Deadline: 10/24/2026

Correction Deadline: 9/30/2026

Corrected on 9/24/2026

.33(5)(b)(2)(i)-(iv) - The previous citation was placed under the incorrect rule. Please see the citation for 591-1-1-.33(3)(a)-(k).

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**

Correction Deadline: 5/8/2023

Corrected on 9/24/2026

.32 - The previous citation was observed corrected on this date. The Center was observed to operate within appropriate staff: child ratios on this date.

Comment

Center observed to maintain appropriate staff:child ratios.

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

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

Correction Deadline: 3/17/2026

Corrected on 9/24/2026

.32(7) - The previous citation was observed corrected on this date. Staff were observed seated at tables within arm's reach of children 3-years-old and younger during breakfast and lunch on this date.

