**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:** 8/7/2024 **VisitType:** Monitoring Visit **Arrival:** 9:30 AM **Departure:** 2:30 PM

**CCLC-157**
**The Sunshine House #8**
330 N. Belair Road Evans, GA 30809 Columbia County
(706) 860-8507 center08@sshouse.com

Regional Consultant
Christina Jennings
Phone: (404) 463-0970
Fax: (770) 342-3177
christina.jennings@decal.ga.gov

**Mailing Address**
Same

Quality Rated: ★ ★ ★

| Compliance Zone Designation | | |
|---|---|---|
| 08/07/2024 | Monitoring Visit | Deficient |
| 02/29/2024 | Complaint Closure | Good Standing |
| 02/22/2024 | Complaint Investigation & Licensing Study | Good Standing |

**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.

**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 | | 0 | 0 | C | 7 | C | NA | NA | |
| Main | 1st Left Rear | GA PreK | 2 | 20 | C | 32 | C | NA | NA | Story |
| Main | 2nd Left Rear | One Year Olds | 2 | 11 | C | 21 | C | NA | NA | Centers |
| Main | 2nd Right Rear | Infants | 2 | 11 | C | 19 | C | NA | NA | Floor Play |
| Main | 3rd Left Rear | Three Year Olds | 2 | 19 | C | 34 | C | NA | NA | Centers |
| Main | Front Left | Two Year Olds | 2 | 9 | C | 30 | C | NA | NA | Centers |
| Main | Front Right | Three Year Olds | 1 | 8 | C | 31 | C | NA | NA | Centers |
| | | Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 174 | | | Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0 | | | | | |
| Total # Children this Date: 78 | | Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 174 | | | 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 |

**Comments**
The purpose of this visit was to conduct a Monitoring Visit.

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 a1 855-800-7747 or** qualityrated@decal.ga.gov **for more information. Free techincal assistance is available!**

**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

**(Findings Report)**

**Date:** 8/7/2024 **VisitType:** Monitoring Visit **Arrival:** 9:30 AM **Departure:** 2:30 PM

**CCLC-157**
**The Sunshine House #8**
330 N. Belair Road Evans, GA 30809 Columbia County
(706) 860-8507 center08@sshouse.com

Regional Consultant
Christina Jennings
Phone: (404) 463-0970
Fax: (770) 342-3177
christina.jennings@decal.ga.gov

**Mailing Address**
Same

**The following information is associated with a Monitoring Visit:**

## Activities and Equipment

**591-1-1-.12 Equipment & Toys(CR)** **Not Met**

**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 upon observation that 20 out of 20 nap cots were stacked and accessible to children causing a potential tipping hazard on the back wall of the Front Left Classroom. It was further determined that 16 out of 16 nap cots were stacked and accessible to children causing a potential tipping hazard on the front left corner wall in the 2nd Left Rear Classroom.

**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: 8/7/2024**

**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.

**591-1-1-.25 Physical Plant - Safe Environment(CR)** **Not Met**

**Technical Assistance**
591-1-1-.25(12) - The Consultant and Provider discussed ensuring that the cooling equipment in the classrooms are protected by a barrier in children’s activity areas.

**Correction Deadline: 8/7/2024**

**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 upon observation that the following hazards were accessible to children on this date:

Third Left Rear Classroom
-A black toilet plunger was accessible to children on the left side of the handwashing sink in the children's bathroom.
-A broom and dust pan were on the back right side of the classroom.

**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: 8/7/2024**

**Recited on 8/7/2024**

**Correction Deadline: 3/29/2024**

**Corrected on 8/7/2024**
**.25(17) - Previous citation observed to be corrected in that the Consultant observed the PG-Back Right Playground to be free of hazardous plants and shrubs on this date.**

**Correction Deadline: 2/29/2024**

**Corrected on 8/7/2024**
**.25(3) - Previous citation observed to be corrected in that the Consultant observed the Center to be free of the presence of rodents on this date.**

---

**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 upon observation that the following fencing hazards were present on this date:

PG- Left Playground
-The fencing on the back left side was bent at the top rail.
-The middle of the left side fence top pole was rusted.
-The chain link fencing on the left side was rusted.
-The bottom of the fencing was not connected causing a five inch gap on middle of the fencing on the right side of the playground.

PG- Back Right Playground
-The chain link fencing was detached from the top pole in the middle section of the back fence.
-There was a ten inch by three inch gap from the ground to the fence at the middle of the right side fence.

PG-Front Playground
-The front chain link fence measured three feet and five and one half inches when four feet was required.
-The top pole was rusted at the middle of the front fence.
-The bottom of the chain link fence was not properly connected causing a five inch gap on the bottom of the gate doors on the top right side of the playground.
-There was a seven and one half inch gap at the bottom of the gate door fencing on the back right 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: 8/23/2024**

**Recited on 8/7/2024**

**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 upon observation that the following playground equipment hazards were accessible to children on this date:

PG- Left Playground
-The wooden play structure on the Left Playground had slats of wood with splintered wood causing splinters.
-Two yellow steering wheels on the wooden play structure had chipping paint.
-The black barrier around the yellow wooden play structure was cracked at the front right side.
-The black barrier was cracked throughout.

PG-Back Right Playground
-There were two bolts protruding from the black barrier surrounding the green swing set.
-There was one large nail protruding at the black barrier around the play structure.

PG-Front Playground
-A large nail protruding from the black barrier surrounding the sand box.
-The coating to the beige and green play structure was peeling and rusted at the steps and each platform.
-The wooden barrier around the large play structure was weathered and splintering

**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: 8/16/2024**

**Recited on 8/7/2024**

**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 upon observation that the following hazards were accessible to children on this date:

PG- Left Playground
-A green hose on the wall across from the 3rd Left Rear exterior door was laying on the ground unsecured.
-Exposed tree roots throughout the playground causing potential tripping hazards.
-Large rocks located in the middle of the playground posed a tripping hazard.
-An active ant bed located at the top of the playground.
-A black trash bag was accessible to children and hanging from the fencing on the back left corner of the playground.
-A ditch measuring 24 and a half inches by 12 and a half inches in front of the fencing on the middle right side of the playground.

PG- Back Right Playground
-Exposed tree roots throughout the playground causing potential tripping hazards.
-An active ant bed located at the bottom of the playground..

PG- Front Playground
-Exposed tree roots throughout the playground causing potential tripping hazards.
-Three active ant beds located on the top of the hill on the right side of the playground.
-Four active ant beds located on the middle back 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: 8/16/2024**

**Recited on 8/7/2024**

## Health and Hygiene

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

**Comment**
Proper diapering procedures observed.

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

**Comment**
Proper hand washing observed throughout the center.

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

**Comment**
The Provider currently does not dispense/administer medication.

## Safety

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

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

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

**Comment**
Complete documentation of transportation observed.

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

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

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