



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: 8/27/2025 **VisitType:** Complaint Investigation Closure from CI/MV on 07/28/2025

CCLC-16585

Little Light of Mine

303 Ty Ty Street Jesup, GA 31545 Wayne County
(912) 530-8100

Regional Consultant

Connie Boatright

Phone: (912) 544-9701

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connie.boatright@dec.al.ga.gov

Mailing Address

Same

Quality Rated: No

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.
07/28/2025	Complaint Investigation & Monitoring Visit	Good Standing	
03/05/2025	Licensing Study	Good Standing	
07/15/2024	Monitoring Visit	Good Standing	

Comments

The complaint was completed on 08-27-2025. Findings were discussed with the center director. A copy of the report was sent to the provider to DocuSign on 08-27-2025.

08-27-2025 Revised severity level of finding.

Opened in error. No revision made. Attempted to publish to web.

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Opened in error. No revision made. Attempted to publish to web.

09-08-2025 No revisions made. Attempted to publish to web.

Advisement of Potential for Repeated Rule Violations during Pending Investigations

This report shall serve as official notice of potential rule violations. These potential rule violations have been detailed in this report and discussed with you by the consultant. The department shall conduct a thorough investigation to determine if in fact the alleged rule violation(s) should or should not be substantiated. Please be aware that the investigation may take some time to be finalized to ensure fairness and accuracy. During this investigation period, any violations of an identical rule or rules will require the department to treat any and all substantiated rule violations identified in the investigation as repeated rule violation(s).

Further, from time to time the department discovers additional rule violations during the course of an investigation. If there are new rule violation(s), your consultant shall inform you of the violation(s) as soon as possible. However, as stated above, any violations of identical rule(s) will require the department to treat any and all additional rule violations identified in the investigation as repeated rule violations.

All rule violations found in relation to a complaint or incident investigation will be associated with the date the investigation was closed.



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)

I have read and understand the Rules and Regulations for Child Care Learning Centers, 591-1-1. I acknowledge that the items noted in this report have been discussed with me and I have agreed to a Plan of Improvement (POI) as indicated in this report. I understand that correction of these deficiencies, while required, will not necessarily prevent DECAL from taking adverse action against this facility. I understand that if I disagree with any of the deficiencies cited, I have the right to refute them on this report or any other form that I choose to send to Child Care Services.



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Summary Report

Date: 8/27/2025 **VisitType:** Complaint Investigation Closure
from CI/MV on 07/28/2025

Arrival: 8:40 AM **Departure:** 3:15 PM

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The following information is associated with a Complaint Closure:

Activities and Equipment

591-1-1-.03 Activities

Not Met

Finding Associated with Complaint

591-1-1-.03(9) requires center staff to refrain from engaging in, or allowing children or other adults to engage in, activities that could be detrimental to a child's health or well-being, such as but not limited to, horse play, rough play, wrestling, and picking up a child in a manner that could cause injury. It was determined based on an investigation to include face to face staff interviews and staff written statements that on July 8, 2025 at approximately 11:50 PM the owner instructed a 4-year-old child to hit a 3-year-old child because the first child complained that the second child had hit them. A staff member intervened, informing the owner that the 3-year-old child had not hit the 4-year-old child and the owner instructed the 4-year-old child a second time to hit the 3-year-old child. Additionally, on undetermined dates, the center director has instructed children to hit and bite children if they have been hit or bitten and instruct staff to have children to hit or bite children if they have been hit or bitten.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will review requirements with Staff to ensure that appropriate activities are conducted with children.

Correction Deadline: 8/27/2025

Safety

Finding Associated with Complaint

591-1-1-.11(2) requires that Personnel not: physically or sexually abuse a child or engage or permit others to engage in sexually overt conduct in the presence of any child enrolled in the Center; inflict corporal/physical punishment upon a child; shake, jerk, pinch or handle a child roughly; verbally abuse or humiliate a child which includes, but is not limited to, the use of threats, profanity or belittling remarks about a child or his family; isolate a child in a dark room, closet or unsupervised area; use mechanical or physical restraints or devices to discipline children; use medication to discipline or control children's behavior without written medical authorization issued by a licensed professional and given with the parent's written consent; restrict unreasonably a child from going to the bathroom; punish toileting accidents; force-feed a child or withhold feeding a child regularly scheduled meals and/or snacks; force or withhold naps; allow children to discipline or humiliate other children; or confine a child for disciplinary purposes to a swing, highchair, infant carrier, walker or jump seat. It was determined based on an investigation to include face to face staff interviews and staff written statements that on July 8, 2025 at approximately 12:00 PM, the director grabbed a 3-year-old child by the left arm and left leg and snatched the child off the floor, raising the child's feet off the floor and knees waist high to a second staff member and tossed the child onto pillows that were located in the quiet reading corner as a form of discipline because the child had been redirected for not paying attention and minding several times that morning and continued to act out causing the child to cry.

Additionally, on July 8, 2025, after tossing the child onto the pillows, the staff member told the child not to get up until they stopped crying in a harsh and aggressive tone of voice causing the child to be fearful of the staff member.

Additionally, on undetermined dates, the owner has instructed staff to hit and pop children and to verbally raise their voice and scare the children to make them mind.

Additionally, the owner has allowed a parent to physically discipline their child while at the center and in the presence of other children. The owner has instructed staff that when the child's behavior is out of control, to take the child to the parent and have the parent to physically discipline the child.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will take immediate action to ensure the action/conduct has ceased; train/review appropriate child guidance techniques with center staff; and have a system in place to monitor and identify inappropriate actions.

Correction Deadline: 8/27/2025