



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: 1/31/2025 **VisitType:** Licensing Study

Arrival: 11:35 AM **Departure:** 2:45 PM

CCLC-39883

Small Smiles Learning & Childcare Center
1169 Third Street Folkston, GA 31537 Charlton County
(912) 496-3654 kristiesmith30@yahoo.com

Regional Consultant
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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.
01/31/2025	Licensing Study	Support	
08/08/2024	Monitoring Visit	Good Standing	
03/20/2024	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	A	Infants and One Year Olds and Two Year Olds	1	5	C	8	C	NA	NA	Lunch, Outside, Transitioning
Main	B	Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds	1	4	C	8	C	11	C	Lunch, Outside, Transitioning
Main	C	Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds	1	5	C	9	C	NA	NA	Outside, Lunch, Transitioning
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 25			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 28							
Total # Children this Date: 14			Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 25							
			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 28							

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	Playground A	39	C

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

Comments

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

Plan of Improvement: To Be Submitted 02/14/2025

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!



(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)

Not Met

Finding

591-1-1-.12(2) requires that all equipment and furniture be free from hazardous conditions such as, but not limited to, sharp rough edges or toxic paint; and be kept clean. It was determined based on observation that the blue couch in classroom A had peeling vinyl in the middle section of the seat that posed a potential hazard. Additionally, the small kitchen sink in classroom A was soiled and was not kept clean as required. Furthermore, five of five shelves in classroom C were observed to be soiled and were not kept clean as required.

Correction Deadline: 1/31/2025

Recited on 1/31/2025

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 the TV in classroom C was not secured and posed a potential fall hazard.

Correction Deadline: 1/31/2025

Recited on 1/31/2025

591-1-1-.35 Swimming Pools & Water-related Activities(CR)**Met****Comment**

Center does not provide swimming activities.

Children's Records

591-1-1-.08 Children's Records**Met****Comment**

Records were 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.

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

Please ensure that the Center and surrounding premises to be kept clean, free of debris and in good repair. A portion of the ceiling in classroom B had ceiling tiles falling and was in need of repair. The center had the section of the room partitioned off to ensure children were safe. The center plans to have the repairs made within the next month.

Correction Deadline: 1/31/2025

591-1-1-.26 Playgrounds(CR)**Not Met****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 there was black landscape tarp that was pulled up through the mulch that posed a potential trip hazard throughout the mulch area. Additionally, the PVC barrier was pulled apart on the left side that posed a potential trip hazard. Furthermore, there was a broken section of the PVC barrier that was cracked and had sharp edges present on the far left side of the barrier.

Correction Deadline: 1/31/2025

Recited on 1/31/2025

Food Service

591-1-1-.15 Food Service & Nutrition**Technical Assistance****Comment**

Center menu meets USDA guidelines.

Technical Assistance

Please ensure 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. Please ensure that all bottles are prepared by the parent and provided daily.

Health and Hygiene

591-1-1-.10 Diapering Areas & Practices(CR)**Not Met****Finding**

591-1-1-.10(5) requires that Center Staff shall not leave infants or children unattended while being diapered or having their clothes changed on the diaper changing surface. It was determined based on observation that the staff member in classroom C turned away from a three-year-old child who was on the changing table and did not keep a hand of the child as required.

Correction Deadline: 1/31/2025

Finding

591-1-1-.10(9) requires Center Staff to not use the area used for diapering for food preparation and to keep the diapering area clear of formulas, food, food utensils and food preparation items. It was determined based on observation that two sippy cups were observed stored on the changing table in classroom A.

Correction Deadline: 1/31/2025

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

Proper hand washing observed throughout the center.

591-1-1-.20 Medications(CR)**Met****Comment**

The Provider currently does not dispense/administer medication.

Policies and Procedures

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

Program observed complete emergency drills

Safety

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

Age-appropriate discussion and/or redirection observed.

Comment

Center does not provide routine transportation.

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

Correction Deadline: 8/8/2024

Corrected on 1/31/2025

.30(1)(a)3 - This citation was observed to be corrected on this date. The staff member stated that crib sheets are changed daily and the sheets appeared to be clean.

Finding

591-1-1-.30(2) requires the Center to provide a safe sleep environment in accordance with American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) and American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) recommendations as listed in these rules for all infants. Center Staff shall place an infant to sleep on the infant's back in a crib unless the Center has been provided a physician's written statement authorizing another sleep position for that particular infant that includes how the infant shall be placed to sleep and a time frame that the instructions are to be followed. When an infant can easily turn over from back to front and back again, Staff shall continue to put the infant to sleep initially on the infant's back but allow the infant to roll over into his or her preferred position and not re-position the infant. Sleepers, sleep sacks and wearable blankets that fit according to the commercial manufacturer's guidelines and will not slide up around the infant's face may be used when necessary for the comfort of the sleeping infant. Swaddling shall not be used unless the Center has been provided a physician's written statement authorizing its use for a particular infant that includes instructions and a time frame for swaddling the infant. Center Staff shall not place objects or allow objects to be placed in or on the crib with an infant such as but not limited to toys, pillows, quilts, comforters, bumper pads, sheepskins, stuffed toys, or other soft items and shall not attach objects or allow objects to be attached to a crib with a sleeping infant, such as, but not limited to, crib gyms, toys, mirrors and mobiles. It was determined based on observation that a nine-month-old infant was observed asleep in a safety-approved crib with a white bib around their neck that posed a potential safe-sleep hazard.

Correction Deadline: 1/31/2025

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

Correction Deadline: 8/8/2024

Corrected on 1/31/2025

.09(1)(a) - This citation was observed to be corrected on this date. All staff had a current satisfactory Comprehensive Records Check Determination on file as required.

Correction Deadline: 8/8/2024

Corrected on 1/31/2025

.09(1)(c) - This citation was observed to be corrected on this date. All staff had a current satisfactory Comprehensive Records Check Determination on file as required.

591-1-1-.14 First Aid & CPR

Not Met

Correction Deadline: 9/1/2024

Corrected on 1/31/2025

.14(1) - This citation was observed to be corrected on this date. More than 50% of staff had evidence of completed CPR and First Aid training on file as required.

Finding

591-1-1-.14(2) requires a Staff member who is trained in CPR and first aid to be on the premises and on any field trip whenever any child is present. In addition, Staff who provide direct care to children must satisfactorily obtain certification in first aid and CPR by December 29, 2016 if employed prior to September 30, 2016 and within 90 days of their hire date if employed after September 30, 2016. It was determined based on a review of records that staff member # 2 and staff member # 4 did not have evidence of completed CPR and First Aid training on file within the first 90 days of employment as required.

Correction Deadline: 3/2/2025

591-1-1-.24 Personnel Records

Technical Assistance

Technical Assistance

Please ensure that the center maintains a personnel file on the Director, all Employees, Provisional Employees, Personnel, Staff, Students-in-Training, Volunteers, Clerical, Housekeeping, Maintenance, and other Support Staff for the duration of the term of employment plus one calendar year, and it shall contain the following: identifying information to include: name, date of birth, social security number, current address and current telephone number; employment history; as applicable to the position held: evidence of education and qualifying work experience; evidence of all training required by these rules which shall include: title of training, date of training, trainer's signature, location of training and number of clock hours obtained; a statement completed by the staff member that the information provided is true and accurate; any other records required by these rules; and as applicable to the position held, evidence of required orientation including date and signature of person providing the orientation. Please ensure all staff members have a completed orientation form and 10 year employment history form on file.

Correction Deadline: 2/5/2025

Finding

91-1-1-.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. It was determined based on a review of records that staff member # 3 and staff member # 7 did not have evidence of 10 completed annual training hours for the 2024 calendar year as required.

Correction Deadline: 1/1/2026

Recited on 1/31/2025

591-1-1-.31 Staff(CR)

Not Met

Finding

591-1-1-.31(1)(b)2 requires the Director to possess at least one of the sets of minimum academic requirements and qualifying child care experience listed in Rule 591-1-1-.31(1)(b)2.(i-xiii). It was determined based on a review of records that the director, staff member # 7, did not possess at least one of the sets of minimum academic requirements as required.

Correction Deadline: 5/1/2025

Recited on 1/31/2025

Staffing and Supervision

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

Met

Comment

Center observed to maintain appropriate staff:child ratios.

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 a lack of supervision was observed at the following times:

-In classroom A, 2 one-year-old children and 2 two-year-old children were seated at the table eating lunch while the staff member was cleaning up near the changing table and was not seated within arm's length of the table during the meal as required.

-In classroom B, the staff member stepped out of the classroom into the hallway briefly to check on a child in the restroom leaving 2 three-year-old children in the classroom unattended.

-In classroom C, the staff member walked out of the classroom during nap time and went to classroom A leaving 3 three-year-old children and 1 four-year-old child in the classroom unattended. A second staff member walked into the classroom approximately one minute later.

Correction Deadline: 1/31/2025