



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: 8/11/2026 **VisitType:** Licensing Study

Arrival: 9:20 AM **Departure:** 7:30 PM

CCLC-46309

Small Wonders Playcare Center Evans

229 N. Belair Rd. Evans, GA 30809 Columbia County
(706) 860-7676

Process & QI Unit Consultant

Melyn Smith

Phone: (404) 276-7254

Fax:

melyn.smith@dec.al.ga.gov

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.
08/11/2026	Licensing Study	Good Standing	
02/13/2026	Monitoring Visit	Good Standing	
10/01/2025	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	Left Front	One Year Olds	3	9	C	19	C	26	C	Free Play,Lunch,Transitioning
Main	Left Rear	Infants	2	6	C	20	C	NA	NA	Floor Play,Transitioning,Feeding
Main	Middle Left	Two Year Olds	3	11	C	21	C	NA	NA	Diapering,Nap,Transitioning
Main	Middle Right	Three Year Olds	3	10	C	31	C	NA	NA	Nap,Centers
Main	Right Front A (Nursery 2)	Infants	2	5	C	14	C	NA	NA	Diapering,Nap,Floor Play
Main	Right Front B (Pre-K)	GA PreK	2	19	C	25	C	35	C	Centers,Lunch
Main	Right Rear	GA PreK	2	20	C	34	C	NA	NA	Lunch,Nap,Circle Time,TV
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 164					Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 191					
Total # Children this Date: 80					Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 191					

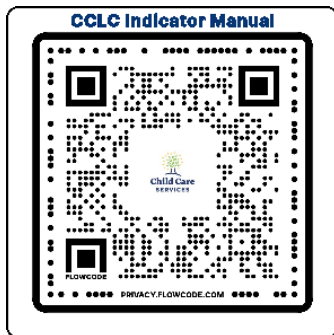
Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	PG- Left	28	C
Main	PG- Middle Playground	59	C
Main	PG- Right Playground	144	C

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	29	13	37	43	0

Comments

The visit report was reviewed with the Director on this date. The Center Director and all Lead Teachers met the minimum academic requirements and qualifying child care experience and had documentation on file. Food preparation resources, including information on the Chop. Look. Listen choking prevention campaign, were provided to the Director. The DECAL Programs and Services flyer and the flyer containing the QR Codes for DECAL Programs and DECAL Provider Resources were also left 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

Date: 8/11/2026 **VisitType:** Licensing Study

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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

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

Comment

Equipment and furniture observed to be properly secured, as applicable.

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

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 on this date.

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

Not Met

Comment

No hazards observed accessible to children on this date.

Correction Deadline: 2/13/2026

Corrected on 8/11/2026

.25(13) - The previous citation was observed corrected on this date. The Center relocated the potentially hazardous items to a locked storage area and had no potentially hazardous items accessible to children.

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 Virginia Creeper vines, which were identified as poisonous to children and adults, were accessible to children growing through and along the back fence on PG - Right Playground.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The harmful vines will be cut back and removed from the playground fence.

Correction Deadline: 8/25/2026

591-1-1-.26 Playgrounds(CR)**Not Met****Finding**

591-1-1-.26(8) requires climbing and swinging equipment to have a resilient surface beneath the equipment and the fall zone from such equipment must be adequately maintained by the Center to assure continuing resiliency. It was determined based on observation that grass was growing through the resilient surface which prevented continued resiliency beneath the blue and yellow playground equipment and slides and in the fall zones on PG - Right Playground. The blue and yellow playground equipment and slides measured 4 feet in height which required at least 3 inches of resilient surface.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will remove the grass and add additional resilient surfacing to the fall zones where needed and check daily, adding resilient surfacing as needed to maintain adequate resiliency.

Correction Deadline: 8/25/2026

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 thorny vines were accessible to children from the base of the back fence at the ground to the top of the back fence in several areas and along the top bar of the back fence on PG - Right Playground. It was further determined that an active ant bed was present on PG - Right Playground near the left fence which separated PG - Right Playground from PG - Middle Playground.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will remove the thorny vines and treat the ant bed and will routinely monitor the playground and remove litter and hazards.

Correction Deadline: 8/25/2026

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

Center menu met USDA guidelines. The Chop. Look. Listen. choking prevention campaign, including the guidelines for cutting food to the appropriate size for ages of children served, were discussed with the Cook.

Comment

Please ensure that infant feeding forms are updated regularly.

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

Kitchen appears clean and well organized on this date.

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

Proper diapering procedures observed.

Correction Deadline: 2/13/2026

Corrected on 8/11/2026

.10(4) - The previous citation was observed corrected on this date. The Center placed contoured diaper changing pads, which had raised sides that measured 6 inches in height, to prevent falls. The Center had purchased the materials required to install permanent guards on all diaper changing areas.

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

Proper hand washing observed throughout the center on this date.

Comment

Complete medication dispensing record and appropriate storage were observed for one emergency medication.

Finding

591-1-1-.20(1) requires Personnel to obtain specific written authorization from the child's physician or parent in order to dispense prescription or non-prescription medications, except for first aid. Such authorization will include when applicable, date; full name of the child; name of the medication; prescription number, if any; dosage; the dates to be given; the time of day to be dispensed; and signature of parent. It was determined based on observation that Infant's Tylenol, Infant Mylicon Gas Relief Drops, Zarbees Soothing Saline Mist, Little Remedies Saline Spray and Drops, two tubes of Oragel Cooling Gel for Teething, and Camilia Teething Relief Drops were stored in two children's cubbies out of reach of children in the Left Rear classroom and had been dispensed to children following the verbal instructions given by the parent without specific written authorization from the child's parent or physician on file. It was further determined that Hydrocortisone Cream USP 2.5% which was labeled "Rx Only" was stored in a child's cubby in the Left Front Classroom and had been administered as needed during diaper changes by staff without specific written authorization from the child's parent or physician on file.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will train Staff to obtain and review parental authorizations to ensure the authorization contains complete information before administering or dispensing any prescription or non-prescription medication. The designated person(s) will monitor daily.

Correction Deadline: 8/12/2026

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 conduct fire drills monthly and tornado and other emergency situation drills every six months as required. Documentation on file indicated that the last fire drill was conducted in October 2025, tornado drill in November 2025, and other emergency situation or lockdown drill in July 2025.

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: 8/16/2026

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.

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

Not Met

Finding

591-1-1-.13(5) requires Center Staff to leave a list of children and adults participating in the trip at the Center and to take the same list on the trip in the possession of the adult in charge of the trip. It was determined based on a review of records that the list of staff were not included on the participant list as required for the field trips on July 16, 2026, to the Ruth Patrick Science Center and on July 28, 2026, to Evans Cinema.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will create and distribute a list of participants for each trip taken.

Correction Deadline: 8/12/2026

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.

Comment

The vehicle had an approved fire extinguisher and first aid kit on this date.

Finding

591-1-1-.36(3)(a-b) requires any Center that provides any type of transportation to obtain two (2) hours of state-approved or state-accepted transportation training, biannually, for the Director and for each person responsible for or who participates in the transportation of children. The training shall include, but is not limited to, a review of the transportation rules, a review of approved transportation forms and procedures, and instruction on the usage and completion of the forms and procedures. This training may be counted as part of the annual training requirements for Staff. It was determined based on a review of records that Staff #13 who performed second checks of the vehicle used for field trip transportation and Staff #16 who performed second checks of the vehicle used for routine transportation did not complete the required 2-hour transportation training.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will ensure that the Director, Center Staff, and any person responsible for the transportation of children complete the transportation training, biannually, as required.

Correction Deadline: 8/21/2026

Sleeping & Resting Equipment

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

Not Met

Finding

591-1-1-.30(1)(b)1 requires that cots and mats are of sound construction and of sufficient size to accommodate comfortably the size and weight of the child; and that mats are in good repair, washable, covered with a waterproof material and at least two inches (2") thick. It was determined based on observation that mats were not in good repair and contained tears, with some covered by tape, in the Left Front Classroom, the Middle Left Classroom, the Middle Right Classroom, the Right Front B (Pre-K) Classroom, and the Right Rear Classroom.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will replace the mats not in good repair and ensure that mats are of sound construction and are in good repair, washable, covered with a waterproof material and are at least two inches thick.

Correction Deadline: 8/25/2026

Staff Records

Records Reviewed: 27	Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 3
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Staff # 13

Not Met

Date of Hire: 08/23/2024

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.36(3)(a-b)-2 hrs. Transportation Training missing

Staff # 16

Not Met

Date of Hire: 04/13/2026

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.36(3)(a-b)-2 hrs. Transportation Training missing

Staff # 22

Not Met

Date of Hire: 09/15/2025

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(3)-Health & Safety Certificate

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

Criminal record checks were observed to be complete.

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

At least one staff person with current and valid pediatric first aid and pediatric CPR observed in each classroom where children were present.

Comment

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

Comment

Evidence observed of 85% of center Staff certified in First Aid and CPR.

591-1-1-.33 Staff Training	Not Met
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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 #22 hired September 15, 2025, did not complete the required Health and Safety Orientation Training within 90 days of employment.

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: 9/10/2026

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

Discussed that all lead staff must enroll in an approved education program within 6 months of hire and complete degree within 18 months.

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
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Comment

Center observed to maintain appropriate staff:child ratios.

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

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