



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: 10/29/2024 VisitType: Licensing Study

Arrival: 10:00 AM Departure: 1:30 PM

CCLC-24210

A Brighter Choice Early Learning Center, Inc.
106 Morris Street Fort Valley, GA 31030 Peach County
(478) 825-9555 abrighterchoice@bellsouth.net

Regional Consultant
Lindsey Ray
Phone: (404) 478-4441
Fax:
lindsey.ray@decal.ga.gov
Joint with: Ashley Cunningham

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.
10/29/2024	Licensing Study	Good Standing	
05/08/2024	Monitoring Visit	Good Standing	
11/27/2023	POI Follow Up	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
Building 2	A: Right		0	0	C	4	C	NA	NA	
Building 2	B: Middle		0	0	C	17	C	NA	NA	
Building 2	C: Left		0	0	C	4	C	NA	NA	
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 25			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0							
Main	A - Middle	Two Year Olds	1	9	C	24	C	NA	NA	Free Play,Centers,Nap
Main	B - 1st Left (infants)	One Year Olds	2	7	C	26	C	NA	NA	Nap,Circle Time,Lunch
Main	C - Right	Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds	1	10	C	14	C	NA	NA	Free Play,Centers,Transitioning
Main	D - Far Rear Right room		0	0	C	20	C	NA	NA	
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 84			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0							
Total # Children this Date: 26			Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 109			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0				

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	A	15	C
Main	B	76	C

Enrolled Children						
Under 1 years	1 years	2 years	3 years	4 years	5 years (Prekonly)	5 years and older
0	6	11	12	9	0	12

Comments

The purpose of today's visit was to conduct a licensing study.

Plan of Improvement: No Plan Developed

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!



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: 10/29/2024 **VisitType:** Licensing Study

Arrival: 10:00 AM **Departure:** 1:30 PM

CCLC-24210

A Brighter Choice Early Learning Center, Inc.
106 Morris Street Fort Valley, GA 31030 Peach County
(478) 825-9555 abrighterchoice@bellsouth.net

Regional Consultant
Lindsey Ray
Phone: (404) 478-4441
Fax:
lindsey.ray@dec.al.ga.gov
Joint with: Ashley Cunningham

Mailing Address
Same

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.

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(13) - Consultant discussed removing hazards in building Two prior to it being used.

Correction Deadline: 10/29/2024

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 on observation that the following hazards were accessible to children in care:

Room A:
wet wipes in an unlocked cabinet under the changing table

Room B:
plastic bags, plastic gloves, and industrial cleaner

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: 10/29/2024

591-1-1-.26 Playgrounds(CR)**Technical Assistance****Technical Assistance**

591-1-1-.26(9) - 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. Please monitor for active ant beds.

Correction Deadline: 10/29/2024

Food Service**591-1-1-.15 Food Service & Nutrition****Not Met****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 one year old children were served apple slices that were not cut into pieces one-half inch or smaller to prevent choking.

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: 10/29/2024

591-1-1-.18 Kitchen Operations**Technical Assistance****Technical Assistance**

591-1-1-.18(5) - 591-1-1-.18(5) requires the refrigeration of all perishable and potentially hazardous foods at 40 degrees Fahrenheit or below and served promptly after cooking. Freezer temperature shall be maintained at zero (0) degrees Fahrenheit or below. Please ensure that all refrigerators temperatures are maintained at 40 degrees Fahrenheit or below.

Correction Deadline: 10/29/2024

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

Proper diapering procedures observed.

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

Correction Deadline: 5/8/2024

Corrected on 10/29/2024

.17(7) - This citation was observed to be corrected on this date. The consultant observed children washing their hands after diapering.

Correction Deadline: 5/8/2024

Corrected on 10/29/2024

.17(8) - This citation was observed to be corrected on this date. The consultant observed staff washing hands before and after diapering.

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

The Provider currently does not dispense/administer medication.

Safety

Comment

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

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

Not Met

Correction Deadline: 5/18/2024

Corrected on 10/29/2024

.36(3)(a-b) - This citation was observed to be corrected on this date. The consultant observed complete transportation training for all required center staff.

Correction Deadline: 5/13/2024

Corrected on 10/29/2024

.36(4)(a) - This citation was observed to be corrected on this date. The consultant reviewed documentation for annual safety checks for all vehicles.

Finding

591-1-1-.36(7)(b) requires that an emergency medical information record be maintained in the vehicle for each child being transported. The emergency medical information record for each child shall include a listing of the child's full name, date of birth, allergies, special medical needs and conditions, current prescribed medications that the child is required to take on a daily basis for a chronic condition, the name and telephone number of the child's doctor, the local medical facility that the Center uses in the area where the Center is located and the telephone numbers where the Parents can be reached. It was determined based on a review of records that three of three emergency medical form were missing the following information:

- three of three did not have work numbers listed
- three of three did not have the medical facility or the address listed
- three of three did not have an emergency contact listed.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will obtain a complete emergency medical information record for each child that is transported and maintain a copy on the vehicle.

Correction Deadline: 10/29/2024

Recited on 10/29/2024

Sleeping & Resting Equipment

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

Not Met

Finding

591-1-1-.30(1)(b)2 requires that cots and mats are used by the same child daily and marked for individual use. It was determined based on observation that the cots in classroom C were not labeled for individual use.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will ensure that cots and mats are used by the same child daily and marked for individual use.

Correction Deadline: 10/29/2024

Finding

591-1-1-.30(4). requires that if cots and mats are stored in the children's activity room or area, they shall be stored to prevent children's access to them and to allow maximum use of play space. When storage is available and used for the storage of cots and mats that allows the cots, mats and any bedding to be stored without touching any other cots, mats or bedding, the bedding may be left on the cot or mat. When such storage is not available for the cots and mats, each child's bedding shall be kept separate from other children's bedding and stored in containers marked for individual use, such as, but not limited to, bins, cubbies, or bags. It was determined based on observation that in classroom B that the cots were stored in a way that did not prevent the bedding from touching. It was also observed that in Classroom C the cots were stored in the children's activity area that did not prevent children's access to them.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will store cots and mats so children do not have access to them and they don't take up play space and will store them so each child's bedding is separate from the others.

Correction Deadline: 10/29/2024

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**

Correction Deadline: 11/7/2023

Corrected on 10/29/2024

.31(2)(b)2. - This citation was observed to be corrected on this date. All classrooms were assigned a lead teacher that met the minimum academic requirements.

Staffing and Supervision

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

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.