



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: 7/25/2022 **VisitType:** Incident Investigation & Follow Up **Arrival:** 9:40 AM **Departure:** 1:45 PM

CCLC-15166

Myra Carson DBA Mommy's Cottage

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Regional Consultant

Lynn Schnitzer

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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.
07/25/2022	Incident Investigation & Follow Up	Deficient	
02/16/2022	Complaint Investigation by Phone	Good Standing	
02/03/2022	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 Front	Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds and Five Year Olds and Six Year Olds and Over	2	27	NC	18	NC	NA	NA	Lunch,Story,Outside,Transitioning
Main	B Back	One Year Olds and Two Year Olds	1	11	NC	11	C	NA	NA	Outside,Lunch,Transitioning
Main	C	Infants and One Year Olds	1	5	C	11	C	NA	NA	Floor Play,Diapering, Nap
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 40					Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0					
Total # Children this Date: 43					Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0					

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	PG	195	C

Comments

The purpose of this visit was to complete an incident investigation follow-up visit.
 July 25, 2022 - The investigation was not closed on this date.
 August 2, 2022-The investigation was closed on this date.

Plan of Improvement: To Be Submitted 08/08/2022

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.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.ga.gov for more information. Free technical assistance is available!

Sandi Barnett, Program Official

Date

Lynn Schnitzer, Consultant

Date



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(Findings Report)

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The following information is associated with a Incident Investigation & Follow Up:

Activities and Equipment

591-1-1-.03 Activities

Met

Correction Deadline: 2/3/2022

Corrected on 7/25/2022

.03(2) - The previous citation was observed to be corrected. Consultant observed current lesson plans on site.

591-1-1-.12 Equipment & Toys(CR)

Met

Correction Deadline: 2/3/2022

Corrected on 7/25/2022

.12(2) - The previous citation was observed to be corrected. Consultant observed all furniture to be clean and in good repair. The consultant further observed the toilet bolts to be capped and the television cords to be secured and inaccessible to the children present for care.

Facility

591-1-1-.19 License Capacity(CR)

Not Met

Finding

591-1-1-.19(1) requires a Center to provide 35 square feet of usable space per child, which will determine the Center's License capacity. It was determined based on observation that the center capacity exceeded classroom A-Front's licensed capacity of 18 when it was observed that staff members cared for 27 children in the classroom. Furthermore, the center exceeded their overall licensed capacity of 40 when it was observed that the staff members cared for approximately 43 children during the visit.

Correction Deadline: 7/25/2022

Recited on 7/25/2022

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

Not Met

Finding

591-1-1-.25(11) requires that floor coverings be tight, smooth, free of odors and washable or cleanable. It was determined based on observation that the laminate flooring in classroom C contained an "L" shaped tear. Further, the floors in classroom A and classroom C could be felt to ripple underfoot when walked upon.

Correction Deadline: 8/1/2022

Recited on 7/25/2022

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 correction fluid, "Sharpie" markers, and a tape dispenser with a serrated edge were on a table accessible to the children present for care in classroom A.

Correction Deadline: 7/25/2022

Recited on 7/25/2022

Finding

591-1-1-.25(3) requires the Center and surrounding premises to be kept clean, free of debris and in good repair. Hygienic measures such as, but not limited to, screened windows and proper waste disposal procedures shall be utilized to minimize the presence of rodents, flies, roaches and other vermin at the Center. It was determined based on observation that the left toilet in the girls' restroom was not working and the warm water faucet was broken in the boys restroom located in classroom A.

Correction Deadline: 8/1/2022

Recited on 7/25/2022

Finding

591-1-1-.25(7) requires that doors to rooms not approved for child care, other than the kitchen doors, be latched or locked so children cannot wander into those areas. Except in School-age Centers, interior Center door locks shall permit Personnel to open the locked room from outside of the room in an emergency. It was determined based on observation that the gate to the office area located in classroom A did not contain a latch preventing children from entering the office area. Children did not access the office area during the visit.

Correction Deadline: 7/25/2022

Recited on 7/25/2022

Finding

591-1-1-.25(8) requires protective caps on all unused electrical outlets within children's reach and requires that electrical outlets in use be made inaccessible to children. It was determined based on observation that both receptacles in the boys' restroom and a receptacle located on the right-side of the exit door to the playground area located in classroom A were not covered with protective caps.

Correction Deadline: 7/25/2022

Recited on 7/25/2022

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 on observation that the back fence measured approximately three feet eight inches in height on the playground PG. Further observation revealed that the top rail was not attached to the wire mesh on the back side of the fence.

Correction Deadline: 8/1/2022

Recited on 7/25/2022

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 on observation that the wooden structure covering the sandbox contained a protruding nail and splintered wood located on preschool playground. Furthermore, the yellow train contained peeling paint and splintered wood located on the preschool playground. The orange chair and basketball goal contained rust and the white and green activity table contained bent legs on the preschool playground. The gray plastic picnic table top was observed to be cracked creating a potential pinching hazard located on the preschool playground.

Correction Deadline: 8/1/2022

Recited on 7/25/2022

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 exposed tree roots, standing water in a plastic tarp, and an uncoiled hose were observed on the preschool playground creating a potential tripping hazard. Further, the bars used to anchor the base of the gray, blue and red slide were observed to be protruding from the ground creating a potential tripping hazard.

Correction Deadline: 8/1/2022

Recited on 7/25/2022

Food Service

591-1-1-.15 Food Service & Nutrition

Met

Correction Deadline: 2/3/2022

Corrected on 7/25/2022

.15(3) - The previous citation was observed to be corrected. Consultant observed bottles to be stored in the refrigerator and labeled with the children's names.

Finding

591-1-1-.18(12) prohibits children from being in the kitchen except as part of a planned, supervised learning experience. It was determined based on observation that the saloon-style doors to the kitchen do not extend to the floor and the kitchen was accessed by a child scooting beneath the doors on this date.

Correction Deadline: 8/1/2022

Recited on 7/25/2022

Finding

591-1-1-.18(2) requires the Center to have a designated space for food preparation separate from rooms used by children and in an area not used for diaper changing. The area shall be kept clean and free of accumulation of dust, dirt, food particles and grease deposits. Food preparation surface areas shall be nonporous with no unsealed cracks or seams. It was determined based on observation that roach droppings were observed in the cabinet underneath the sink located in the kitchen and an open bag of cereal was observed on the kitchen counter.

Correction Deadline: 7/25/2022

Recited on 7/25/2022

Correction Deadline: 2/13/2022

Corrected on 7/25/2022

.18(3) - The previous citation was observed to be corrected. Consultant observed the ventilation hood over the stove to be operational.

Correction Deadline: 2/3/2022

Corrected on 7/25/2022

.18(5) - The previous citation was observed to be corrected. Consultant observed the temperature in the refrigerator to be 40 degrees Fahrenheit and the freezer temperature to be zero degrees Fahrenheit.

Health and Hygiene

591-1-1-.07 Children's Health

Not Met

Finding

591-1-1-.07(5) requires Center Staff to not permit children to wear around their necks or attach to their clothing pacifiers or other hazardous items. It was determined based on observation that a child was observed to be wearing a bib around their neck while napping in a crib in classroom C.

Correction Deadline: 7/25/2022

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

Not Met

Finding

591-1-1-.10(4) requires that if diapers are changed on a diaper changing surface, the surface shall be smooth, nonporous, and equipped with a guard or rails to prevent falls. Between each diaper change, the diaper changing surface shall be cleaned with a disinfectant and dried with a single-use disposable towel. It was determined based on observation that the changing table located between classrooms B and C was observed to have a torn quilted pad. Further observation revealed that the staff member did not disinfect the changing table after completing the diaper changing process.

Correction Deadline: 7/25/2022

Recited on 7/25/2022

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 a staff member in classroom C did not keep a hand on a child on the changing table when they washed their hands during the diaper changing process.

Correction Deadline: 7/25/2022

Recited on 7/25/2022

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

Not Met

Finding

591-1-1-.17(10) requires that if used potty chairs be emptied in a flush toilet after each use, cleaned with a disinfectant and stored in the bathroom. If a sink is used, the sink shall also be disinfected. It was determined based on observation that a potty chair in the boys' bathroom in classroom A contained residue and was not cleaned after each use.

Correction Deadline: 7/25/2022

Recited on 7/25/2022

Finding

591-1-1-17(7) requires that children wash their hands with liquid soap and warm running water upon arrival for care, when moving from one child care group to another, upon re-entering the child care area after outside play, before and after eating meals and snacks, handling or touching food, playing in water; after toileting and diapering, playing in sand, touching animals or pets, and contact with bodily fluids and after contamination by any other means. It was determined based on observation that a staff member in classroom C did not wash the child's hands after completing the diaper changing process.

Correction Deadline: 7/25/2022

Organization

Finding

591-1-1-.16(f) requires the Center to submit an application for an amended License at least 30 days prior to a change if there is a change in the name of the program or Center, changes in the ages of the children to be served, an increase in the regular hours of operation such that the Center would be providing evening or night-time care in addition to day-time care, changes in the services provided, or additions to or changes in the use of the building by the licensed Center. If an emergency situation arises which makes it impossible to give thirty (30) days' notice, the management of the Center shall notify the Department by telephone and shall submit an application for an amended License as soon as management becomes aware of the change that will be necessitated by the emergency situation. In no case, however, shall a new owner operate the Center without first securing a new License or Permit from the Department. It was determined based on observation that room B measured approximately fifteen feet, ten inches by eleven feet, six inches and that room C measured approximately twelve feet, three inches by eleven feet, two inches. The recorded measurements for room B are sixteen feet, six inches by twenty-three feet, three inches and the the measurements for room C are twenty-three feet, three inches by sixteen feet, six inches.

Correction Deadline: 7/25/2022

Policies and Procedures

591-1-1-.21 Operational Policies & Procedures

Not Met

Finding

591-1-1-.21(1)(p) requires the Center to have a written plan for handling emergencies, including but not limited to severe weather, loss of electrical power or water and death, serious injury or loss of a child, a threatening event, or natural disaster which may occur at the Center; to have in place procedures for evacuation, relocation, shelter-in-place, lock-down, communication and reunification with families, and continuity of operations. The plan must apply to all children in care and include specific accommodations for infants and toddlers, children with disabilities, and children with chronic medical conditions and shall include assurance that no Center Personnel will impede in any way the delivery of emergency care or services to a child by licensed or certified emergency health care professionals. It was determined based on the review of records that the written plan for handling emergencies did not contain procedures for relocation, shelter-in-place, lock-down, communication and reunification with families, and continuity of operations and did not include specific accommodations for infants and toddlers, children with disabilities, and children with chronic medical conditions.

Correction Deadline: 8/8/2022

Recited on 7/25/2022

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 center failed to provide documentation of emergency drills for 2021.

Correction Deadline: 12/31/2022

Recited on 7/25/2022

591-1-1-.27 Posted Notices **Met**

Correction Deadline: 2/3/2022

Corrected on 7/25/2022

.27 - The previous citation was observed to be corrected. Consultant observed center to have all required posted notices posted.

Sleeping & Resting Equipment

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

Finding

591-1-1-.30(1)(a)1. requires that cribs be in good repair and free of hazards. Stack cribs and cribs with drop sides shall not be used. It was determined based on observation that the first right crib located in classroom C contained a crack in the plexiglass.

Correction Deadline: 7/25/2022

Finding

591-1-1-.30(1)(a)3 requires that each crib shall have only an individual, tight-fitting sheet which is changed daily or more often as needed and prior to a change of occupant. It was determined based on observation that the crib sheet in the first right crib was not changed prior to changing the occupant of the crib in classroom C.

Correction Deadline: 7/25/2022

Recited on 7/25/2022

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 three mats stored in the girls bathroom located in classroom A contained several tears with exposed foam.

Correction Deadline: 7/25/2022

Correction Deadline: 2/3/2022

Corrected on 7/25/2022

.30(2) - The previous citation was observed to be corrected. The consultant observed infants to be placed on their backs when sleeping.

Correction Deadline: 2/3/2022

Corrected on 7/25/2022

.30(2)(c) - The previous citation was observed to be corrected. Consultant observed infants to be placed in cribs for nap time.

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 the cots stored in the girls' bathroom in classroom A had bedding touching other mats and bedding.

Correction Deadline: 7/25/2022

Recited on 7/25/2022

Staff Records

Records Reviewed: 8

Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 4

Staff # 2 Not Met

Date of Hire: 11/07/1990

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.31(2)(b)2.-Staff Qualifications-Education Missing

Staff # 4 Not Met

Date of Hire: 08/01/2008

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.31(2)(b)2.-Staff Qualifications-Education Missing

Staff # 5 Not Met

Date of Hire: 09/01/1990

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.31(2)(b)2.-Staff Qualifications-Education Missing

Staff # 8 Not Met

Date of Hire: 01/17/2022

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.31(2)(b)2.-Staff Qualifications-Education Missing

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

Met

Correction Deadline: 2/17/2022

Corrected on 7/25/2022

.09(1)(a) - The previous citation was observed to be corrected. Consultant observed all staff to have a valid and current satisfactory Comprehensive Records Check.

Correction Deadline: 2/3/2022

Corrected on 7/25/2022

.09(1)(c) - The previous citation was observed to be corrected. Consultant observed all staff to have a valid and current satisfactory Comprehensive Records Check.

Finding

591-1-1-.31(1)(c) requires that a copy and/or written verification of the credential or degree awarded to the Director by the technical college, university, school or Department-approved trainer listed in 591-1-1-.31(1)(b)2. (i) through (xiii) be maintained by the Center in the Director's file and such documentation shall be available for inspection by Department staff upon request. It was determined based on review of records that there was no evidence of documentation of credentials or degrees for the director.

Correction Deadline: 9/7/2022

Recited on 7/25/2022

Finding

591-1-1-.31(2)(c) requires the Center to maintain a copy and/or written verification of the credential or degree awarded to the lead teacher that is required by these rules in the lead teacher's file, to make the document available for inspection and to provide the document to Department staff upon request. It was determined based on review of records that staff #4, date of hire August 1, 2008, staff #5, date of hire September 1, 1990, and staff #8, date of hire January 17, 2022 did not have evidence of a credential or degree required for a lead teacher.

Correction Deadline: 12/2/2022

Recited on 7/25/2022

Staffing and Supervision
Finding

591-1-1-.32(2) requires the Center maintain Staff:child ratios in mixed-age groups based on the age of the youngest group of children that includes more than twenty percent of the total number of children in the mixed-age group. It was determined based on observation that a ratio of 1:11 one-year-old (three) and two-year-old (eight) children were observed in classroom B. A ratio of 2:11 was required. Further, a ratio of 1:27 (five three-year-olds, eight four-year-olds, five five-year-olds, and nine six to ten year old children) was observed in classroom A. A ratio of 2:27 was required.
