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

Cover Sheet

Date: 11/18/2021 **VisitType:** Monitoring Visit **Arrival:** 10:00 AM **Departure:** 11:30 AM

CCLC-39883

Small Smiles Learning & Childcare Center

1169 Third Street Folkston, GA 31537 Charlton County
(912) 496-3654 kristiesmith30@yahoo.com

Mailing Address
Same

Regional Consultant
Jerica Davis
Phone: (478) 314-9452
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Joint with: Beth Houtz

Quality Rated:

Compliance Zone Designation		
11/18/2021	Monitoring Visit	Good Standing
02/10/2021	Licensing Study	Good Standing
09/29/2020	Monitoring Visit	Good Standing

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.

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	2	4	C	8	C	NA	NA	Floor Play
Main	B	Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds	1	5	C	8	C	11	C	Outside,Transitioning
Main	C	One Year Olds and Two Year Olds	1	8	C	9	C	NA	NA	Transitioning,Centers
		Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 25								Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 28
Total # Children this Date: 17		Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 25								Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 28

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	Playground A	39	C

Comments
A Virtual Monitoring Visit was conducted on November 18, 2021 with the Director. All staff criminal records checks were reviewed on this date. An in-person visit was not conducted due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Plan of Improvement: Developed This Date 11/18/2021

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.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

QUALITY RATED CHILD CARE

CAPS CHILDCARE AND PARENT SERVICES

Important New Deadlines:

Due to the ongoing COVID restrictions, the deadline to become Quality Rated for programs who want to continue to receive Childcare and Parent Services (CAPS), has been extended to at least December 31, 2021.

Get started today! Sign up by completing a short online application: https://qualityrated.decal.ga.gov/
Request free technical assistance to help you earn your star rating by contacting the Quality Rated help desk at 855-800-7747 or qualityrated@decal.ga.gov

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), e-mail the following information to CCSRefutations@decal.ga.gov.

1) Facility name, license number and visit date
2) Your name, title/relationship to the facility, e-mail address & up to two phone number(s) where you can be reached
3) Specific rule number(s) that you are refuting, along with your concerns or questions regarding the rule citation

Refutations must be submitted to Child Care Services (CCS) within 10 business days of the completion date.

A sample form for submitting a refutation can be found at: http://decal.ga.gov/ChildCareServices/RefutationInformation.aspx

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)

Kristie Blake, Program Official Date

Jerica Davis, Consultant Date

Beth Houtz, Consultant Date

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Findings Report

Date: 11/18/2021 **VisitType:** Monitoring Visit **Arrival:** 10:00 AM **Departure:** 11:30 AM

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The following information is associated with a Monitoring Visit:

Activities and Equipment

591-1-1-.03 Activities **Met**

Correction Deadline: 2/10/2021

Corrected on 11/18/2021
.03(2) - This citation was observed to be corrected on this date. A current lesson plan was observed to be posted in each classroom during the Virtual Visit.

591-1-1-.12 Equipment & Toys(CR) **Not Met**

Comment
A variety of equipment and toys were observed throughout the center.

Comment
Please ensure toys and equipment are disinfected daily.

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 a baby doll in classroom C appeared to be very spoiled during the Virtual Visit.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
The Center will ensure that equipment and toys are kept clean daily.

Correction Deadline: 11/18/2021

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

Comment
Center does not provide swimming activities.

Facility

591-1-1-.06 Bathrooms **Met**

Correction Deadline: 2/10/2021

Corrected on 11/18/2021
.06(6) - This citation was observed to be corrected on this date. Soap and single-use paper towels were observed in each restroom during the Virtual Visit.

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**

Correction Deadline: 3/12/2021

Corrected on 11/18/2021
.25(11) - This citation was observed to be corrected on this date. All classrooms had new flooring installed.

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 observed:
-In classroom B, a stapler was stored on a bookshelf accessible to the children in care.
-In the hall bathroom utilized by the three-year-old classroom, several containers of hand soap and a toilet brush were observed to be stored in an unlocked cabinet under the sink accessible to children in care.
-In classroom C, a yellow plastic bag was observed to be stored in the bottom cubby of the cubby shelf accessible to the children in care.

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: 11/18/2021

Recited on 11/18/2021

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 in classroom B green peeling paint was observed in the block area, above the reading bookshelf, and above the science center accessible to the children.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
The Center will have the Center and surrounding areas cleaned, make repairs where needed, and remove all debris is removed. The Center will inspect the classrooms for peeling paint and repair when necessary.

Correction Deadline: 11/18/2021

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

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 brown house on the left side of the playground had a missing door and shutters leaving three one-inch holes accessible posing a potential hazard.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
Staff will check the equipment daily to ensure that the equipment is free of hazards and in good repair.

Correction Deadline: 11/25/2021

Recited on 11/18/2021

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 the resilient surfing at the base of all three slides and at the base of the ladder measured three inches of resilient surfacing where six inches is required. Additionally, most of the resilient surfacing has grass growing over it.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
The Center will add additional resilient surfacing to the fall zones where needed and check daily, adding resilient surfacing as needed to maintain adequate resiliency. Additionally, center will ensure that resilient surfacing is free from weed and grass coverage.

Correction Deadline: 11/25/2021

Recited on 11/18/2021

Correction Deadline: 2/10/2021

Corrected on 11/18/2021
.26(9) - This citation was observed to be corrected on this date. No mushrooms were observed to be present during the Virtual Visit.

Food Service

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

Correction Deadline: 2/10/2021

Corrected on 11/18/2021
.15(3) - This citation was observed to be corrected on this date. Appropriate bottle storage was observed during the Virtual Visit.

Comment
Discussed new revision to restricted food rule which states: Foods that are associated with young children's choking incidents, such as, but not limited to, peanuts, hot dogs, raw carrots, popcorn, fish with bones, cheese cubes, grapes and any other food that is of similar shape and size of the trachea/windpipe shall not be served to the children less than four (4) years of age. Children older than four (4) years of age may be served these foods provided that the foods are cut in such a way as to minimize choking.

Correction Deadline: 11/18/2021

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

Technical Assistance
Please ensure that cleaning products including Bleach are not stored on the kitchen counter top where food is prepared.

Correction Deadline: 11/18/2021

Health and Hygiene

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

Comment
A Virtual Visit was conducted due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Diapering was not directly observed during the Virtual Visit. Procedures and sanitation regarding proper diapering were discussed with the Director on this date.

Correction Deadline: 2/10/2021

Corrected on 11/18/2021
.10(5) - This citation was observed to be corrected on this date. Proper diapering procedures were discussed with staff during the Virtual Visit.

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 the bottle warmer was stored on the hand washing sink used for diapering and was not kept separate as required.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
Center staff will be trained, specified areas will be available for food preparation and placement of food-related items, and the director will monitor.

Correction Deadline: 11/18/2021

591-1-1-.17 Hygiene(CR) **Technical Assistance**

Comment
A Virtual Visit was conducted due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Hand washing was not directly observed during the Virtual Visit. Hand washing supplies were observed, and hand washing practices were discussed with the Director on this date.

Technical Assistance
Please ensure lids remain on trash containing organic waste.

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

Comment
The Provider currently does not dispense/administer medication.

Safety

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

Comment
A Virtual Visit was conducted due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Discipline was not directly observed during the Virtual Visit. Regulations regarding proper discipline were discussed with the Director on this date.

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

Comment
Center does not provide routine transportation.

Sleeping & Resting Equipment

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

Correction Deadline: 2/10/2021

Corrected on 11/18/2021
.30(1)(a)3 - This citation was observed to be corrected on this date. Staff members stated that sheets are changed daily during the Virtual Visit.

Correction Deadline: 2/10/2021

Corrected on 11/18/2021
.30(4) - This citation was observed to be corrected on this date. Cots stored in the classroom were observed to be covered during the Virtual Visit.

Staff Records

Records Reviewed: 6 **Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 0**

Staff # 1 Met
Date of Hire: 06/01/2017

Staff # 2 Met
Date of Hire: 06/01/2017

Staff # 3 Met
Date of Hire: 08/09/2021

Staff # 4 Met
Date of Hire: 01/08/2019

Staff # 5 Met
Date of Hire: 06/01/2017

Staff # 6 Met
Date of Hire: 07/15/2021

Staff Credentials Reviewed: 2

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

Comment
Director provided two files for employees hired since the last visit.

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

Correction Deadline: 3/12/2021

Corrected on 11/18/2021
.14(1) - This citation was observed to be corrected on this date. All staff have a current First Aid and CPR certificate on file.

Correction Deadline: 3/12/2021

Corrected on 11/18/2021
.14(2) - This citation was observed to be corrected on this date. All staff have a current First Aid and CPR certificate on file.

591-1-1-.33 Staff Training **Defer**

Defer
591-1-1-.33(5)- This citation will be evaluated at the next Licensing Study conducted after January 1, 2022.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
The Center will plan and schedule the required 10 hours of annual training each year and follow up to ensure the training is completed.

Correction Deadline: 1/1/2022

591-1-1-.31 Staff(CR) **Not Met**

Finding
591-1-1-.31(1)(a) requires the Center to have a Director who is responsible for the supervision, operation and maintenance of the Center. The Director must be on the Center's premises. If the Director is absent from the Center at any time during the hours of the Center's operation, there shall be an officially designated person on the Center site to assume responsibility for the operation of the Center, and this person shall have full access to all records required to be maintained under these rules. It was determined based on observation and staff statements that the director works full time at another position and is not at the center at least 80 percent of operating hours as required.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
The Center will ensure a director, responsible for the supervision, operation and maintenance of the Center is on the premises. during operating hours. The Center will officially designate a person to assume responsibility for the operation of the Center when the director is not present who has full access to all records.

Correction Deadline: 12/2/2021

Recited on 11/18/2021

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
Adequate supervision observed on this date.

Comment
Discussed new revision to the supervision rule which states: 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.

Correction Deadline: 2/10/2021

Corrected on 11/18/2021
.32(7) - This citation was observed to be corrected on this date. Appropriate supervision was observed throughout the Virtual Visit.