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: 4/23/2025 **VisitType:** Licensing Study **Arrival:** 9:50 AM **Departure:** 4:00 PM

CCLC-58309
Childcare Network #344
1925 Whiddon Mill Rd. Tifton, GA 31793 Tift County
(229) 382-0675 cni344@childcarenetwork.com

Process & QI Unit Consultant
Melyn Smith
Phone: (706) 855-3455
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Mailing Address
Same

Quality Rated:

Compliance Zone Designation		
04/23/2025	Licensing Study	Good Standing
05/14/2024	Complaint Closure	Good Standing
05/13/2024	Complaint Investigation & 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
1	A	One Year Olds	1	8	C	14	C	NA	NA	Nap,Outside
1	B	One Year Olds	1	7	C	14	C	NA	NA	Outside,Nap
1	K-L	Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds	1	7	C	36	C	50	C	Outside,Lunch
1	M		0	0	C	21	C	30	C	Not In Use
		Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 85			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 215					
2	C	Infants	1	4	C	13	C	NA	NA	Nap,Floor Play,Feeding
2	D	Infants	1	3	C	13	C	NA	NA	Feeding,Floor Play,Nap
2	E	Two Year Olds	1	8	C	12	C	NA	NA	Transitioning,Outside
2	F	Two Year Olds	1	7	C	12	C	NA	NA	Outside,Transitioning
2	G	Three Year Olds	2	9	C	13	C	NA	NA	Transitioning,Lunch
2	H	Three Year Olds	1	10	C	13	C	NA	NA	Lunch,Transitioning
2	I - J	GA PreK	2	18	C	31	C	NA	NA	Outside,Transitioning

	Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 107	Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 215	
Total # Children this Date: 81	Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 192	Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 215	

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
1	Main	146	C

Enrolled Children						
Under 1 years	**1 years**	**2 years**	**3 years**	**4 years**	**5 years (Prekonly)**	**5 years and older**
8	15	13	15	14	19	44

Comments
The Consultant discussed the proposed rule changes effective July 1, 2025, including First Aid and CPR training, Annual Training, and Policies and Procedures on this date.

Plan of Improvement: Developed This Date

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

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:

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 CAPS/ QR Provisional Status, allowing for scholarships while working toward an initial star rating. Provisional Status eligibility will be determined at the time of CAPS enrollment as part of the CAPS application process.

Contact the Quality Rated help desk a1 855-800-7747 or qualityrated@decal.ga.gov **for more information. Free techincal assistance is available!**

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(Findings Report)

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The following information is associated with a Licensing Study:

Activities and Equipment

Records Reviewed: 26 **Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 1**

Staff # 10 Not Met

Date of Hire: 09/15/2022

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training

591-1-1-.12 Equipment & Toys(CR) **Technical Assistance**

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

Technical Assistance
591-1-1-.12(2) - The Consultant discussed with the Director to ensure that broken toys were removed from classrooms and broken clear bins were replaced on this date.

Correction Deadline: 4/23/2025

591-1-1-.35 Swimming Pools & Water-related Activities(CR) **N/A**

Comment
Center does not provide swimming activities.

Children's Records

Records Reviewed: 26 **Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 1**

Staff # 10 Not Met

Date of Hire: 09/15/2022

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training

Records Reviewed: 9 **Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 1**

Child # 3 Not Met

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

Records Reviewed: 9 **Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 1**

.08(1)-Doctor, Clinic, Phone Numbers

591-1-1-.08 Children's Records **Technical Assistance**

Technical Assistance
591-1-1-.08(1) - The Consultant discussed with the Director to ensure that children's files contained all required information, as one of nine children's files reviewed was lacking the phone number for the child's primary physician on this date.

Correction Deadline: 4/23/2025

Facility

Records Reviewed: 26 **Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 1**

Staff # 10 Not Met

Date of Hire: 09/15/2022

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training

591-1-1-.06 Bathrooms **Not Met**

Technical Assistance
591-1-1-.06(4) - The Consultant discussed with the Director to ensure that the exhaust vents in the bathrooms were dusted on a routine basis.

Correction Deadline: 5/23/2025

Finding
591-1-1-.06(4) requires a Center first licensed after March 1, 1991, and Centers that remodel or add to existing plumbing facilities, to have the bathroom area fully enclosed and ventilated to the outside of the building with either an open screened window or functioning exhaust fan and duct system and requires Centers without fully enclosed bathrooms to ensure there is adequate ventilation to control odors and adequate sanitation measures to prevent the spread of contagious diseases. It was determined based on observation that the exhaust fan in the boys' bathroom in the hallway of Building 1 was observed to be not operating on this date which failed to control the odors in the bathroom.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
The Center will fully enclose and ventilate bathroom areas, as required, and will provide adequate ventilation and sanitation in bathrooms that are not fully enclosed.

Correction Deadline: 5/23/2025

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) - The Consultant discussed with the Director to ensure that adult supervision was present when children washed their hands, as the soap at the handwashing sinks stated, "Keep out of reach of children."

Correction Deadline: 4/23/2025

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 potential hazards were observed accessible on this date:
- Building 1 Room K-L: An electrical cord to the digital clock was observed hanging loose and accessible to children.
- Building 1 Hallway Girls' Bathroom: The bolts at the bottom of two of three toilets were observed to be more than two threads and accessible to children.
- Building 2 Bathroom between Rooms E and F: A toilet brush, broom, dust pan, two containers of baby wipes, and two boxes of gloves were observed accessible to children.
- Building 2 Room G: A child was observed to open the door to an unsecured storage closet which contained stacks of cots and other unknown potential hazards.
- Building 2 Bathroom between Rooms G and H: A plunger was observed accessible to children.
- Building 2 Room H: A package of baby wipes was observed in a child's cubby accessible to children.
- Building 2 Room I-J: The teacher's desk was observed to have a tape dispenser with a serated edge, a stapler, and hand sanitizer spray accessible to children.

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: 4/23/2025

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 door to the utility room in Building 2 next to Room I-J was observed to be unlatched and contained a washing machine, dryer, mops, and numerous cleaning supplies which stated "Keep out of reach of children" on this date.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
The Center will routinely check that doors to unapproved rooms remain latched or locked and that Staff can open the locked rooms in an emergency.

Correction Deadline: 4/23/2025

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 fence surrounding the heating and cooling equipment located on the playground between Building 1 and 2 measured 41 to 42 inches high and the gate measured 37 inches high, when it was required for the fence and gate to measure 48 inches on this date.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
The Center will routinely check the fence to determine if it is in good repair and remains at least 4 feet high, and will repair any hazards. The Center will train Staff to identify and report any fence hazards and to keep the fence gates closed when not in use.

Correction Deadline: 5/21/2025

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 playground structure located on the left side of the large playground was observed to have chipping paint on this date. It was further determined that a red tricycle on the right side of the large playground was observed to have a broken bell with a rod exposed on this date.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
The Center will provide a variety of age-appropriate equipment that is arranged so as not to obstruct supervision of children. Staff will check the equipment daily to ensure that the equipment is free of hazards, rust and splinters.

Correction Deadline: 5/3/2025

Technical Assistance
591-1-1-.26(9) - The Consultant discussed with the Director to ensure that the playground was free of hazards, as a water hose was observed loose lying on the large playground on this date.

Correction Deadline: 4/23/2025

Food Service

Records Reviewed: 26	**Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 1**

Staff # 10 Not Met

Date of Hire: 09/15/2022

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training

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

Comment
Center menu meets USDA guidelines.

Comment
Please ensure that infant feeding forms are updated regularly.

Health and Hygiene

Records Reviewed: 26	**Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 1**

Staff # 10 Not Met

Date of Hire: 09/15/2022

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training

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 one child in Building 1 Room A was observed to have a pacifier attached to their clothing on the playground on this date. It was further determined that two children were observed wearing necklaces around their necks in Building 2 Room H on this date.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
The Center will instruct Staff regarding this safety requirement.

Correction Deadline: 4/23/2025

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

Comment
Proper diapering procedures observed.

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

Comment
Please ensure lids remain on trash containing organic waste.

Comment
Proper hand washing observed throughout the center.

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

Comment
The Provider currently does not dispense/administer medication.

Policies and Procedures

Records Reviewed: 26 **Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 1**

Staff # 10 Not Met

Date of Hire: 09/15/2022

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training

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 review of records that there was no documentation of a tornado drill being conducted since September 26, 2024, when it was required for tornado drills to be conducted every six months. It was further determined that there was no documentation of lockdown drills being conducted from January 2023 to this date, when lockdown drills were required to be conducted every six months.

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: 4/28/2025

Safety

Records Reviewed: 26 **Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 1**

Staff # 10 Not Met

Date of Hire: 09/15/2022

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training

591-1-1-.05 Animals **Technical Assistance**

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.05(2) - The Consultant discussed with the Director to ensure that fish tanks were routinely cleaned.

Correction Deadline: 4/23/2025

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

Comment

Age-appropriate discussion and/or redirection observed.

591-1-1-.13 Field Trips(CR) **N/A**

Comment

Center does not participate in field trips at this time.

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

Comment

A current/completed inspection was observed for all vehicles used in transporting children this date.

Comment

Complete documentation of transportation observed.

Comment

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

Correction Deadline: 5/31/2024

Corrected on 4/23/2025
.36(4)(b) - Previous citation corrected, based on observation, in that the seats on the three buses used by the Center were observed to be in good repair on this date.

Sleeping & Resting Equipment

Records Reviewed: 26 **Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 1**

Staff # 10 Not Met

Date of Hire: 09/15/2022

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training

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

Technical Assistance
591-1-1-.30(1)(a)3 - The Consultant discussed with the Director to ensure that crib sheets covered the top and sides of the mattresses and were tight fitting, as two of ten cribs had crib sheets that did not cover the sides of the mattresses.

Correction Deadline: 4/23/2025

Staff Records

Records Reviewed: 26 **Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 1**

Staff # 10 Not Met

Date of Hire: 09/15/2022

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training

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

Comment
Criminal record checks were observed to be complete.

Comment
Director provided 11 files for employees hired since last visit.

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

Comment
Complete first aid kits observed in center and on vehicles.

Comment
Evidence observed of 100% of center staff certified in First Aid and CPR.

591-1-1-.33 Staff Training **Technical Assistance**

Technical Assistance
591-1-1-.33(5) - The Consultant discussed with the Director to ensure that Staff #10, identified as the driver, completed ten hours of annual training each year.

Correction Deadline: 5/23/2025

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

Comment
Staff observed to be compliant with applicable laws and regulations.

Staffing and Supervision

Records Reviewed: 26 **Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 1**

Staff # 10 Not Met

Date of Hire: 09/15/2022

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training

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.