



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: 12/12/2025 **VisitType:** Monitoring Visit

Arrival: 9:30 AM **Departure:** 4:45 PM

CCLC-35616

Childcare Network #232

3615 Wheeler Rd. Augusta, GA 30909 Richmond County
(706) 868-8285

Regional Consultant

Rebecca Owsley

Phone: (229) 238-2130

Fax:

rebecca.owsley@decal.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.
12/12/2025	Monitoring Visit	Good Standing	
05/19/2025	Complaint Closure	Good Standing	
05/13/2025	Complaint Investigation & Monitoring Visit	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-1L	Infants and One Year Olds	3	10	C	16	C	NA	NA	Nap,Floor Play
Main	B-2L	Two Year Olds	1	10	C	20	C	NA	NA	Outside
Main	C-3L	Two Year Olds and Three Year Olds	2	12	C	30	C	NA	NA	Art,Free Play
Main	D-2R	Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds	2	14	C	30	C	NA	NA	Circle Time
Main	E-1R	One Year Olds	2	11	C	22	C	NA	NA	Free Play
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 118					Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0					
Second Level	F-Pre-K A	GA PreK	1	15	C	22	C	NA	NA	Centers
Second Level	H-Pre-K B	GA PreK	1	11	C	22	C	NA	NA	Centers
Second Level	I-Afterschool		0	0	C	25	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
Second Level	J-Middle Right		0	0	C	12	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
Second Level	K-Pre-K C	GA PreK	2	14	C	20	C	NA	NA	Centers
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 101					Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0					
Total # Children this Date: 97			Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 219			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0				

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	Back Playground	98	C
Main	Left Playground	28	C
Main	Right Playground	56	C

Enrolled Children						
Under 1 years	1 years	2 years	3 years	4 years	5 years (Prekonly)	5 years and older
8	17	17	10	0	0	34

Comments

The Consultant conducted the exit conference 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.decgal.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!



Summary Report

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The following information is associated with a Monitoring Visit:

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.

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 on this date.

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

Not Met

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 the following classrooms:

- Main B-2L classroom: a bottle of bleach on the bathroom counter, a broom and dust pan beneath the children's cubbies
- Main C 3-L classroom: two diaper creams and a plastic package of baby wipes in a bucket on the bathroom counter and a Staff Member's purse on a low shelf outside of the bathroom
- Second Level F-Pre-K A classroom: an unlocked sink cabinet with 2 cleaners marked "Keep out of reach of children"
- Second Level H-Pre-K B classroom: an unlocked sink cabinet with a plastic grocery bag and loose plastic wrapping on disposable cups

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: 12/12/2025

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 sink cabinets in the Main B-2L classroom had exposed wood and was in bad repair.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The consultant and the Director discussed that the sink cabinets needed to be replaced. The Center will have the Center and surrounding areas cleaned, make repairs where needed, and remove all debris is removed. The Center will implement a plan to keep areas clean and in good repair that includes regular monitoring.

Correction Deadline: 12/26/2025

Recited on 12/12/2025

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 there was a gap that ran along the bottom of the gate to the parking lot on the Main Right Playground that measured from 5 inches to 6 inches wide.

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: 12/12/2025

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 there was a large slab of concrete on the Main Back Playground that had exposed concrete along the length of it where the dirt ground no longer was flush along the edge of the concrete.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will remove any litter and fix or remove hazards from the playground and will routinely monitor the playground and remove litter and hazards.

Correction Deadline: 12/12/2025

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 1-year-old child in the Main E-1-R classroom had a pacifier clip attached to their shirt.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will instruct Staff regarding this safety requirement.

Correction Deadline: 12/12/2025

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

Staff stated proper knowledge of diapering procedures.

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 the Staff Member in the Main B-2-L classroom did not require a 2-year-old child to wash their hands after diapering as required.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will train Staff on required handwashing for children and Staff will ensure children's hands are washed when required. The Director will monitor for compliance.

Correction Deadline: 12/12/2025

Finding

591-1-1-.17(8) requires staff to wash their hands with liquid soap and warm running water upon arrival for the day, when moving from one child care group to another, upon re-entering the child care area after outside play, before and after diapering each child, dispensing medication, applying topical medications, handling and preparing food, eating, drinking, preparing bottles, feeding each child, assisting children with eating and drinking, after toileting or assisting children with toileting, using tobacco products, handling garbage and organic waste, touching animals or pets, handling bodily fluids and after contamination by any means. It was determined based on observation that the Staff Member in the Main B-2-L classroom did not wash their hands after diapering a 2-year-old child as required.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will ensure liquid soap and warm running water are available for handwashing, train Staff on the handwashing requirements, review the requirements with Staff periodically, and monitor handwashing.

Correction Deadline: 12/12/2025

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

N/A

Comment

The Provider currently does not dispense/administer medication.

Policies and Procedures

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

Technical Assistance

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.21(1)(a-o) - New - Discussed updating the Center's policies and procedures to include the program's practices regarding the expulsion and suspension of children enrolled for care within the description of behavior management and discipline actions used by the Center.

Correction Deadline: 12/17/2025

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.21(2)(r) - New - Also discussed to ensure a description of the practices followed by the Center to prevent shaken baby syndrome and abusive head trauma in children up to five years of age that includes the following information: how to recognize, respond to, and report the signs and symptoms of shaken baby syndrome and abusive head trauma; strategies to assist staff members in understanding how to care for infants and how to cope with a crying, fussing, or distraught child; strategies to ensure staff members understand the brain development of children up to five years of age; and a list of prohibited behaviors when dealing with children.

Additional information can be found in the CCLC Indicator Manual found on DECAL's website at: <https://www.dec.state.ga.us/CCS/Regulations.aspx> or through the Center on Shaken Baby Syndrome found at: <https://dontshake.org/>.

Correction Deadline: 12/17/2025

Safety

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

Met

Comment

Age-appropriate discussion and/or redirection observed.

Comment

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

591-1-1-.36 Transportation(CR)**Not Met****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 the Director and Staff #1, who did the second check on the vehicle on this date, did not obtain two hours of state-approved or state-accepted transportation training as required.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

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

Correction Deadline: 12/22/2025**Finding**

591-1-1-.36(4)(a) requires an annual safety check for each vehicle. The annual safety check, completed by a trained individual, should include a check of the: tires, headlights, horn, taillights, turn signals, brake lights, brakes, suspension, exhaust system, steering, windows, windshields and windshield wipers. A copy of the annual safety check will be kept in the Center or on the vehicle and should include evidence of any repairs and/or replacements that were identified as needed on the inspection report. It was determined based on a review of records that the center did not have a copy of the annual safety check for the vehicle used for transportation with a license plate number AYJ4805.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will obtain the annual vehicle inspection.

Correction Deadline: 12/17/2025**Finding**

591-1-1-.36(6) requires written Parental authorization for routine transportation provided by or on behalf of the Center. Written authorization must include the routine pick-up location, routine pick-up time, routine delivery location, routine delivery times and the name of any person authorized to receive the child. It was determined based on a review of records that the Parental authorizations on file for routine transportation were from summer 2025 field trips and there were not Parental authorizations for routine transportation on file for children transported the week of December 8 - December 12, 2025 and previous weeks since the school year began on August 4, 2025.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will obtain the required written parental authorization.

Correction Deadline: 12/13/2025**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 observation that an emergency medical information record was not maintained in the vehicle for each child being transported when the driver left to pick up children after school to bring them to the Center.

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: 12/13/2025**Sleeping & Resting Equipment**

Finding

591-1-1-.30(2) requires the Center to provide a safe sleep environment in accordance with American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) and American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) recommendations as listed in these rules for all infants. Center Staff shall place an infant to sleep on the infant's back in a crib unless the Center has been provided a physician's written statement authorizing another sleep position for that particular infant that includes how the infant shall be placed to sleep and a time frame that the instructions are to be followed. When an infant can easily turn over from back to front and back again, Staff shall continue to put the infant to sleep initially on the infant's back but allow the infant to roll over into his or her preferred position and not re-position the infant. Sleepers, sleep sacks and wearable blankets that fit according to the commercial manufacturer's guidelines and will not slide up around the infant's face may be used when necessary for the comfort of the sleeping infant. Swaddling shall not be used unless the Center has been provided a physician's written statement authorizing its use for a particular infant that includes instructions and a time frame for swaddling the infant. Center Staff shall not place objects or allow objects to be placed in or on the crib with an infant such as but not limited to toys, pillows, quilts, comforters, bumper pads, sheepskins, stuffed toys, or other soft items and shall not attach objects or allow objects to be attached to a crib with a sleeping infant, such as, but not limited to, crib gyms, toys, mirrors and mobiles. It was determined based on observation that an infant was asleep in a crib with a bottle in the Main A-1L classroom.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will take all steps necessary to provide a safe sleep environment for infants as listed in these rules; will train Staff to follow these rules; and will monitor for compliance.

Correction Deadline: 12/12/2025

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.30(4) - Please ensure that cots that are stored in the children's activity room or area are covered to prevent children's access to them.

Correction Deadline: 12/12/2025

Staff Records

Records Reviewed: 20

Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 12

Staff # 1 Not Met

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.14(2)-CPR missing,.14(2)-First Aid Missing,.09-Criminal Records Check Missing

Staff # 3 Not Met

Date of Hire: 11/11/2025

Reminder - Health & Safety training is required within 90 calendar days of hired

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.14(2)-CPR missing,.14(2)-First Aid Missing

Staff # 6 Not Met

Date of Hire: 07/22/2025

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.14(2)-CPR missing,.14(2)-First Aid Missing

Staff # 8 Not Met

Date of Hire: 10/21/2025

Reminder - Health & Safety training is required within 90 calendar days of hired

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.14(2)-CPR missing,.14(2)-First Aid Missing

Staff # 9 Not Met

Date of Hire: 07/29/2025

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.14(2)-CPR missing,.14(2)-First Aid Missing

Staff # 13

Not Met

Date of Hire: 12/03/2024

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.14(2)-First Aid Missing,.14(2)-CPR missing

Staff # 14

Not Met

Date of Hire: 09/02/2025

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.14(2)-CPR missing,.14(2)-First Aid Missing

Staff # 16

Not Met

Date of Hire: 09/02/2023

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.14(2)-CPR missing,.14(2)-First Aid Missing

Staff # 17

Not Met

Date of Hire: 09/16/2025

Reminder - Health & Safety training is required within 90 calendar days of hired"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.14(2)-CPR missing,.14(2)-First Aid Missing

Staff # 18

Not Met

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.14(2)-CPR missing,.14(2)-First Aid Missing

Staff # 19

Not Met

Date of Hire: 02/25/2025

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.14(2)-CPR missing,.14(2)-First Aid Missing

Staff # 20

Not Met

Date of Hire: 07/24/2023

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.14(2)-CPR missing,.14(2)-First Aid Missing

591-1-1-.09 Criminal Records and Comprehensive Background Checks(CR)**Not Met**

Finding

591-1-1-.09(1)(j) requires that for portability for Directors, Employees and Provisional Employees, excluding Students-in-Training, only the most recently issued determination letter is eligible for portability and must be ported electronically. A Center may accept a satisfactory Fingerprint Records Check Determination letter or a satisfactory Comprehensive Records Check Determination letter issued by the Department if the Records Check Clearance Date is within the preceding 12 months from the hire date, the individual has not had a lapse of employment from the child care industry that lasted for 180 days (6 months) or longer, and the Center does not know or reasonably should not know that the individual's satisfactory status has changed. It was determined based on a review of records that the Center did not have the most recently issued satisfactory Criminal Records Check determination letter ported to the Center for Staff #1, with a hire date of August 21, 2025, as required.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

IMMEDIATE CORRECTION - The Center will immediately ensure that only the most recently issued determination letter is electronically ported for Directors, Employees and Provisional Employees, excluding Students-in-Training. A Center may accept a satisfactory Fingerprint Records Check Determination letter or a satisfactory Comprehensive Records Check Determination letter issued by the Department if the Records Check Clearance Date is within the preceding 12 months from the hire date, the individual has not had a lapse of employment from the child care industry that lasted for 180 days (6 months) or longer, and the Center does not know or reasonably should not know that the individual's satisfactory status has changed. The program's owner or an officer/member of the corporation must view the A to Z Background Check video units pertaining to this records check rule and return the signed affidavit within one week from this visit date. The Center will continue to ensure CRC rules are maintained.

Correction Deadline: 12/12/2025

591-1-1-.14 First Aid & CPR(CR)**Not Met****Finding**

591-1-1-.14(2)(a) requires that when any child is present on the premises, at least fifty percent (50%) of the caregiver staff present shall be trained in pediatric cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and pediatric first aid. It was determined based on a review of records that eight out of fourteen Staff present on this date did not have evidence of being trained in pediatric cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and pediatric first aid when at least fifty percent was required.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

A minimum of 50% of all caregiver Staff on the premises must successfully complete a biennial training program in cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and a triennial training program in first aid taught by certified or licensed health care professionals or trainers and must deal with the provision of emergency care to infants and children. The Director will send copies via email of verification of completed CPR/First Aid certification to the Consultant upon completion.

Correction Deadline: 1/11/2026

Finding

591-1-1-.14(2)(b) requires that there must always be one staff person present in each classroom where children are present that has current and valid pediatric cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and pediatric first aid training. It was determined based on a review of records that there was not a Staff Member present in the Main A-1L, Main C 3L, Main D 2R, and Second Level F-Pre-K A classrooms that had current and valid pediatric cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and pediatric first aid training as required.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Director will schedule and/or position caregiver Staff throughout the Center to ensure at least one currently pediatric CPR and First Aid trained Staff person is present in each classroom where children are present.

Correction Deadline: 12/12/2025

591-1-1-.24 Personnel Records**Met****Comment**

591-1-1-.24(1) - New- Discussed that all Employees, including volunteers, independent contractors, students-in-training, etc. should have a completed initial program orientation form on file.

Correction Deadline: 12/17/2025

591-1-1-.33 Staff Training**Met****Comment**

591-1-1-.33(5)(b)1. - New - Discussed that effective July 1, 2025, all staff are required to obtain at least two hours in evidence based, developmentally appropriate language and literacy practices and at least two hours in on-going child development and health and safety related topics as part of their 10 hours of annual training.

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

Met

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

Comment

Adequate supervision observed on this date.

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

Met

Comment

Adequate supervision observed on this date.