



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: 3/5/2025 **VisitType:** Complaint Investigation Follow Up **Arrival:** 11:00 AM **Departure:** 2:30 PM

CCLC-2288

Powell's Learning & Development Center, Inc.

1966 Stone Mountain Lithonia Rd. Lithonia, GA 30058 DeKalb

County

(770) 484-0143 powellslearning@bellsouth.net

Special Investigations Unit Specialist

Stephanie Ellis

Phone: (470) 442-4722

Fax: (470) 226-2710

stephanie.ellis@decal.ga.gov

Mailing Address

Same

Quality Rated: ★ ★

<u>Compliance Zone Designation</u>			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.
03/05/2025	Complaint Investigation Follow Up	Good Standing	
02/05/2025	Licensing Study	Good Standing	
10/06/2023	Complaint Closure	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	1st left-Preschool	Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds	2	12	C	14	C	NA	NA	Lunch
Main	2nd Right -1-2 y/o		0	0	C	0	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
Main	Infant room	Infants and One Year Olds	1	5	C	7	C	NA	NA	Nap
Main	Middle PreK B		0	0	C	22	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
Main	Middle-Pre-K A	GA PreK	2	17	C	23	C	NA	NA	Lunch
Main	Middle-School Aged		0	0	C	19	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
Main	Toddler Room	Two Year Olds and Three Year Olds	1	10	C	9	NC	NA	NA	Lunch
			Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 94			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0				
Total # Children this Date: 44			Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 94			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0				

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	Playground	42	C

Comments

The purpose of this visit was to conduct a complaint investigation and follow up.

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.dec.state.ga.us/CCS/Regulations.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 user id 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.state.ga.us for more information. Free technical assistance is available!



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(Findings Report)

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The following information is associated with a Complaint Investigation Follow Up:

		Facility
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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 ten children were present in the Toddler room and the licensed capacity for the room was nine.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will limit the number of children in this space to the licensed capacity.

Correction Deadline: 3/5/2025

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

Not Met

Finding

591-1-1-.25(12) requires heating and cooling equipment to be protected to prevent children from touching it. Fans, space heaters, etc. shall be positioned or installed so as to be inaccessible to the children. It was determined based on observation that an air conditioner/ heating/ air-purifier unit was located on the floor in the Pre-K A classroom and the Toddler classroom accessible to children on this date.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

submit

Correction Deadline: 3/19/2025

Recited on 3/5/2025

Correction Deadline: 2/5/2025

Corrected on 3/5/2025

.25(13) - The previous citation was corrected. The consultant did not observe staple removers or potential hazard equipment accessible to children.

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 consultant's observation that the fencing on the right side of the main playground was not secured and could pose as a potential entrapment or escape hazard. It was further determined that the gate on the left side of the main playground measured at three feet eight inches when it should measure at least 4 feet high.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

submit

Correction Deadline: 3/19/2025**Recited on 3/5/2025****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 splintered and deteriorated piece of wood lying against the lattice on left side of the Playground. It was further determined that the following hazards were observed:

- Chipped paint on the railing and base of the left deck
- Chipped paint on the base of the right ramp
- S-hooks on four swing were not closed

POI (Plan of Improvement)

submit

Correction Deadline: 3/19/2025**Recited on 3/5/2025****Health and Hygiene****591-1-1-.17 Hygiene(CR)**

Met

Correction Deadline: 2/5/2025**Corrected on 3/5/2025****.17(8) - The previous citation was corrected. The consultant observed hand washing.****Safety****591-1-1-.36 Transportation(CR)**

Not Met

Finding

591-1-1-.36(4)(b) requires that the interior of a transportation vehicle be clean, in safe repair and free of hazardous items, objects and/or other non-essential items which could cause injury. It was determined based on observation that four out of seven seats had duct tape unraveling exposing the foam in the seats located on bus X1H718.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The center will maintain that all transportation vehicles are clean, in safe repair, and free from hazards.

Correction Deadline: 3/19/2025**Correction Deadline: 2/5/2025****Corrected on 3/5/2025****.36(4)(f)1. - The previous citation was corrected. The consultant observed seat belts to be operable.**

Sleeping & Resting Equipment

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

Met

Correction Deadline: 2/5/2025

Corrected on 3/5/2025

.30(1)(a)3 - The previous citation was corrected. The consultant observed the cribs to have tight fitting sheets on this date.

Staff Records

591-1-1-.33 Staff Training

Defer

Defer

591-1-1-.33(5)-

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: 12/31/2025

Staffing and Supervision

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

Not Met

Finding

591-1-1-.32(7) requires that children be supervised at all times appropriate to the individual age, needs and capabilities of each child. Such supervision must include, but not be limited to, indoor and outdoor activities, mealtimes, naptime, transportation, field trips, and transitions between activities. "Supervision" means that the appropriate number of Staff members are physically present in the area where children are being cared for and are providing watchful oversight to the children, volunteers and Students-in-Training. The persons supervising in the child care area must be alert, positioned to maximize their ability to hear and see the children at all times, and able to respond promptly to the needs and actions of the children being supervised, as well as the actions of the volunteers and Students-in-Training, and provide timely attention to the children's actions and needs. 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. It was determined based on consultants observation the staff member in the toddler and the 1st left Preschool room were not seated and continued to walk around the table serving the children and did not position themselves in a manner to respond promptly to the needs and actions of the children during meal time.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will train Staff and monitor to ensure they are providing supervision and watchful oversight to the children at all times.

Correction Deadline: 3/19/2025

Recited on 3/5/2025