



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: 6/2/2026

VisitType: Monitoring Visit

Arrival: 10:15 AM Departure: 3:30 PM

CCLC-63880

Child Development Center - Blackshear

5218 Highway 121 North Blackshear, GA 31516 Pierce County
(912) 449-6765

Regional Consultant

Rena Keene

Phone: (706) 434-7639

Fax: Rena Keene

rena.keene@dec.al.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.
06/02/2026	Monitoring Visit	Good Standing	
12/04/2025	Licensing Study	Good Standing	
05/20/2025	Incident Investigation 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	A - Main Hall-Right	Two Year Olds and Three Year Olds	2	14	C	18	C	NA	NA	Outside
Main	B- Main Hall-Left	One Year Olds and Two Year Olds	2	13	C	18	C	NA	NA	Outside
Main	C Right Hall - Left	Two Year Olds and Three Year Olds	2	13	C	22	C	NA	NA	Outside
Main	D-Right Hall-Right	Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds	2	17	C	23	C	NA	NA	Outside
Main	E- Left Hall-Right	Five Year Olds and Six Year Olds and Over	2	17	C	22	C	NA	NA	Art
Main	F-Left Hall-Left	Four Year Olds and Five Year Olds	2	17	C	21	C	NA	NA	Art
Main	G-Lunchroom	Six Year Olds and Over	3	22	C	28	C	NA	NA	Centers
Main	H - Library		0	0	C	9	C	NA	NA	
Main	I-Behind Lunchroom	Infants	3	8	C	14	C	NA	NA	Feeding,Floor Play,Diapering, Nap

Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 175

Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0

Total # Children this Date: 121

Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 175

Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0

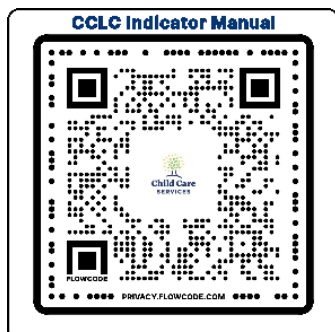
Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	A	126	C
Main	B	91	C

Enrolled Children						
Under 1 years	1 years	2 years	3 years	4 years	5 years (Prekonly)	5 years and older
8	5	10	33	20	13	22

Comments

Weather chart discussed.

Plan of Improvement: Developed This Date



For additional information regarding any licensing topics discussed during this visit, please consult the Rules and Regulations Indicator Manual. This manual provides comprehensive clarification of each rule, including evaluation indicators, related best practices, and relevant considerations to support your program's continued and sustained compliance.

To access the Indicator Manual, please scan the QR code below or visit our website at <https://www.dec.state.ga.us/CCS/RulesAndRegulations.aspx>.

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/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!



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Summary Report

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The following information is associated with a Monitoring Visit:

Activities and Equipment

591-1-1-.03 Activities

Met

Correction Deadline: 12/13/2025

Corrected on 6/2/2026

.03(2) - Lesson plans were observed to be posted in the classrooms.

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)

Met

Comment

Swimming activities provided off site. Swimming activities are arranged between the parents and the YMCA facility in Waycross, Georgia, who also transport the children to and from the 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)

Met

Comment

The Center appeared clean and well maintained on this date.

591-1-1-.26 Playgrounds(CR)

Technical Assistance

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.26(8) - A delivery of mulch was observed to have been delivered to the center and is scheduled to be installed this week so that sufficient resilient material will be restored beneath the swings and in the fall zone to a minimum depth of six inches which is required based on the equipment and height.

Correction Deadline: 6/12/2026

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.26(9) - Please fill in hole on the left playground which was observed near fence gate so that it does not pose a tripping hazard to the children.

Correction Deadline: 6/2/2026

Food Service

Comment

CACFP Meal Pattern Requirements effective October 1, 2017 will be implemented October 1, 2018: 3 Components for breakfast: Grains, Vegetables, Fruits or both, Milk
 5 Components for lunch – Grains, Meat/Meat alternates, Fruits, Vegetable, and Milk OR Grains, Meat/Meat alternates, 2 different types of vegetables, and Milk
 2 of 5 Components for snack

Provided Updated CACFP Infant Meal pattern and Child/Adult Meal pattern flyers.

The Crediting Handbook for the CACFP can be located on DECAL and USDA's website:

DECAL

<http://dec.al.ga.gov/CACFP/Handbook.aspx>

USDA

<http://www.fns.usda.gov/cacfp/cacfp-handbooks>

Correction Deadline: 12/4/2025

Corrected on 6/2/2026

.15(2)(f) - Director stated that all staff have been award that foods must be cut as required to prevent choking hazards.

Correction Deadline: 12/13/2025

Corrected on 6/2/2026

.15(5) - Director stated that changes in the menu are generally marked. During the visit, lunch was observed which consisted of the following: peanut butter and jelly sandwiches, carrots, pears, and milk. A substitution had been made only for the vegetable. Peas had been shown on the menu posted, but the peas were not available so carrots were served. Consultant discussed with director that any component of the change in the menu items posted must be noted..

Health and Hygiene

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

Met

Comment

Proper diapering procedures observed.

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

Technical Assistance

Comment

Proper hand washing observed throughout the center on this date.

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.17(7)(a) - Discussed with staff that washing infants' hands with single use washcloths is acceptable until they are able to be held up at the sink for handwashing with soap and warm running water.

Correction Deadline: 6/2/2026

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

Met

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(3) - Please ensure that fire drills are conducted every month as required.

Correction Deadline: 6/7/2026

591-1-1-.29 Required Reporting

Met

Comment

Discussed reporting requirements.

Safety

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

Staff were observed to maintain a positive learning environment 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****Comment**

Discussed SIDS and infant sleeping position.

Comment

Pleasant naptime environment observed.

Staff Records

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

Director provided nine (9) files for employees hired since last visit. All employees were compliant with background check requirements.

Correction Deadline: 12/4/2025

Corrected on 6/2/2026

.09(1)(a) - Background checks for all employees were observed to be completed.

Correction Deadline: 12/4/2025

Corrected on 6/2/2026

.09(1)(c) - Background checks for all employees were observed to be completed.

591-1-1-.14 First Aid & CPR(CR)**Met**

Correction Deadline: 12/31/2025

Corrected on 6/2/2026

.14(1) - Staff certified in CPR and First Aid as required.

591-1-1-.33 Staff Training**Not Met**

Correction Deadline: 12/15/2025

Corrected on 6/2/2026

.33(1) - All new staff were observed to have received the required orientation and the Documentation of Orientation form was observed in each employee's file.

Correction Deadline: 12/31/2025

Corrected on 6/2/2026

.33(3)(a)-(k) -Documentation of Health and Safety Orientation training were observed for all employees who were lacking the required training during the previous visit.

Finding

591-1-1-.33(5)(a) requires that every calendar year after the first year of employment, all supervisory and caregiver Personnel, except independent contractors, Students-in-Training and volunteers, shall attend ten (10) clock hours of diverse training which is offered by an accredited college, university or vocational program or other Department-approved source. It was determined based on review of staff records that Employees Nos. 20 and 26 did not complete the required 10 (clock) hours of annual training for the 2025 calendar year..

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: 6/2/2026

Recited on 6/2/2026

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.33(5)(b)1. - New - Please ensure that all staff complete the new requirement of obtaining two hours of training in literacy and language development as part of their ten hours of mandatory ongoing training.

Correction Deadline: 7/2/2026

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**

Center observed to maintain appropriate staff:child ratios.

591-1-1-.32 Supervision(CR)**Met****Comment**

Staff observed to provide direct supervision and be attentive to children's needs.