



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: 11/2/2022 **VisitType:** Licensing Study **Arrival:** 9:00 AM **Departure:** 1:30 PM

CCLC-2289

Bessie's Child Care

1842 Wrightsboro Road Augusta, GA 30904 Richmond County
 (706) 481-9968 bessiesdirector@gmail.com

Regional Consultant

Melyn Smith

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 melyn.smith@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.
11/02/2022	Licensing Study	Good Standing	
09/29/2022	Incident Investigation & Follow Up	Good Standing	
04/06/2022	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
I	A - 1st Right	One Year Olds	1	3	C	15	C	NA	NA	Free Play
I	B - 2nd Right		0	0	C	5	C	NA	NA	
I	C - 1st Left	PreK	2	14	C	32	C	NA	NA	Circle Time
I	D - 2nd Left		0	0	C	12	C	NA	NA	
I	E - 3rd Left		0	0	C	44	C	NA	NA	
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 108			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0							
II	F - Left Side	Two Year Olds	1	3	C	12	C	NA	NA	Centers
II	G - Right Side	Three Year Olds	1	8	C	14	C	NA	NA	Outside
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 26			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0							
Total # Children this Date: 28			Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 134			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0				

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
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Comments

The purpose of this visit was to conduct a Licensing Study and to follow up on the previous visit on this date.

Plan of Improvement: Developed This Date 11/02/2022

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/RuleAndRegulations.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



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!

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)

Latonia Darden, Program Official

Date

Melyn Smith, Consultant

Date



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Findings Report

Date: 11/2/2022 **VisitType:** Licensing Study

Arrival: 9:00 AM

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The following information is associated with a Licensing Study:

Activities and Equipment

591-1-1-.03 Activities

Technical Assistance

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.03(2) - The Consultant discussed with the Director and Owner to please ensure updated lesson plans were available for review for each classroom.

Correction Deadline: 11/2/2022

591-1-1-.12 Equipment & Toys(CR)

Met

Comment

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

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

N/A

Comment

Center does not provide swimming activities.

Children's Records

Records Reviewed: 7

Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 6

Child # 1

Not Met

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.08(3)-Address of Release Person Missing

Child # 2

Not Met

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.08(3)-Address of Release Person Missing

Child # 3

Not Met

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.08(1)(a)-Work Address Missing,.08(3)-Name of Release Person Missing

Child # 4 Not Met

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.08(3)-Address of Release Person Missing

Child # 5 Not Met

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.08(3)-Address of Release Person Missing,.08(1)(a)-Work Address Missing

Child # 6 Not Met

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.08(1)(a)-Work Address Missing,.08(1)-Doctor, Clinic, Phone Numbers

Child # 7 Met

591-1-1-.08 Children's Records**Met****Comment**

591-1-1-.08(1) requires the Center Staff to maintain a file for each child while such child is in care and for one year after that child is no longer enrolled. In order for the file to be complete, the file shall contain the following: child's name, birth date, sex, address, living arrangement, name of school if applicable; names of both Parents, home and work addresses, and home and work telephone numbers; name(s) and addresses of the person(s) to whom the child may be released including address, telephone numbers, relationship to child and to Parent(s), and other identifying information; name(s) and telephone number(s) of person(s) to contact in emergencies when the Parent cannot be reached; name and telephone number of the child's primary source of health care; and a statement regarding known allergies, physical problems, mental health disorders, intellectual disabilities or developmental disabilities which limit the child's participation in the program. It was determined, based on observation, that out of seven children's files reviewed, Children # 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 were lacking addresses for release person(s) on this date. It was further determined that Children # 3, 5, and 6 were lacking addresses for the parent's employers and Child # 6 was lacking the phone number for the child's primary physician on this date.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

Center staff will review and update children's files to ensure they contain all required information.

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

Bathrooms observed to be clean and well maintained.

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**

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 on this date:

- Room C – 1st Left: A tape dispenser with serrated edge, two staple removers, and a pair of adult size scissors were observed accessible to children on a low table used as the teacher assistant's desk on this date. A tape dispenser with a serrated edge, a stapler, and a pair of adult sized scissors were observed accessible to children on the teacher's desk on this date. Gloves and a roll of trash bags were observed accessible to children in an unsecured drawer under the handwashing sink on this date.
- Room E – 3rd Left: A tube of Benadryl cream was observed accessible to children in a child's cubby on this date.
- Room F – Left: A bottle of Aveeno Eczema Cream and a plastic bag were observed accessible to children in a child's bag on this date.
- Room G – Right: A stapler and tape dispenser with a serrated edge were observed accessible to children on a low shelf. Scotch packing tape with a serrated edge was observed accessible to children on the ledge of the window to the office on this date.

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: 11/2/2022

591-1-1-.25 Physical Plant-Structural/Mechanical**Technical Assistance****Technical Assistance**

591-1-1-.25(14) - The Consultant discussed with the Director and Owner to please ensure the lights were in working order, as one set of lights in the Girls' Bathroom in Building I located between Room D-2nd Left and Room E - 3rd Left were observed to not be working on this date.

Correction Deadline: 12/2/2022

591-1-1-.26 Playgrounds(CR)**Not Met****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 a gap of approximately 12 inches was observed present in the railings on both sides of the stairs leading from Building I to the Playground on this date, which posed as a potential entrapment hazard.

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: 11/11/2022

Food Service

591-1-1-.15 Food Service & Nutrition**Not Met****Finding**

591-1-1-.15(7) requires that food be served according to manufacturer's instructions and recommendations. 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. Food shall not be accessible or served to children until it has been chopped, diced, cut or mashed and is appropriate for each child's age and individual eating, chewing and swallowing ability. It was determined, based on review of records, that the current menu indicated that corndogs, raw carrots, seedless grapes, and sausage links were served to enrolled children for meals and snacks on this date.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will train Staff and monitor food served and accessible to children to ensure that the food does not present a choking hazard.

Correction Deadline: 11/11/2022

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

Staff state proper knowledge of diapering procedures.

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

Staff were observed to remind children to wash hands.

591-1-1-.20 Medications(CR)**Not Evaluated****Comment**

The Provider currently does not dispense/administer medication.

Policies and Procedures**591-1-1-.21 Operational Policies & Procedures****Met****Comment**

Program observed complete emergency drills

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

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

591-1-1-.13 Field Trips(CR)**Met****Comment**

Center does not participate in field trips at this time.

591-1-1-.36 Transportation(CR)**Not 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.

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 review of records, that Staff #14, identified as the interim Director and driver for routine transportation, was lacking current evidence of completing the two-hour transportation training on this date.

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: 11/4/2022

Sleeping & Resting Equipment

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

Met

Comment

Pleasant naptime environment observed.

Staff Records

Records Reviewed: 15

Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 9

Staff # 1		Met
Date of Hire: 04/10/2012		
Staff # 2		Not Met
Date of Hire: 08/15/2022		
		<u>Reminder - Health & Safety training is required within 90 calendar days of hired</u>
<u>"Missing/Incomplete Components"</u>		
.24(1)-Evidence of Orientation Missing		
Staff # 3		Met
Date of Hire: 10/27/2022		
		<u>Reminder - Health & Safety training is required within 90 calendar days of hired</u>
Staff # 4		Not Met
Date of Hire: 08/15/2022		
		<u>Reminder - Health & Safety training is required within 90 calendar days of hired</u>
<u>"Missing/Incomplete Components"</u>		
.24(1)-Evidence of Orientation Missing		
Staff # 5		Not Met
Date of Hire: 01/21/2022		
<u>"Missing/Incomplete Components"</u>		
.24(1)-Evidence of Orientation Missing		
Staff # 6		Met
Date of Hire: 02/12/2020		
Staff # 7		Met
Date of Hire: 03/31/2020		
Staff # 8		Met
Date of Hire: 03/31/2020		

Records Reviewed: 15**Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 9**

Staff # 9 Not Met

Date of Hire: 07/25/2022

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.24(1)-Evidence of Orientation Missing

Staff # 10 Not Met

Date of Hire: 07/25/2022

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.24(1)-Evidence of Orientation Missing

Staff # 11 Not Met

Date of Hire: 09/28/2022

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

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.24(1)-Evidence of Orientation Missing

Staff # 12 Not Met

Date of Hire: 05/02/2022

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.24(1)-Evidence of Orientation Missing

Staff # 13 Met

Date of Hire: 11/17/2009

Staff # 14 Not Met

Date of Hire: 08/16/2022

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

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.24(1)-Evidence of Orientation Missing

Staff # 15 Not Met

Date of Hire: 11/10/1997

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.36(3)(a-b)-2 hrs. Transportation Training missing

Staff Credentials Reviewed: 6

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

Comment

Criminal record checks were observed to be complete.

591-1-1-.14 First Aid & CPR Not Met

Comment

Evidence observed of 50% of center staff certified in First Aid and CPR.

Finding

591-1-1-.14(3) requires the Center to have a first aid kit in each building of the Center and in any vehicle used by the Center for transportation of children, that contains scissors, tweezers, gauze pads, adhesive tape, thermometer, band-aids, assorted sizes, antibacterial ointment, insect-sting preparation, an antiseptic cleansing solution, triangular bandages, rubber gloves, protective eye wear, a protective face mask, and a cold pack. The first aid kit, together with a first aid instruction manual which must be kept with the kit at all times, shall be stored so that it is not accessible to children but is easily accessible to Staff. It was determined, based on observation, that the first aid kit for the center was lacking tweezers, a triangular bandage, and protective eye wear. It was further determined that the vehicle used for routine transportation was lacking protective eye wear on this date.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

Center Staff will provide any missing first aid kits, add any missing items to each first aid kit and will develop and use a plan for checking the kits and replacing missing items in each kit in the future. First aid kits and instruction manuals will be stored so that they kits are not accessible to children but are easily accessible to Center Staff.

Correction Deadline: 11/12/2022

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

591-1-1-.33(2) requires the initial Center orientation to include the following subjects: the Center's policies and procedures; the portions of these rules dealing with the care, health and safety of children; the Staff person's assigned duties and responsibilities; reporting requirements for suspected cases of child abuse, neglect or deprivation; communicable diseases and serious injuries; emergency weather plans; the program's emergency preparedness plan; childhood injury control; the administration of medicine; reducing the risk of Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS); hand washing; fire safety; water safety; and prevention of HIV/AIDS and blood borne pathogens. It was determined, based on review of records, that the Center was lacking evidence of orientation for Staffs # 2, 4, 5, 9, 10, 11, 12, and 13 on this date.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will provide orientation in all missing subjects to the employee(s) and will take steps to provide a complete orientation to new Employees in the future.

Correction Deadline: 11/4/2022

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.