



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: 12/15/2025 **VisitType:** Licensing Study

Arrival: 3:00 PM **Departure:** 5:00 PM

CCLC-48693

Sandy's Sandbox - Mercer

4150 Mercer University Dr. Macon, GA 31204 Bibb County
(478) 812-8224

Lead Consultant

Yolanda Marable

Phone: (770) 357-9953

Fax: (678) 302-2432

yolanda.marable@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.
12/15/2025	Licensing Study	Good Standing	
05/27/2025	Monitoring Visit	Good Standing	
03/28/2025	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	Room A - 1L (Infants)		0	0	C	9	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
Main	Room B - 2L (1 & 2 year olds)	One Year Olds	1	3	C	12	C	NA	NA	Free Play
Main	Room C - 3L (Pre-K)		0	0	C	23	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
Main	Room D - 2R (3 year olds)	Two Year Olds	1	3	C	18	C	NA	NA	Free Play
Main	Room E - 1L (Pre-K)	Three Year Olds	1	6	C	28	C	NA	NA	Free Play
			Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 90			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0				
Total # Children this Date: 12			Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 90			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0				

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	Playground A (Pre-K)	27	C
Main	Playground B	24	C

Enrolled Children						
Under 1 years	1 years	2 years	3 years	4 years	5 years (Prekonly)	5 years and older
1	4	4	8	0	0	15

Comments

The purpose of this visit was to conduct a Licensing Study.

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@decgal.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 Licensing Study:

Activities and Equipment

591-1-1-.03 Activities

Met

Comment

Lesson Plans were observed to be posted and reflected the current weeks activities in each classroom.

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.

Children's Records

591-1-1-.08 Children's Records

Met

Comment

Records were observed to be complete and well organized.

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 on this date.

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

Technical Assistance

Technical Assistance

The consultant discussed with the director that a tree root was growing upward out of the ground posing a tripping hazard near the yellow slide on Playground A and four pieces of a broken tree branch were on Playground B.

Correction Deadline: 12/15/2025

Correction Deadline: 5/27/2025

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

Comment

The consultant provided TA for the playground on this date.

Food Service

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

Comment

Center menu meets USDA guidelines.

591-1-1-.18 Kitchen Operations Met

Comment

The consultant discussed the grease trap repair on this date. The kitchen appears clean and well organized.

Health and Hygiene

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

Comment

Staff stated proper knowledge of diapering procedures.

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

Comment

Proper hand washing observed throughout the center on this date.

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 Met

Comment

Program observed complete emergency drills

591-1-1-.29 Required Reporting Met

Comment

Discussed reporting requirements.

Safety

591-1-1-.05 Animals Met

Comment

Center does not keep animals on premises.

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

Comment

Age-appropriate discussion and/or redirection observed.

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) N/A

Comment

Center does not provide routine transportation.

Sleeping & Resting Equipment

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

The correct number of mats, sheets and blankets were observed on this date. Cleaning and disinfecting of mats was discussed with the director on this date.

Staff Records**Records Reviewed: 8****Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 1**

Staff # 7

Not Met

Date of Hire: 09/23/2025

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

.09-Criminal Records Check 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 review of records staff member #7 hired on September 23, 2025, was not ported over and did not have a Comprehensive Records Check Determination on file. Additionally staff member #7 was observed providing direct supervision in the two-year-old classroom D.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

IMMEDIATE CORRECTION - The Center will maintain portability hire checklist to 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 review and add names of new hire to the portability to ensure CRC rules are maintained.

Correction Deadline: 12/15/2025**591-1-1-.09 Criminal Records Check(CR)****Met****Comment**

Director provided three file(s) for employees hired since last visit.

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

Evidence observed of 100% of center Staff certified in First Aid and CPR containing emergency care for infants and children on this date.

591-1-1-.33 Staff Training**Met****Correction Deadline: 5/27/2025****Corrected on 12/15/2025****The previous citation was corrected on this date.****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.

Correction Deadline: 5/27/2025

Corrected on 12/15/2025

The previous citation was corrected on this date.

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

Adequate supervision observed on this date.