



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

Investigation Report

Date: 11/20/2025 **VisitType:** Complaint Investigation Closure from CI FollowUp on 11/03/2025

CCLC-66226

Clarian Place Child Care & Learning Center - COLUMBUS

7572 Kayne Blvd Columbus, GA 31909 Muscogee County
(706) 221-9970 clarianplacechildcarecolumbus@gmail.com

Special Investigations Unit Sr. Specialist

Tomekia Sherman

Phone: (678) 717-5406

Fax: (770) 344-5863

tomekia.sherman@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.
11/20/2025	Complaint Closure	Good Standing	
11/03/2025	Complaint Investigation Follow Up	Good Standing	
09/05/2025	Incident Investigation Closure	Good Standing	

Comments

Investigative findings were concluded on this date.

Advisement of Potential for Repeated Rule Violations during Pending Investigations

This report shall serve as official notice of potential rule violations. These potential rule violations have been detailed in this report and discussed with you by the consultant. The department shall conduct a thorough investigation to determine if in fact the alleged rule violation(s) should or should not be substantiated. Please be aware that the investigation may take some time to be finalized to ensure fairness and accuracy. During this investigation period, any violations of an identical rule or rules will require the department to treat any and all substantiated rule violations identified in the investigation as repeated rule violation(s).

Further, from time to time the department discovers additional rule violations during the course of an investigation. If there are new rule violation(s), your consultant shall inform you of the violation(s) as soon as possible. However, as stated above, any violations of identical rule(s) will require the department to treat any and all additional rule violations identified in the investigation as repeated rule violations.

All rule violations found in relation to a complaint or incident investigation will be associated with the date the investigation was closed.



Please refer to the website, <http://www.dec.al.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)

I have read and understand the Rules and Regulations for Child Care Learning Centers, 591-1-1. I acknowledge that the items noted in this report have been discussed with me and I have agreed to a Plan of Improvement (POI) as indicated in this report. I understand that correction of these deficiencies, while required, will not necessarily prevent DECAL from taking adverse action against this facility. I understand that if I disagree with any of the deficiencies cited, I have the right to refute them on this report or any other form that I choose to send to Child Care Services.



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Summary Report

Date: 11/20/2025 **VisitType:** Complaint Investigation Closure
from CI FollowUp on 11/03/2025

Arrival: 10:00 AM **Departure:** 12:00 PM

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The following information is associated with a Complaint Closure:

Policies and Procedures

591-1-1-.29 Required Reporting

Not Met

Finding Associated with Investigation

591-1-1-.29(3) requires the Director or designated person-in-charge to report or cause to be reported to the Department within twenty-four (24) hours or the next work day: any death of a child while in the care of the Center; any serious illness or injury requiring hospitalization or professional medical attention other than first aid of a child while in the care of the Center; any situation when a child in care becomes missing, such as, but not limited to, a child who is left on a vehicle, a child who leaves the building, playground, or property, or a child who is left behind on any trip; any fire; any structural disaster; any emergency situation that requires temporarily relocating children; and any time the program's operating status changes (i.e., open to closed or temporarily closed and temporarily closed to open). It was determined based on an investigation that on October 29, 2025, the center staff failed to report to the Department within 24 hours when a 5-year-old child was left unsupervised on the center's vehicle for 80 minutes. The center staff did not report the incident until November 2, 2025.

Correction Deadline: 11/27/2025

Safety

591-1-1-.36 Transportation(CR)

Not Met

Finding Associated with Investigation

591-1-1-.36(10) requires that a child never be left unattended in a vehicle. It was determined based on an investigation that on October 29, 2025, around 2:10 p.m., there were two staff members and three children on the center's vehicle for after-school transportation. The child boarded the center's vehicle at 2:10 p.m. and fell asleep during transit. The staff members and other children exited the vehicle around 2:40 p.m. The staff members failed to conduct a head count. Center staff discovered the child asleep on the vehicle in their seat at approximately 4:00 p.m. The child was unattended on the vehicle for 80 minutes.

Correction Deadline: 11/27/2025

Finding Associated with Investigation

591-1-1-.36(7)(c)2. requires that the driver or other designated person shall immediately document in writing, with a check or other mark/symbol to account for each child listed on the passenger transportation checklist each time a child enters and exits the vehicle. The driver or other designated staff person shall document in writing with a different mark/symbol to account for each child listed on the passenger transportation checklist who was not present on the vehicle for any reason. An explanation shall be documented in writing whenever a child is transported to a field trip site but is not present on the return trip to the Center. It was determined based on an investigation that on October 29, 2025 around 2:10 p.m., there were two staff members and three children on the center's vehicle for after-school transportation. The 5-year-old child was marked as counted for on the transportation log. The staff members stated that they failed to conduct a headcount as the children exited the vehicle when they arrived at the center at 2:40 p.m., which resulted in a 5-year-old child being left unsupervised on the center's vehicle for 80 minutes. The child fell asleep during transit. The child was discovered by center staff at approximately 4 p.m. when the child's parent arrived for pickup.

Correction Deadline: 11/27/2025

Finding Associated with Investigation

591-1-1-.36(7)(d)1. requires that the first check be conducted immediately upon unloading the last child at any location including, but not limited to, a field trip destination, arrival at the Center, and the last stop during transportation to home or school. The responsible person on the vehicle shall physically walk through the entire vehicle; visually inspect all seat surfaces, under all seats and in all compartments or recesses in the vehicle's interior; sign the passenger transportation checklist (s), indicating all of the children have exited the vehicle; and give the passenger transportation checklist(s) to the second designated Staff person. It was determined based on an investigation that on October 29, 2025, around 2:10 p.m., there were two staff members and three children on the center's vehicle for after-school transportation. The first check was not completed at 2:40 p.m., when they arrived at the center and children exited the vehicle. The staff members acknowledged they did not conduct a headcount. The staff member documented incorrectly that the child was accounted for on the checklist and did not conduct a visual inspection of the vehicle and all of its compartments. This resulted in a 5-year-old child being left unsupervised for 80 minutes on the vehicle. The child was found asleep on the vehicle at approximately 4 p.m. when their parent arrived for pickup.

Correction Deadline: 11/27/2025

Finding Associated with Investigation

591-1-1-.36(7)(d)2. requires that the second designated Staff person conduct a check of the vehicle immediately upon the completion of the first check of the vehicle. The responsible person shall physically walk through the entire vehicle; visually inspect all seat surfaces, under all seats and in all compartments or recesses in the vehicle's interior; and sign the passenger transportation checklist(s), indicating all of the children have exited the vehicle. There shall be continuous watchful oversight of the vehicle between the first check and second check. It was determined based on an investigation that on October 29, 2025, around 2:10 p.m., there were two staff members and three children on the center's vehicle for after-school transportation. When they arrived at the center at approximately 2:40 p.m., the second check was not completed. The driver dropped the children and the staff member off under the awning, then proceeded to park the vehicle in the parking lot and did not check the vehicle. This resulted in a 5-year-old child being left unsupervised for 80 minutes. The child remained asleep on the vehicle until around 4 p.m. when their parent arrived for pickup.

Correction Deadline: 11/27/2025

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

Not Met

Finding Associated with Investigation

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 an investigation that on October 29, 2025, at approximately 2:10 p.m., two staff members and three children were transported on a center vehicle from a local elementary school to the center. The child boarded the Center's vehicle at 2:10 p.m. and fell asleep during transit. The staff members and the children exited the vehicle around 2:40 p.m. The staff members failed to conduct a head count before the children exited the vehicle. Center Staff discovered the child asleep on the vehicle in their seat at around 4 p.m. when their parent arrived for pickup.

Correction Deadline: 11/27/2025