



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: 5/27/2025 **VisitType:** Monitoring Visit

Arrival: 11:40 AM **Departure:** 1:15 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.
05/27/2025	Monitoring Visit	Good Standing	
03/28/2025	Complaint Closure	Good Standing	
02/26/2025	Complaint Investigation & 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
Main	Room A - 1L (Infants)	Infants	1	2	C	9	C	NA	NA	Nap
Main	Room B - 2L (1 & 2 year olds)		0	0	C	12	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
Main	Room C - 3L (Pre-K)		0	0	C	23	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
Main	Room D - 2R (3 year olds)		0	0	C	18	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
Main	Room E - 1L (Pre-K)	Two Year Olds and Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds and Five Year Olds	1	13	C	28	C	NA	NA	Nap
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 90			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0							
Total # Children this Date: 15			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
5	7	3	13	20	0	9

Comments

The purpose of this visit was to conduct a monitoring visit.

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 Monitoring Visit:

Activities and Equipment

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.

Facility

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

Technical Assistance

The consultant discussed the vines growing throughout the fence on playground A and B on this date.

Correction Deadline: 5/27/2025

Finding

591-1-1-.25(3) requires the Center and surrounding premises to be kept clean, free of debris and in good repair. Hygienic measures such as, but not limited to, screened windows and proper waste disposal procedures shall be utilized to minimize the presence of rodents, flies, roaches and other vermin at the Center. It was determined by observation in room C the ceiling bathroom tile was not secured posing a hazard .

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will have the Center and surrounding areas cleaned, make repairs where needed, and remove all debris is removed. The Center will implement a plan to keep areas clean and in good repair that includes regular monitoring.

Correction Deadline: 5/27/2025

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

Met

Comment

Playground observed to be clean and in good repair.

Health and Hygiene

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

Hand washing requirements for diapering were discussed with the director on this date.

591-1-1-.17 Hygiene(CR)**Technical Assistance****Technical Assistance**

The consultant discussed hand washing requirements for diapering with the center staff on this date.

Correction Deadline: 5/27/2025

591-1-1-.20 Medications(CR)**N/A****Comment**

The Provider currently does not dispense/administer medication.

Policies and Procedures

591-1-1-.27 Posted Notices**Technical Assistance****Technical Assistance**

Consultant discussed posting a list of staff members who will be responsible for the building in the absence of the director.

Correction Deadline: 5/27/2025

Safety

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

Age-appropriate discussion and/or redirection observed.

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**

Pleasant naptime environment observed.

Staff Records

Records Reviewed: 10**Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 2**

Staff # 1

Not Met

Date of Hire: 04/01/2025

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.24(1)-Evidence of Orientation Missing

Staff # 2

Not Met

Date of Hire: 04/28/2025

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.24(1)-Evidence of Orientation Missing

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

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

Finding

591-1-1-.33(1) requires all Employees and Provisional Employees to receive Initial Center orientation prior to assignment to children or task. It was determined by review of records staff member #1 and #2 did not have evidence of orientation on this date.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will develop and provide orientation for all new Staff prior to their staff's assignment to children or task.

Correction Deadline: 5/27/2025

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)

Not Met

Finding

591-1-1-.32(4) requires that children under three years old be housed in separate physical areas from older children and cannot be mixed with older children except at specified times and circumstances. It was determined by observation one staff member was present with three two-year-olds, six three-year-olds, one four-year-old, and three five-year-olds in room E.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will maintain separation of these children under three years old.

Correction Deadline: 5/27/2025

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

Met

Comment

Adequate supervision observed on this date.