



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: 11/18/2025 VisitType: Complaint Investigation & Monitoring Visit

Arrival: 10:10 AM Departure: 3:45 PM

CCLC-50203

Big Blue Marble - Steven's Creek Road

925 Steven's Creek Road Augusta, GA 30907 Richmond County
(706) 863-9485

Regional Consultant

April Christian

Phone: ()

Fax:

april.christian@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.
11/18/2025	Complaint Investigation & Monitoring Visit	Good Standing	
03/20/2025	Complaint Closure	Good Standing	
03/10/2025	Complaint Investigation Follow Up	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	One Year Olds	2	15	C	16	C	NA	NA	Free Play,Circle Time
Main	B	Two Year Olds and Three Year Olds	3	18	C	23	C	NA	NA	Outside
Main	C		0	0	C	24	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
Main	D	Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds	2	15	C	30	C	NA	NA	Free Play
Main	E	Four Year Olds	2	16	C	34	C	NA	NA	Free Play
Main	F		0	0	C	17	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
Main	G	Infants	1	6	C	10	C	NA	NA	Free Play,Feeding
Main	H	Infants and One Year Olds	1	5	C	11	C	NA	NA	Free Play
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 165			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0							
Total # Children this Date: 75			Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 165							
			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0							

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	Large Playground	155	C
Main	Small Playground	22	C
Main	Toddler-Back PG	20	C

Enrolled Children						
Under 1 years	1 years	2 years	3 years	4 years	5 years (Prekonly)	5 years and older
6	8	14	19	19	0	7

Comments

The findings of this report were reviewed with the Director on this date.

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

Comment

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

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

Not Met

Comment

Discussed adding equipment and toys to enhance variety.

Finding

591-1-1-.12(2) requires that all equipment and furniture be free from hazardous conditions such as, but not limited to, sharp rough edges or toxic paint; and be kept clean. It was determined based on observation that there was dirt and food particles on the hand washing sink, cabinet and counter top in the Main D classroom.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will ensure that equipment and furniture are used by the age-appropriate group of children.

Correction Deadline: 11/18/2025

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)**Not Met****Comment**

Please be mindful to keep items that pose a hazard inaccessible to children.

Finding

591-1-1-.25(11) requires that floor coverings be tight, smooth, free of odors and wash able or clean able. It was determined based on observation that the carpet in the Main A classroom was dirty and was not secure causing a potential tripping hazard. It was further determined that the rug in the kitchen was dirty and had pieces of food on it.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

Floors will be maintained to be safe and sanitary.

Correction Deadline: 12/18/2025

591-1-1-.26 Playgrounds(CR)**Not Met****Comment**

Discussed maintenance of resilient surface. Please fluff and redistribute.

Finding

591-1-1-.26(6) requires that playground equipment provide an opportunity for the children to engage in a variety of experiences and shall be age- appropriate. For example, toddlers shall not be permitted to swing in swings designed for School- age Children. The outdoor equipment shall be free of lead -based paint, sharp corners and shall be regularly maintained in such a way as to be free of rust and splinters that could pose significant safety hazard to the children. All equipment shall be arranged so as not to obstruct supervision of children. It was determined based on observation that on the Main Toddler- Back Playground the large climber with blue handles and the yellow merry go around on the Main Large Playground had rust on the handles.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will provide a variety of age-appropriate equipment that is arranged so as not to obstruct supervision of children. Staff will check the equipment daily to ensure that the equipment is free of hazards, rust and splinters.

Correction Deadline: 11/28/2025

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 the following potential hazards were present on this day:

Main Small Playground

- There were two holes on the right side of playground near the fence causing a potential tripping hazard.

Main Toddler Playground-Back PG

- There were thorny vines on the back and middle of the playground.

Main Large Playground

- There were exposed tree roots on the left and right side of the playground causing a potential tripping hazard.

- There was a large hole on the left side of the playground near the silver pole causing a potential tripping 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: 12/18/2025

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

Please ensure that infant feeding forms are updated regularly.

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>

591-1-1-.18 Kitchen Operations**Met****Comment**

Kitchen appears clean and well organized on this date.

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.

Comment

591-1-1-.10(4) - Please ensure to clean under and around the changing mat.

Correction Deadline: 11/18/2025

591-1-1-.17 Hygiene(CR)**Not Met****Finding**

591-1-1-.17(8) requires staff to wash their hands with liquid soap and warm running water upon arrival for the day, when moving from one child care group to another, upon re-entering the child care area after outside play, before and after diapering each child, dispensing medication, applying topical medications, handling and preparing food, eating, drinking, preparing bottles, feeding each child, assisting children with eating and drinking, after toileting or assisting children with toileting, using tobacco products, handling garbage and organic waste, touching animals or pets, handling bodily fluids and after contamination by any means. It was determined based on observation that staff did not wash their hands prior to feeding an infant as required.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will ensure liquid soap and warm running water are available for handwashing, train Staff on the handwashing requirements, review the requirements with Staff periodically, and monitor handwashing.

Correction Deadline: 12/18/2025

591-1-1-.20 Medications(CR)**Met****Comment**

Documentation for medication dispensing observed completed on this date.

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

Program observed complete emergency drills

591-1-1-.27 Posted Notices**Met****Comment**

Observed all required posted notices.

591-1-1-.29 Required Reporting**Met****Comment**

Discussed reporting requirements.

591-1-1-.05 Animals

N/A

Comment

Center does not keep animals on premises.

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)

N/A

Comment

Center does not participate in field trips at this time.

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

Not Met

Finding

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 a review of records that six children were not marked loaded and unloaded on afternoon route from Warren Road Elementary to the center on Wednesday November 14, 2025. It was further determined that six children were not marked unloaded on afternoon route from Warren Road Elementary to the Center on Friday, November 7, 2025 as required.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The driver/other designated person will immediately document in writing with a check/mark/symbol each time a child gets on and off the vehicle.

Correction Deadline: 12/19/2025**Sleeping & Resting Equipment****591-1-1-.30 Safe Sleeping and Resting Requirements(CR)**

Technical Assistance

Comment

Discussed SIDS and infant sleeping position.

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.30(1)(a)3 - Please ensure all crib sheets are changed and cleaned on a daily basis as required.

Correction Deadline: 11/18/2025**Staff Records****591-1-1-.09 Criminal Records and Comprehensive Background Checks(CR)**

Met

Correction Deadline: 3/10/2025**Corrected on 11/18/2025**

.09(1)(j) - The previous citation was observed corrected on this date. All current staff that needed to be electronically ported had been electronically ported as required.

591-1-1-.09 Criminal Records Check(CR)

Met

Comment

Criminal records checks were observed to be complete.

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

Met

Comment

At least one staff person with current and valid pediatric first aid and pediatric CPR observed in each classroom where children were present.

Comment

Staff observed to be compliant with applicable laws and regulations.

Staffing and Supervision**Comment**

Center observed to maintain appropriate staff:child ratios.

Comment

Adequate supervision observed on this date.

The following information is associated with a Complaint Investigation Visit:

Health and Hygiene

Correction Deadline: 2/18/2025

Corrected on 11/18/2025

.17(2) - The previous citation was observed corrected on this date. The children were observed to be changed from soiled clothing to clean clothing.