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: 7/30/2026 **VisitType:** Licensing Study **Arrival:** 9:30 AM **Departure:** 6:25 PM

CCLC-50207
Big Blue Marble - Evans Towne Center
7100 Evans Towne Center Blvd Evans, GA 30809 Columbia County
(706) 650-2369

Lead Consultant
Kimberly Stoy
Phone: (470) 882-9829
Fax:
kimberly.stoy@decal.ga.gov
Joint with: Verlyn Blake

Mailing Address
Same

Quality Rated: ★ ★

Compliance Zone Designation		
07/30/2026	Licensing Study	Good Standing
02/03/2026	Monitoring Visit	Good Standing
08/14/2025	TA Follow Up	NA

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.

Data retrieval failed for the subreport, 'RatioCapacity', located at: Koala.Reports.Visits.RDLC.RatioCapacity.rdlc.

Comments
The exit conference was discussed with the Director.

An Affidavit verifying completion of criminal background checks units should be returned completed within five business days and a one-day criminal background check letter was left with the Director on this date.

Plan of Improvement: Developed This Date

CCLC Indicator Manual

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.decal.ga.gov/CCS/RulesAndRegulations.aspx.

Compliance at a Glance

For additional information regarding the full compliance inspection results of this program or any licensed program in the state, access the Child Care Services Compliance-at-a Glance website by scanning this QR code or visiting: https://families.decal.ga.gov.

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.decal.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@decal.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-.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

Records Reviewed: 8 **Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 4**

Child # 3 Not Met

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.08(1)-Parent Names, Work Numbers,.08(3)-Address of Release Person Missing

Child # 5 Not Met

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.08(1)-Parent Names, Work Numbers

Child # 6 Not Met

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.08(3)-Address of Release Person Missing

Child # 8 Not Met

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.08(3)-Address of Release Person Missing

591-1-1-.08 Children's Records **Technical Assistance**

Technical Assistance
591-1-1-.08(1) - Discussed with the Director about ensuring that enrollment forms are completed completely including addresses for emergency release person(s) and parent's work phone numbers.

Correction Deadline: 7/30/2026

Facility

591-1-1-.19 License Capacity(CR) **Met**

Comment
Licensed capacity observed to be met on this date.

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

Technical Assistance
591-1-1-.25(11) - Ensure that the carpet in the Pre-K classroom is clean and in good repair.

Correction Deadline: 8/29/2026

Technical Assistance
591-1-1-.25(3) - Discussed with the Director about replacing the phone outlet and outlet cover in the Pre-K classroom.

Correction Deadline: 7/30/2026

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

Finding
591-1-1-.26(4) requires that playgrounds be protected from traffic or other hazards by a (4) four foot high fence or other barrier approved by this Department. Fencing material shall not present a hazard to children and shall be maintained so as to prevent children from leaving the playground area by any means other than through an approved access route. Fence gates shall be kept closed except when persons are entering or exiting the area. It was determined based on observation that the following fencing hazards were accessible to children:

Back Right Playground:
- There was a three inch gap on the bottom of the fencing on the middle left side of the playground near the drain.

Back Middle Playground:
- There were six bolts protruding more than two threads on the first right panel.
- There were six bolts protruding more than two threads on the left and right side of the gate door.

Back Left Playground:
- There were six bolts protruding more than two threads on first panel of the fencing on the front left corner.
- There were five bolts protruding more than two threads on the gate door on the front left side of the playground.

Front Left Playground:
- There was a three inch gap at the bottom of the wooden fence on the right side of the wooden gate.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
The Center will routinely check the fence to determine if it is in good repair and remains at least 4 feet high, and will repair any hazards. The Center will train Staff to identify and report any fence hazards and to keep the fence gates closed when not in use. The Director will put in a work order to have maintenance cut the bolts on both playgrounds.

Correction Deadline: 8/31/2026

Recited on 7/30/2026

Correction Deadline: 2/13/2026

Corrected on 7/30/2026
.26(9) - The previous citation was observed corrected on this date. The drain cover on the front side of the Left Playground was properly secured.

Food Service

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

Comment
Center menu meets USDA guidelines.

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
Proper diapering procedures observed.

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

Correction Deadline: 2/3/2026

Corrected on 7/30/2026
.17(2) - The previous citation was observed corrected on this date. All staff members cleaned the children's noses as needed.

Correction Deadline: 2/3/2026

Corrected on 7/30/2026
.17(7) - The previous citation was observed corrected on this date. All staff members and children washed their hands correctly on this date.

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

Comment
The Provider currently does not dispense/administer medication.

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) **Not Met**

Comment
Proper field trip documentation and regulations regarding checklists, name tags and permission forms was discussed on this date. Please ensure that staff document if a child leaves with a parent or guardian on all documents.

Finding
591-1-1-.13(2) requires Center Staff to obtain written permission from Parents in advance of the child's participation in any field trip and such permission must be signed and dated by a Parent. It was determined based on a review of records that one out of seventeen children did not have parental permission to attend a field trip on July 9, 2026 to the Columbia County Performing Arts Center.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
Center Staff will have and use a system to obtain written field trip permission in advance and ensure the permission is signed and dated by the responsible person.

Correction Deadline: 7/30/2026

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

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 a review of records that staff #12, #16, and #19 did not have evidence of completing transportation training prior than participating in field trips on June 16, 2026, July 2, 2026, and July 9, 2026,

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: 8/9/2026

Finding
591-1-1-.36(4)(b) requires that the interior of a transportation vehicle be clean, in safe repair and free of hazardous items, objects and/or other non-essential items which could cause injury. It was determined based on observation that glass was accessible in the vehicle due to a broken back window.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
The center will maintain that all transportation vehicles are clean, in safe repair, and free from hazards.

Correction Deadline: 8/4/2026

Finding
591-1-1-.36(7)(c)1 requires that children be listed individually on the passenger transportation checklist using their first and last names. It was determined based on a review of records that two out of seventeen children were not listed on the passenger transportation checklist during a field trip on July 9, 2026 to the Columbia County Performing Arts Center.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
The Center will ensure that each child is listed individually by first and last name on the checklist.

Correction Deadline: 7/31/2026

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 on July 2, 2026 during a field trip to the Augusta Museum of History that staff did not document in writing when children enters or exits the vehicle.

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: 7/31/2026

Sleeping & Resting Equipment

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

Comment
Discussed SIDS and infant sleeping position.

Staff Records

Staff # 2 Not Met
Date of Hire: 03/24/2026
"Missing/Incomplete Components"
.33(3)-Health & Safety Certificate

Staff # 8 Not Met
Date of Hire: 12/02/2025
"Missing/Incomplete Components"
.33(3)-Health & Safety Certificate

Staff # 9 Not Met
Date of Hire: 04/01/2024
"Missing/Incomplete Components"
.33(4)-Food Prep Training Missing 4 hrs.,.33(3)-Health & Safety Certificate

Staff # 11 Not Met
Date of Hire: 08/16/2021
"Missing/Incomplete Components"
.09-Criminal Records Check Missing

Staff # 12 Not Met
Date of Hire: 01/27/2026
"Missing/Incomplete Components"
.36(3)(a-b)-2 hrs. Transportation Training missing

Staff # 16 Not Met
Date of Hire: 07/24/2023
"Missing/Incomplete Components"
.36(3)(a-b)-2 hrs. Transportation Training missing

Staff # 19 Not Met
Date of Hire: 12/08/2025
"Missing/Incomplete Components"
.36(3)(a-b)-2 hrs. Transportation Training missing

Staff # 23 Not Met
Date of Hire: 07/21/2021
"Missing/Incomplete Components"
.33(4)-Food Prep Training Missing 4 hrs.

591-1-1-.09 Criminal Records and Comprehensive Background Checks(CR) **Not Met**

Finding
591-1-1-.09(1)(c) requires the Center to ensure that every Employee has a valid and current satisfactory Comprehensive Records Check Determination on file prior to being present at the Center while any child is present for care or before an individual age 17 or older resides in the Center. The Comprehensive Records Check Determination must have a Records Check Clearance Date that is no older than the preceding 12 months of the hire date; provided, however, if the Employee has had a lapse of employment from the child care industry that lasted for 180 days (6 months) or longer, a new satisfactory Comprehensive Records Check Determination is required. It was determined based on a review of records that staff #11 who was hired on August 16, 2021 was present in Room 7(I) with one other staff member and three school age children without a valid and current satisfactory Comprehensive Records Check Determination on file.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
IMMEDIATE CORRECTION - The Center will to ensure that every Employee has a valid and current satisfactory Comprehensive Records Check Determination on file prior to being present at the Center while any child is present for care or before an individual age 17 or older resides in the Center. The Comprehensive Records Check Determination must have a Records Check Clearance Date that is no older than the preceding 12 months of the hire date; provided, however, if the Employee has had a lapse of employment from the child care industry that lasted for 180 days (6 months) or longer, a new satisfactory Comprehensive Records Check Determination is required. 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 ensure the CRC rules are maintained.

Correction Deadline: 7/30/2026

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 a review of records that staff #20 was present on the infant playground with 3 three-year-old children prior to having their most recently issued Comprehensive Records Check Determination ported to the facility.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
IMMEDIATE CORRECTION - The Center will 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 ensure CRC rules are maintained.

Correction Deadline: 7/30/2026

Finding
591-1-1-.09(1)(l)3. requires the Center to immediately require a new Comprehensive Records Check Determination for a Director, Employee or Provisional Employee at least once every five years. It was determined based on a review of records that staff #11 who was hired on August 16, 2021 was present in Room 7 (I) with one other staff member and three school age children with a background check that had expired on July 26, 2026.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
IMMEDIATE CORRECTION - The Center will ensure that each Director, Employee and Provisional Employee has a Comprehensive Records Check Determination on file that has been issued within the past five years. 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 ensure CRC rules are maintained.

Correction Deadline: 7/30/2026

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
Please replace/add missing/expired item(s) in first aid kit(s).

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

Finding
591-1-1-.33(3)(a)-(k) requires each Staff member with direct care responsibilities to complete health and safety orientation training within the first 90 days of employment. The state-approved training hours obtained will count toward required first year training hours. The training must address the following health and safety topics: a)prevention and control of infectious diseases (including immunizations); b) prevention of sudden infant death syndrome and use of safe sleeping practices; c) administration of medication, consistent with standards for parental consent; d) prevention of and response to emergencies due to food and allergic reactions; e) building and physical premises safety, including identification of and protection from hazards that can cause bodily injury such as electrical hazards, bodies of water, and vehicular traffic; f) prevention of shaken baby syndrome, abusive head trauma and child maltreatment; g) emergency preparedness and response planning for emergencies resulting from a natural disaster or a human-caused event (such as violence at a child care facility); h) handling and storage of hazardous materials and the appropriate disposal of bio contaminants; i) precautions in transporting children; j) recognition and reporting of child abuse and neglect; and k) child development to include all major domains:cognitive; social and emotional; physical development and motor skills; communication, language, and literacy; and approaches to play and learning. It was determined based on a review of records that staff #2 (hired on March, 24, 2026), #8 (hired on December 2, 2025), and #9 (hired on April 1, 2024) did not complete the required health and safety orientation within the first 90 days of being hired.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
The Center will develop and implement a plan to schedule and track this training for all employees based on their hire dates and will ensure that the training includes all required components as required.

Correction Deadline: 8/29/2026

Finding
591-1-1-.33(4) requires within the first year of employment, the Director and person with primary responsibility for food preparation shall have four clock hours of training in food nutrition planning, preparation, serving, proper dish washing and food storage. It was determined based on a review of records that staff #9 and #23 did not have evidence of four hours of nutrition training.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
The Center will schedule food preparation training, as required, and follow up to ensure the training is completed.

Correction Deadline: 8/29/2026

591-1-1-.31 Staff(CR) **Met**

Comment
Discussed that all lead staff must enroll in an approved education program within 6 months of hire and complete degree within 18 months.

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) **Not Met**

Finding
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 observation that 3 three-year-old children were left unsupervised with an independent contractor on the infant playground for approximately 20 minutes during a golf lesson.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
The Center will train Staff and monitor to ensure they are providing supervision and watchful oversight to the children at all times.

Correction Deadline: 7/30/2026