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: 10/16/2025 **VisitType:** Complaint Investigation & Monitoring Visit **Arrival:** 10:15 AM **Departure:** 4:30 PM

CCLC-28448
Discovery Point #59
10136 Carlin Drive Covington, GA 30014 Newton County
(770) 787-9199

Regional Consultant
Jessica Johnson
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Fax:
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Joint with: April Christian

Mailing Address
10136 Carlin Drive
Covington, GA 30014-3603

Quality Rated:

Compliance Zone Designation		
10/16/2025	Complaint Investigation & Monitoring Visit	Good Standing
08/11/2025	Complaint Closure	Good Standing
06/26/2025	Complaint Investigation Follow Up	Good Standing

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.

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/1L Infants		0	0	C	21	C	NA	NA	
Main	B/2LBeginners	Infants and Two Year Olds and Six Year Olds and Over	1	3	C	16	C	NA	NA	Free Play
Main	C /3L Toddlers		0	0	C	20	C	NA	NA	
Main	D/ Cafe'/ Activity		0	0	C	38	C	54	C	
Main	E/ 1R Preschool		0	0	C	23	C	NA	NA	
Main	F/ 2R		0	0	C	27	C	NA	NA	
Main	G/ 3R Preschool 3		0	0	C	24	C	NA	NA	
Main	H/ 4 R		0	0	C	27	C	NA	NA	
Main	I/ 5R School Age		0	0	C	36	C	NA	NA	
		Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 232			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0					
Total # Children this Date: 3		Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 232			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0					

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	A Infants/ Toddlers	27	C
Main	B School Age	84	C
Main	C	66	C

Enrolled Children						
Under 1 years	**1 years**	**2 years**	**3 years**	**4 years**	**5 years (Prekonly)**	**5 years and older**
11	18	33	37	25	6	39

Comments
On this date, Jessica Johnson (JJ), Consultant, reviewed the visit report with Director Sharon Woods.

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.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 techincal 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) **Technical Assistance**

Comment
A variety of equipment and toys were observed throughout the center on this date.

Technical Assistance
591-1-1-.12(2) - Discussed repairing the loose lining on the right side of the fine motor cabinet in classroom C.

Correction Deadline: 10/16/2025

591-1-1-.35 Swimming Pools & Water-related Activities(CR) **Met**

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 on this date.

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

Technical Assistance
591-1-1-.25(13) - Please ensure that potentially hazardous equipment, materials and supplies be stored in a locked area inaccessible to children.

Correction Deadline: 10/16/2025

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

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 six out of 19 tricycles had rust on the handle bars on Playground C. It was further determined that the climbing ladder on Playground B School Age had rust throughout.

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: 10/30/2025

Finding
591-1-1-.26(8) requires climbing and swinging equipment to have a resilient surface beneath the equipment and the fall zone from such equipment must be adequately maintained by the Center to assure continuing resiliency. It was determined based on that the following hazards were observed:

- Four inches of resilient surface were observed near the fire pole when six inches was required.
- Five inches of resilient surface were observed near the both tan slides when six inches was required.
- Four inches of resilient surface were observed near the Ladder when six inches was required.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
The Center will add additional resilient surfacing to the fall zones where needed and check daily, adding resilient surfacing as needed to maintain adequate resiliency.

Correction Deadline: 11/6/2025

Health and Hygiene

591-1-1-.10 Diapering Areas & Practices(CR) **Not Met**

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

Finding
591-1-1-.10(4) requires that if diapers are changed on a diaper changing surface, the surface shall be smooth, nonporous, and equipped with a guard or rails to prevent falls. Between each diaper change, the diaper changing surface shall be cleaned with a disinfectant and dried with a single-use disposable towel. It was determined based on observation that a tear was observed on both side of the diapering pad in classroom E.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
The Center will ensure there is a smooth, nonporous changing surface that has a guard or rails for safety in each classroom that houses children wearing diapers. Center Staff will be trained and have adequate supplies to properly clean the diaper changing surface between each diaper change.

Correction Deadline: 10/16/2025

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

Comment
There were no children enrolled on this date. Proper hand washing of children and staff was discussed with the director on this date.

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

Comment
The Provider currently does not dispense/administer medication.

Policies and Procedures

Technical Assistance
591-1-1-.21(4) - Discussed updating the Center's policies and procedures to include the program's practices regarding the expulsion and suspension of children enrolled for care within the description of behavior management and discipline actions used by the Center.
Also discussed to ensure a description of the practices followed by the Center to prevent shaken baby syndrome and abusive head trauma in children up to five years of age that includes the following information: how to recognize, respond to, and report the signs and symptoms of shaken baby syndrome and abusive head trauma; strategies to assist staff members in understanding how to care for infants and how to cope with a crying, fussing, or distraught child; strategies to ensure staff members understand the brain development of children up to five years of age; and a list of prohibited behaviors when dealing with children.
Additional information can be found in the CCLC Indicator Manual found on DECAL's website at: https://www.decal.ga.gov/CCS/RulesAndRegulations.aspx or through the Center on Shaken Baby Syndrome found at: https://dontshake.org/.

Correction Deadline: 10/21/2025

591-1-1-.29 Required Reporting **Not Met**

Finding
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 a review of records that the Center did not report the temporary closure of the program on October 16, 2025, to the Department within twenty-four (24) hours or the next work day as required.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
The Center will develop a procedure so everyone knows how and when to report these incidents to the Department and will follow-up to make sure they are reported as required.

Correction Deadline: 10/16/2025

Recited on 10/16/2025

Safety

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

Comment
Age-appropriate discussion and/or redirection observed.

591-1-1-.13 Field Trips(CR) **Not Met**

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 parent signature was missing on the following field trip forms Discovery Point #59 to Boost Trampoline Park on July 24, 2025.

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: 10/16/2025

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

Comment
A current/completed inspection was observed for all vehicles used in transporting children this date.

Comment
Complete documentation of transportation observed on this date.

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 #6 did not complete the two hours of state-approved or state-accepted transportation training.

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: 10/26/2025

Sleeping & Resting Equipment

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

Comment
Discussed SIDS and infant sleeping position.

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: 24 **Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 4**

Staff # 2 Not Met

Date of Hire: 05/13/2025

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(3)-Health & Safety Certificate

Staff # 5 Not Met

Date of Hire: 07/14/2025

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(3)-Health & Safety Certificate

Staff # 6 Not Met

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.36(3)(a-b)-2 hrs. Transportation Training missing

Staff # 10 Not Met

Date of Hire: 08/11/2025

Reminder - Health & Safety training is required within 90 calendar days of hired

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.14(2)-CPR missing,.14(2)-First Aid Missing

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

Comment
Criminal record checks were observed to be complete.

591-1-1-.14 First Aid & CPR(CR) **Not Met**

Finding
591-1-1-.14(1)(a) requires all Staff who provide direct care to children must obtain certification in a biennial training program in pediatric cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and a triennial training program in pediatric first aid within the first 45 days of employment. Current and valid evidence of the successful completion of such training shall be maintained on the Center's premises. The hours obtained completing this certification will not count towards the required annual training hours. It was determined based on a review of records that Staff # 10 hired on August 11, 2025 did not complete the biennial training program in pediatric cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and a triennial training program in pediatric first aid within the first 45 days of employment.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
All caregiver Staff will complete the required training. The Director will send copies via email verification of completed CPR/First Aid certification to the Consultant upon completion and will develop a plan to ensure all caregiver Staff have completed this training within the first 45 days of employment and that evidence of successful completion of the training is on file available for inspection.

Correction Deadline: 11/15/2025

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 May 13, 2025 and Staff # 5 hired on July 14, 2025 did not complete health and safety orientation training within the first 90 days of employment

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: 11/15/2025

Technical Assistance
591-1-1-.33(5)(a) - Discussed that effective July 1, 2025, all staff are required to obtain at least two hours in evidence based, developmentally appropriate language and literacy practices and at least two hours in on-going child development and health and safety related topics as part of their 10 hours of annual training.

Correction Deadline: 11/15/2025

Technical Assistance
591-1-1-.33(6) - Discussed that all Employees, including volunteers, independent contractors, students-in-training, etc. should have a completed initial program orientation form on file.

Correction Deadline: 10/26/2025

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) **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 based on observation that children under 3-years- old were housed in the same area as older children on this date.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
The Center will maintain separation of these children under three years old.

Correction Deadline: 10/16/2025

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

Comment
Center observed to maintain appropriate staff:child ratios.