



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: 11/6/2025 **VisitType:** LS POI Follow Up

Arrival: 9:00 AM **Departure:** 2:35 PM

CCLC-61915
KCLC of Varnell
 101 Kids Drive Dalton, GA 30720 Whitfield County
 (706) 259-8662

Enforcement Unit Lead
 Colleen Covey
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 Joint with: Megan OMary

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.
11/06/2025	LS POI Follow Up	Good Standing	
10/03/2025	Incident Investigation Closure	Good Standing	
09/03/2025	Incident 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	Rm A1	One Year Olds	1	5	C	11	C	NA	NA	Floor Play,Outside
Main	Rm F1	One Year Olds	2	4	C	10	C	NA	NA	Circle Time,Free Play
Main	Rm F2	One Year Olds and Two Year Olds	3	7	C	9	C	NA	NA	Story,Centers
Main	Rm H PreK1 Upstairs	GA PreK	2	19	C	21	C	NA	NA	Centers,Circle Time,Story
Main	Rm I Upstairs	Four Year Olds	1	9	C	16	C	NA	NA	Art,Centers
Main	Rm J PreK2 Upstairs	GA PreK	2	16	C	20	C	NA	NA	Circle Time,Story
Main	Rm. A2	Infants and Two Year Olds and Three Year Olds	1	6	C	9	C	NA	NA	Floor Play,Feeding
Main	Rm. B		0	0	C	20	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
Main	Rm. C	One Year Olds and Two Year Olds	1	7	C	12	C	NA	NA	Outside,Transiti oning
Main	Rm. D	Two Year Olds	1	8	C	17	C	NA	NA	Centers,Free Play
Main	Rm.E	Infants	2	9	C	13	C	NA	NA	Nap,Diapering,F eeding
Main	Rm.G	Three Year Olds	1	11	C	24	C	NA	NA	Free Play,Circle Time

Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 182

Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	Playground A	216	C
Main	Playground B	75	C
Main	Playground C	25	C
Main	Playground D	52	C

Comments

Reminders:

- First Aid and CPR: Effective July 1, 2025, new staff are required to obtain pediatric First Aid and pediatric CPR training within 45 days of employment. At least one person in each classroom must have current pediatric and CPR training.
- Please update the center's policies and procedures to include the programs practices regarding the expulsion and suspension of children enrolled for care within the description of behavior management and discipline actions.
- Please ensure a description of practices followed by the center on the prevention of shaking baby syndrome and abusive head trauma in children up to five years of age.
- Effective July 1, 2025, all staff are required to obtain at least two hours in evidence based, developmentally appropriate language and literacy practices at least two hours in on-going child development and health and safety related topics as part of their 10 hours of annual training.

Please be sure to utilize the indicator manual for any clarification needed on rules and regulations. The indicator manual can be found here:
https://www.dec.state.ga.us/documents/attachments/CCLC_IndicatorManual.pdf

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.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!



Summary Report

Date: 11/6/2025 VisitType: LS POI Follow Up

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The following information is associated with a LS POI Follow Up:

Activities and Equipment

591-1-1-.03 Activities

Met

Correction Deadline: 10/20/2025

Corrected on 11/6/2025

.03(9) - The citation was observed to be corrected.

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) - Please ensure straps are being used on high chairs and feeding tables.

Correction Deadline: 11/6/2025

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

N/A

Comment

Center does not provide swimming activities.

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

Finding

591-1-1-.25(13) requires that potentially hazardous equipment, materials and supplies be stored in a locked area inaccessible to children. It was determined based on observation in Rm. C there was an unlocked cabinet with the following hazards present and accessible: Sunscreen, stapler, empty trash bags, empty Ziploc bags, and adult scissors.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will identify all hazardous items and keep them in a locked area inaccessible to children. The Center will inform all Staff about hazardous items and the safe storage of those items.

Correction Deadline: 11/7/2025

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

Not Met

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 observation Playground B did not have resilient surface under the swings, swings are required to have at least 6 inches of resilient surface under each one.

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: 11/16/2025

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 the following hazards were presents:

Playground A had a door and a table propped up against the building. Additionally the PVC pipe on this playground had several cracks and a 7 inch hole with sharp edges.

Playground B and D had black mats underneath the swings that were not flush with the ground causing a tripping hazard.

Playground C had a cracked PVC pipe and active ant hills.

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: 11/6/2025

Health and Hygiene

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

Technical Assistance

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.10(4) - Please ensure all changing pads are free of cracks and tears.

Correction Deadline: 11/6/2025

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

Met

Comment

Proper hand washing observed throughout the center on this date.

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

N/A

Comment

The Provider currently does not dispense/administer medication.

Safety

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

Met

Comment

Age-appropriate discussion and/or redirection observed.

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)

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: 51****Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 1**

Staff # 38

Not Met

Date of Hire: 09/08/2025

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 staff number 38 was missing first aid and CPR training.

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: 12/6/2025**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)****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 in Rm. E staff were not seated within arms length of four infants while they were eating.

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: 11/6/2025