



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: 5/13/2025 VisitType: Monitoring Visit

Arrival: 11:10 AM Departure: 1:30 PM

CCLC-35644

Child Development Center

2701 11th Avenue Columbus, GA 31904 Muscogee County  
(706) 801-9428 BrittanySmith@espcaa.org

Regional Consultant

Penny Svenson

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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. |
|-----------------------------|------------------|---------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 05/13/2025                  | Monitoring Visit | Good Standing |                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| 09/25/2024                  | Licensing Study  | Good Standing |                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| 03/13/2024                  | Licensing Study  | Good Standing |                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| 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     | 1    |                                   | 0     | 0        | C    | 13         | C            | NA         | NA           |                      |
| Main     | 10   |                                   | 0     | 0        | C    | 21         | C            | NA         | NA           |                      |
| Main     | 11   |                                   | 0     | 0        | C    | 16         | C            | NA         | NA           |                      |
| Main     | 12   |                                   | 0     | 0        | C    | 16         | C            | NA         | NA           |                      |
| Main     | 13   |                                   | 0     | 0        | C    | 25         | C            | NA         | NA           |                      |
| Main     | 3    | Three Year Olds                   | 2     | 5        | C    | 13         | C            | NA         | NA           | Circle Time          |
| Main     | 4    | Two Year Olds                     | 3     | 6        | C    | 13         | C            | NA         | NA           | Outside              |
| Main     | 5    |                                   | 0     | 0        | C    | 17         | C            | NA         | NA           |                      |
| Main     | 6    |                                   | 0     | 0        | C    | 17         | C            | NA         | NA           |                      |
| Main     | 7    | Two Year Olds and Three Year Olds | 2     | 5        | C    | 16         | C            | NA         | NA           | Transitioning, Lunch |
| Main     | 8    |                                   | 0     | 0        | C    | 16         | C            | NA         | NA           |                      |
| Main     | 9    |                                   | 0     | 0        | C    | 21         | C            | NA         | NA           |                      |

Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 204

Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0

Total # Children this Date: 16

Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 204

Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0

| Building | Playground | Playground Occupancy | Playground Compliance |
|----------|------------|----------------------|-----------------------|
| Main     | Playground | 69                   | C                     |

| <b>Enrolled Children</b> |                |                |                |                |                           |                          |
|--------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| <b>Under 1 years</b>     | <b>1 years</b> | <b>2 years</b> | <b>3 years</b> | <b>4 years</b> | <b>5 years (Prekonly)</b> | <b>5 years and older</b> |
| 0                        | 1              | 7              | 34             | 59             | 17                        | 0                        |

#### **Comments**

May 13, 2025--The Monitoring Visit was conducted on this date. The findings were discussed with the Director.

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.decga.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.

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#### **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](http://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.

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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:**

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 CAPS/ QR Provisional Status, allowing for scholarships while working toward an initial star rating. Provisional Status eligibility will be determined at the time of CAPS enrollment as part of the CAPS application process.

**Contact the Quality Rated help desk at 855-800-7747 or [qualityrated@decga.gov](mailto:qualityrated@decga.gov) for more information. Free technical assistance is available!**



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**(Findings 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)**

**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.

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

**Technical Assistance**

**Technical Assistance**

The Consultant discussed with the Director to ensure carpets and rugs were cleaned on a regular basis.

**Correction Deadline: 5/13/2025**

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

**Not Met**

**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 there was exposed concrete with rough edges at the first classroom door as you entered the playground used for Early Headstart.

**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: 5/13/2025**

**Food Service**

**Technical Assistance**

The Consultant discussed with the Director that center Personnel shall ensure that children do not have excessive amounts of food in their mouths while eating and are chewing their food appropriately to prevent instances of choking. Children shall always be seated when eating and shall not be allowed to lie down or be put to sleep while food is present in their mouths.

**Correction Deadline: 5/13/2025**

**Technical Assistance**

The Consultant discussed with the Director that food shall be served according to manufacturer's instructions and recommendations. Foods that are associated with young children's choking incidents, such as, but not limited to, peanuts, hot dogs, raw carrots, popcorn, fish with bones, cheese cubes, grapes, and any other food that is of similar shape and size of the trachea/windpipe shall not be served to the children less than four (4) years of age. Children four (4) years of age and older may be served these foods provided that the foods are cut in such a way as to minimize choking. Food shall not be accessible or served to children until it has been chopped, diced, cut or mashed and is appropriate for each child's age and individual eating, chewing and swallowing ability.

**Correction Deadline: 5/13/2025**

**Health and Hygiene**

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

**Comment**

Staff state proper knowledge of diapering procedures.

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

**Comment**

Staff were observed to remind children to wash hands.

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

**Comment**

Documentation for medication dispensing observed complete.

**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)** **Met**

**Comment**

Center does not participate in field trips at this time.

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

**Comment**

Paperwork, checklist, permission forms, annual inspection form and proper check of the vehicle after transportation were discussed with the director.

**Sleeping & Resting Equipment**

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

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|                      |
|----------------------|
| <b>Staff Records</b> |
|----------------------|

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

Criminal record checks were observed to be complete.

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

Staff observed to be compliant with applicable laws and regulations.

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|                                 |
|---------------------------------|
| <b>Staffing and Supervision</b> |
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**591-1-1-.32 Staff:Child Ratios and Group Size(CR)****Met****Comment**

Center observed to maintain appropriate staff:child ratios.

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**591-1-1-.32 Supervision(CR)****Technical Assistance****Technical Assistance**

The Consultant discussed with the Director that children shall 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.

**Correction Deadline: 5/13/2025**