



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: 7/15/2025 **VisitType:** Complaint Investigation & Monitoring Visit

Arrival: 10:00 AM **Departure:** 2:10 PM

CCLC-54295

Cozy Childcare & Learning Center

2731 Tobacco Rd. Hephzibah, GA 30815 Richmond County
(706) 793-5550 cozylearningcenter@gmail.com

Regional Consultant

Christina Jennings

Phone: (404) 463-0970

Fax: (770) 342-3177

christina.jennings@decal.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.
07/15/2025	Complaint Investigation & Monitoring Visit	Good Standing	
09/23/2024	Licensing Study	Good Standing	
06/26/2024	Complaint Closure	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-1st Left (1's&2's)	One Year Olds	2	5	C	24	C	NA	NA	Floor Play
Main	B-2nd Left (Preschool)	Three Year Olds	2	14	C	36	C	NA	NA	Centers
Main	C- Back (PreK-Schoolage)	Four Year Olds and Five Year Olds and Six Year Olds and Over	2	20	C	38	C	NA	NA	Centers
Main	D-2nd Right (1's)	Two Year Olds	1	10	C	31	C	NA	NA	Centers
Main	E-1st Right (Infants)	Infants	1	6	C	14	C	NA	NA	Floor Play,Feeding,Diapering
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 143			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0							
Total # Children this Date: 55			Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 143							
			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0							

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	PG- Left Playgd- 3yrs-12yrs	91	C
Main	PG- Right Playgd- 6wks-2yrs	23	C

Enrolled Children						
Under 1 years	1 years	2 years	3 years	4 years	5 years (Prekonly)	5 years and older
6	7	13	16	0	0	28

Comments

The Consultant reviewed the visit report with the Center 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.dec.al.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@dec.al.ga.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 CI/MV:

Activities and Equipment

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

Not Met

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 the following equipment hazards were accessible to children:

Classroom A:

- Peeling paint on the walls through out the classroom.

Classroom C:

- Chipping paint on the doors of the children's bathrooms.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

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

Correction Deadline: 7/25/2025

Prior Visits: 12/15/2022

Recited on 7/15/2025

Finding

591-1-1-.12(4) requires that equipment and furniture is secured if it is of a weight or mass that could cause injury from tipping, falling, or being pulled or pushed over. It was determined based on observation that the following tipping hazards were observed and accessible to children:

Classroom A:

- 19 nap mats were stacked against the front left corner of the classroom.

Classroom B:

- 24 cots were stacked against the wall on the right side of the classroom.
- A grey storage cabinet was not properly secured on the left side of the classroom door.

Classroom C:

- 22 stacked nap mats were stacked on top of a blue sand table of the back right side of the classroom.
- 24 blue cots were stacked on top of each other on the back right side of the classroom.

Classroom D:

- A grey storage cabinet was not properly secured on the back left corner of the classroom.
- 22 stacked nap mats were stacked against the wall on the front right corner of the classroom.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will ensure that the identified equipment or furniture and any other such existing or future items are secured adequately and will have a system for checking these for stability.

Correction Deadline: 7/18/2025

Prior Visits: 09/23/2024

Recited on 7/15/2025

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

Not Met

Finding

591-1-1-.06(4) requires a Center first licensed after March 1, 1991, and Centers that remodel or add to existing plumbing facilities, to have the bathroom area fully enclosed and ventilated to the outside of the building with either an open screened window or functioning exhaust fan and duct system and requires Centers without fully enclosed bathrooms to ensure there is adequate ventilation to control odors and adequate sanitation measures to prevent the spread of contagious diseases. It was determined based on observation that the exhaust fans were not free of dust and prevented the exhaust fans to operate properly in two out of two children's bathrooms in Classroom C. It was further determined that the exhaust fan were not properly functioning over the diaper changing table in Classroom A and Classroom D.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will fully enclose and ventilate bathroom areas, as required, and will provide adequate ventilation and sanitation in bathrooms that are not fully enclosed.

Correction Deadline: 7/25/2025

Prior Visits: 09/23/2024

Recited on 7/15/2025

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

Met

Comment

Licensed capacity observed to be routinely met by center on this date.

Finding

591-1-1-.25(11) requires that floor coverings be tight, smooth, free of odors and washable or cleanable. It was determined based upon observation that the flooring was cracked causing a section of the cement to be exposed in front of the bathroom on the right side of Classroom D. It was further determined that the flooring was cracked causing the flooring to not be tight and smooth on the back right side of Classroom C.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

Floors will be maintained to be safe and sanitary.

Correction Deadline: 7/25/2025

Prior Visits: 09/23/2024

Recited on 7/15/2025

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 that the following hazards were accessible to children:

Classroom B:

- One pack of vinyl gloves on top of the children's cubbies on the back right side of the classroom.
- A black stapler on top of the children's cubbies on the back right side of the classroom.
- Tombow correction tap on top of the children's cubbies on the back right side of the classroom.
- A pack of staples and metal paper clips on top of the children's cubbies on the back right side of the classroom.
- Two grocery bags in an unlocked grey storage cabinet on the left side of the classroom door.
- One plastic back in a child's cubby that had a manufacture labeled "Keep out of reach of children".

Classroom D:

- Three tubes of diapering cream and three packs of Pampers baby wipes in a container on the counter of the children's handwashing sink.
- Five opened plastic bags that contained diapers in an unlocked cabinet under the children's handwashing sink.
- White plastic trash bags and one box of vinyl gloves in an unlocked drawer of the diapering changing station.
- A stapler and one box of staples unlocked grey storage cabinet on the left back side of the classroom.
- A can of Wizard air freshener on the shelf in the children's bathroom.
- One toilet scrub brush in an unlocked cabinet under the sink in the children's bathroom.

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: 7/15/2025

Prior Visits: 02/28/2023

Finding

591-1-1-.25(3) requires the Center and surrounding premises to be kept clean, free of debris and in good repair. Hygienic measures such as, but not limited to, screened windows and proper waste disposal procedures shall be utilized to minimize the presence of rodents, flies, roaches and other vermin at the Center. It was determined based on observation that the following repairs were needed and accessible to children:

Classroom B:

- The metal drain in the bowl of the children's water fountain was cracked and had sharp, rusted, exposed edges.
- One of the metal clips on the corner of the return vent under the bulletin board was not properly secured and had an exposed sharp edge on the left side of the classroom.

Classroom D

- The return vent had a thick layer of a dark colored dust and was rusted on the right side of the classroom door.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will have the Center and surrounding areas cleaned, make repairs where needed, and remove all debris is removed. The Center will implement a plan to keep areas clean and in good repair that includes regular monitoring.

Correction Deadline: 7/15/2025

Prior Visits: 03/13/2024

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:

Right Playground:

- The front right side of the fencing that was facing the main road measured two feet and five inches when at least four-feet in height was required.
- The front back corner of the fencing that was facing the main road measured two feet and five inches when at least four-feet in height was required.
- The middle of the fencing that was facing the main road measured three feet and five inches when at least four-feet in height was required.

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.

Correction Deadline: 7/31/2025**Prior Visits: 02/28/2023****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 the following hazards were accessible to children:

Right Playground:

- The seat of a blue child sized chair was cracked with sharp edges exposed.

Left Playground:

- Three picnic tables were missing six out of 12 seats.
- A tricycle connected to the red merry go round was missing a wheel and two out of two pedals causing the tricycle and merry go round to not properly function.

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: 7/31/2025**Prior Visits: 02/28/2023****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 that one half inch of sand was measured in the fall zones of the large play structure on the Left Playground when six inches of resilient surfacing 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: 7/31/2025

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 playground hazards were accessible to children:

Right Playground:

- Exposed sharp edges of concrete on the base of the fencing on the back right side of the playground.

Left Playground:

- The ground was eroding on the bottom right side of the playground 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: 7/25/2025

Prior Visits: 02/28/2023

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.

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

Not Met

Finding

591-1-1-17(7) requires that children wash their hands with liquid soap and warm running water upon arrival for care, when moving from one child care group to another, upon re-entering the child care area after outside play, before and after eating meals and snacks, handling or touching food, playing in water; after toileting and diapering, playing in sand, touching animals or pets, and contact with bodily fluids and after contamination by any other means. It was determined based upon observation that an infants hands were not immediately washed with liquid soap and warm running water after diapering in Classroom E.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will train Staff on required handwashing for children and Staff will ensure children's hands are washed when required. The Director will monitor for compliance.

Correction Deadline: 7/15/2025

Prior Visits: 02/28/2023

Recited on 7/15/2025

Correction Deadline: 9/23/2024

Prior Visits: 09/23/2024

Corrected on 7/15/2025

.17(8) - Previous citation observed to be corrected in that the Consultant observed Center Staff to wash their hands their hands with liquid soap and warm running water after diapering in Classroom E.

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-.36 Transportation(CR)**Not Met****Finding**

591-1-1-.36(7)(d)2. requires that the second designated Staff person conduct a check of the vehicle immediately upon the completion of the first check of the vehicle. The responsible person shall physically walk through the entire vehicle; visually inspect all seat surfaces, under all seats and in all compartments or recesses in the vehicle's interior; and sign the passenger transportation checklist(s), indicating all of the children have exited the vehicle. There shall be continuous watchful oversight of the vehicle between the first check and second check. It was determined [].

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will train Staff who are or may be involved in transporting children in how to thoroughly inspect a vehicle and properly complete transportation documentation. The Center will review and monitor.

Correction Deadline: 7/15/2025**Prior Visits: 12/28/2023**

Sleeping & Resting Equipment

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

Discussed SIDS and infant sleeping position.

Staff Records

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(2)(b) requires that there must always be one staff person present in each classroom where children are present that has current and valid pediatric cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and pediatric first aid training. It was determined based on a review of records that the staff member in Classroom D did not have evidence of a current and valid pediatric cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and pediatric first aid training while ten 2-year-old children were present.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Director will schedule and/or position caregiver Staff throughout the Center to ensure at least one currently pediatric CPR and First Aid trained Staff person is present in each classroom where children are present.

Correction Deadline: 7/15/2025

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.

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 a staff member was not seated and within arm's length away from ten 2-year-old children while eating lunch in Classroom D. The staff member was observed to be lying out the children's nap mats out.

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: 7/15/2025**Prior Visits: 02/28/2023**