**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:** 3/5/2025 **VisitType:** Licensing Study **Arrival:** 10:55 AM **Departure:** 4:00 PM

**CCLC-39267**
**Childcare of Excellence**
3350 Old Louisville Road Augusta, GA 30906 Richmond County
(706) 284-8455 al2007evon@yahoo.com

Regional Consultant
Evon Hewitt
Phone: ()
Fax:
evon.hewitt@decal.ga.gov
Joint with: Kaycee Purvis

**Mailing Address**
Same

Quality Rated: ★ ★

| Compliance Zone Designation | | |
|---|---|---|
| 03/05/2025 | Licensing Study | Good Standing |
| 08/07/2024 | Monitoring Visit | Good Standing |
| 02/01/2024 | Licensing Study | 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 | Main | Infants and One Year Olds and Two Year Olds | 1 | 3 | C | 12 | C | NA | NA | Floor Play |
| Main | Upstairs | Three Year Olds and Five Year Olds and Six Year Olds and Over | 1 | 4 | C | 10 | C | NA | NA | Centers |
| | | Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 22 | | | Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0 | | | | | |
| Total # Children this Date: 7 | | Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 22 | | | Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0 | | | | | |

| Building | Playground | Playground Occupancy | Playground Compliance |
|---|---|---|---|
| Main | Main-Play Yard | 73 | C |

**Enrolled Children**

| Under 1 years | 1 years | 2 years | 3 years | 4 years | 5 years (Prekonly) | 5 years and older |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2 | 3 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 0 | 4 |

**Comments**
The purpose of this visit was a Licensing Study.

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.

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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 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:

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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**(Findings Report)**

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**The following information is associated with a LS:**

## Activities and Equipment

**Records Reviewed: 3** **Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 1**

Staff # 1 Not Met

Date of Hire: 08/03/2021

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training

**591-1-1-.03 Activities** **Technical Assistance**

**Technical Assistance**
591-1-1-.03(2) - requires the Center to keep current lesson plans on site that reflect appropriate instruction practices and activities to support children's development The Center shall have sufficient and varied play and learning equipment and materials to support the above program of activities in all developmental areas. Please ensure that each classroom has a current lesson plan on site that reflects appropriate instruction practices and activities to support children's development

**Correction Deadline: 3/5/2025**

**591-1-1-.12 Equipment & Toys(CR)** **Not Met**

**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 there was an unsecured wooden bookshelf on the front left of classroom Upstairs which posed a potential tipping hazard.

**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: 3/5/2025**

**591-1-1-.35 Swimming Pools & Water-related Activities(CR)** **N/A**

**Comment**
Center does not provide swimming activities.

## Children's Records

| Records Reviewed: 3 | Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 1 |
|---|---|

Staff # 1 Not Met

Date of Hire: 08/03/2021

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training

**591-1-1-.08 Children's Records** **Met**

**Comment**
Records were observed to be complete and well organized.

## Facility

| Records Reviewed: 3 | Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 1 |
|---|---|

Staff # 1 Not Met

Date of Hire: 08/03/2021

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training

**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.

**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 that the following hazards were accessible to children on this date:

Upstairs
-There was an unsecured metal pole and wooden shovel handle behind the door.

Upstairs bathroom
-There was a toilet brush to the left of the toilet.

Main Bathroom
- There was a toilet brush inside the bathtub.
-There was a plunger inside the bathtub.

**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: 3/5/2025** **Prior Visits: 02/01/2024**

**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 was observed:

Main
- The door leading to the playground was unhinged at the bottom left with two exposed screws.

Back Porch
-The wooden flooring had several loose floor boards with three protruding nails which posed a potential tripping hazard.
-The large metal industrial fan to the left of the playground door was rusted with chipping paint.
-There were several loose wooden fence spindles at the top and one missing spindle at the bottom of the porch ramp.
-There was splintering wood with sharp edges at the base of the wooden porch ramp.
-The lattice fencing underneath the porch had sharp wooden openings at the left middle and right sides measuring six inches by one foot, eight inches by one foot, and one foot by one foot four inches.

Main Bathroom
-Portions of the flooring were secured in place with rusted staples.
-The foot pedal of the trash can was broken with a protruding metal spoke.

Kitchen
- The first left cabinet below the sink had cob webs.

**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: 4/7/2025** **Prior Visits: 02/03/2022**

**Recited on 3/5/2025**

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**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 a portion of the back right fencing was leaning away from the playground. It was further determined that the back right farm fencing measured three feet and one inch when four feet was required. It was also determined that there was a seven inch by four inch gap from the ground up at the back right fence which posed an entrapment hazard.

**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: 4/7/2025** **Prior Visits: 02/01/2024**

**Recited on 3/5/2025**

**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 gray playground equipment had a two and one half inch crack with sharp corners. It was further determined that the orange and red playground equipment was partially assembled with a missing slide and standing platform which could pose a significant safety hazard to children. It was also determined that the second picnic table was missing the middle wooden slat on top of the table.

**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: 4/7/2025** **Prior Visits: 02/01/2024**

**Recited on 3/5/2025**

**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 observed on this date:

- Thorny vines and branches were located on the left, back, and right sides of the farm fencing.
- Ants were observed crawling on the stationary play equipment.
- Three mushrooms were located on the back right and back middle side of the playground.

**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: 4/7/2025** **Prior Visits: 02/03/2022**

**Recited on 3/5/2025**

## Health and Hygiene

**Records Reviewed: 3** **Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 1**

Staff # 1 Not Met

Date of Hire: 08/03/2021

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training

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

**Comment**
Staff state proper knowledge of diapering procedures.

**591-1-1-.17 Hygiene(CR)** **Technical Assistance**

**Comment**
The Consultant discussed proper handwashing procedures with staff.

**Technical Assistance**
591-1-1-.17(1) - requires that bathtubs and showers be cleaned with a disinfectant after each use. Please ensure that bathtubs are cleaned as required.

**Correction Deadline: 3/5/2025**

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

**Comment**
The Provider currently does not dispense/administer medication.

## Policies and Procedures

**Records Reviewed: 3** **Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 1**

Staff # 1 Not Met

Date of Hire: 08/03/2021

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training

**591-1-1-.21 Operational Policies & Procedures** **Technical Assistance**

**Technical Assistance**
591-1-1-.21(3) - requires that the Center conduct drills for fire, tornado and other emergency situations. The fire drills will be conducted monthly and tornado and other emergency situation drills will be conducted every six months. The Center shall maintain documentation of the dates and times of these drills for two years. Please ensure that all emergency drills are conducted and documented as required.

**Correction Deadline: 3/10/2025**

## Safety

**Records Reviewed: 3** **Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 1**

Staff # 1 Not Met

Date of Hire: 08/03/2021

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training

**591-1-1-.05 Animals** **N/A**

**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)** **N/A**

**Comment**
Center does not participate in field trips at this time.

**591-1-1-.36 Transportation(CR)** **Technical Assistance**

**Comment**
Complete documentation of transportation observed.

**Technical Assistance**
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. Please ensure that the interior of the transportation vehicle is clean, in safe repair and free of hazardous items,

**Correction Deadline: 3/6/2025**

## Sleeping & Resting Equipment

**Records Reviewed: 3** **Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 1**

Staff # 1 Not Met

Date of Hire: 08/03/2021

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training

**591-1-1-.30 Safe Sleeping and Resting Requirements(CR)** **Not Met**

**Finding**
591-1-1-.30(1)(a)3 requires that each crib shall have only an individual, tight-fitting sheet which is changed daily or more often as needed and prior to a change of occupant. It was determined based on observation that three out of three crib sheets in classroom Main were not tight-fitting as required.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**
The center will ensure that each crib has an individual, tight-fitting sheet which is changed daily or more often as needed and prior to a change of occupant.

**Correction Deadline: 3/5/2025** **Prior Visits: 02/03/2022**

## Staff Records

**Records Reviewed: 3** **Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 1**

Staff # 1 Not Met

Date of Hire: 08/03/2021

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training

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

**Comment**
Criminal record checks were observed to be complete.

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

**Finding**
91-1-1-.33(5) requires that every calendar year after the first year of employment, all supervisory and caregiver Personnel, except independent contractors, Students-in-Training and volunteers shall attend ten (10) clock hours of diverse training which is task-focused in on-going health, safety and early childhood or child development related topics and which is offered by an accredited college, university or vocational program or other Department-approved source. The annual ten (10) clock hours of training shall be chosen from the following fields: child development, including discipline, guidance, nutrition, injury control and safety; health, including sanitation, disease control, cleanliness, detection and disposition of illness; child abuse and neglect, including identification and reporting, and meeting the needs of abused and/or neglected children; and business related topics, including parental communication, recordkeeping, etc.; provided however that such business related training shall be limited to no more than two (2) of the required ten (10) clock hours of training. Records of completion of such training shall be maintained, as required by these rules. It was determined based on observation that Staff #1 did not have evidence of completing ten hours of annual training for the 2024 calendar year.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**
The Center will plan and schedule the required 10 hours of annual training each year and follow up to ensure the training is completed.

**Correction Deadline: 12/31/2025**

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

**Comment**
Staff observed to be compliant with applicable laws and regulations.

## Staffing and Supervision

**Records Reviewed: 3** **Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 1**

Staff # 1 Not Met

Date of Hire: 08/03/2021

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training

**591-1-1-.32 Staff:Child Ratios and Group Size(CR)** **Met**

**Comment**
Center observed to maintain appropriate staff:child ratios.

**Correction Deadline: 8/7/2024** **Prior Visits: 02/01/2024**

**Corrected on 3/5/2025**
**.32(4) - Previous citation corrected in that the Consultants observed the Provider to care for three children under three and three children three and older in two separate rooms as required.**

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

**Comment**
Adequate supervision observed on this date.