



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: 9/29/2025 **VisitType:** Monitoring Visit

Arrival: 8:45 AM **Departure:** 12:30 PM

CCLC-53322
Big Blue Marble Academy
 2773 Hwy 81 McDonough, GA 30252 Henry County
 (770) 305-7042

Regional Consultant
 Brandi Mangino
 Phone: (478) 314-9726
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 brandi.mangino@dec.al.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.
09/29/2025	Monitoring Visit	Deficient	
03/04/2025	Complaint Closure	Good Standing	
02/26/2025	Complaint Investigation & Licensing Study POI 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	A : 1 R : Toddlers		0	0	C	16	C	NA	NA	
Main	B : 2/3 R: Infants & Toddlers	Infants	1	6	C	18	C	NA	NA	Floor Play,Feeding
Main	C: 4R: 2 year olds	Two Year Olds	1	9	C	17	C	NA	NA	Free Play
Main	D : 5R:	Two Year Olds	1	6	C	21	C	NA	NA	Free Play
Main	E: 6R: Two year olds		0	0	C	16	C	NA	NA	
Main	F: Back: Afterschool		0	0	C	59	C	NA	NA	
Main	G: 5L: Three year olds	Three Year Olds	1	13	C	16	C	NA	NA	Circle Time
Main	H : 4L: Three year olds	Three Year Olds	1	9	C	16	C	NA	NA	Centers
Main	I: 3L : Four year olds	Four Year Olds	1	15	C	19	C	NA	NA	Centers
Main	J : 2L : Four year olds	One Year Olds and Two Year Olds	1	8	C	19	C	NA	NA	Diapering,Free Play
Main	K: 1L : Pre-K	GA PreK	2	20	C	19	NC	NA	NA	Centers
		Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 216			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0		Building @35 capacity limited by Fire Marshall Limitations			
Total # Children this Date: 86		Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 216			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0					

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	A - Infants & toddlers	44	C
Main	B - Two years old	86	C
Main	C - Four - 12 years old	123	C

Main	D - Four - 12 years old	72	C
Main	E - Three years old	74	C

Enrolled Children						
Under 1 years	1 years	2 years	3 years	4 years	5 years (Prekonly)	5 years and older
9	12	34	25	36	0	37

Comments

The purpose of this visit was to conduct a Monitoring Visit.

- The CCS Consultant discussed and left a copy of the updated Child Care Weather Watch Chart with the program today. Weather does not permit outdoor play when there is active precipitation or when weather advisories are in effect. Consult the Child Care Weather Watch Chart resource for further guidance, considering specific weather conditions.

Plan of Improvement: To Be Submitted 10/14/2025

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!



Summary Report

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The following information is associated with a Monitoring Visit:

Activities and Equipment

591-1-1-.03 Activities

Not Met

Finding

591-1-1-.03(7)(a) requires a center that operates five hours or more per day to provide at least one and one-half hours of outdoor activity per day, weather permitting, for each child who is not an infant and at least one hour daily for infants. It was determined based on a review of records that Room C and Room D were scheduled to go outside from 9 a.m. until 9:45 a.m. as of 9:30 a.m. the classes had not gone outside, and no changes were made to the schedule for the morning outside time as the classes did not go outside during the duration of the visit. Weather was sunny and 73 degrees.

Correction Deadline: 9/29/2025

Recited on 9/29/2025

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

Technical Assistance

Technical Assistance

Consultant discussed the blue couch in Room K needed to be repaired due to exposed form. In addition free standing wooden shelves needed to be secured due to a potential tipping hazard.

Correction Deadline: 9/29/2025

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

N/A

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.

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 needed repair:

- ceiling in the restroom in Room H due to stains and chipped paint
 - baseboards near the exit door of Room G due to chipped paint and not being secured to the wall
 - restroom light in Room G due to not being in working order
-
-
-
-
-
-

Correction Deadline: 10/6/2025

Recited on 9/29/2025

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

Consultant discussed the front left side swings needs to be painted due to rust.

Correction Deadline: 9/29/2025

Food Service**591-1-1-.15 Food Service & Nutrition****Not Met****Finding**

591-1-1-.15(4) requires that a feeding chair or similar equipment designed for feeding children shall be provided for the use of each child being fed who is capable of sitting up but who is unable to sit unassisted at a table and must be cleaned with a disinfectant after each use. Such chair or similar equipment shall have a broad base to prevent tipping, a surface that the child cannot raise, a strap or other device which prevents the child from sliding out of the chair, and a feeding surface free of cracks. It was determined based on observation that an infant was sitting in the floor on Room B with a bottle and not provided a feeding chair.

Correction Deadline: 9/29/2025

591-1-1-.18 Kitchen Operations**Not Met****Finding**

591-1-1-.18(8) requires that containers of food be stored above the floor on clean surfaces protected from splash and other contamination. Containers for food storage other than the original container or package in which the food was obtained shall be impervious and non-absorbent, have tight-fitting lids or covers and labeled as to contents. It was determined based on observation that frozen items in the pantry refrigerator were not in the original container and not labeled.

Correction Deadline: 9/29/2025

Recited on 9/29/2025

Health and Hygiene

591-1-1-.07 Children's Health

Not Met

Finding

591-1-1-.07(5) requires Center Staff to not permit children to wear around their necks or attach to their clothing pacifier or other hazardous items. It was determined based on observation that two infant in Room B had pacifier clips attached to their clothes.

Correction Deadline: 9/29/2025

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

Not Met

Finding

591-1-1-.10(2) requires Centers first licensed after March 1, 1991, and Centers that renovate existing plumbing facilities, to have a hand washing sink with running heated water located adjacent to the diapering area. Flush sinks shall not be used for hand washing. Cleansing procedures in other facilities shall be approved by the Department. It was determined based on observation that Room C added a new diapering station that was across the room from the original and no diapering sink was adjacent.

Correction Deadline: 9/29/2025

Recited on 9/29/2025

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 on observation that a one-year-old child was not required to wash hands after diapering.

Correction Deadline: 9/29/2025

Finding

591-1-1-.17(8) requires staff to wash their hands with liquid soap and warm running water upon arrival for the day, when moving from one child care group to another, upon re-entering the child care area after outside play, before and after diapering each child, dispensing medication, applying topical medications, handling and preparing food, eating, drinking, preparing bottles, feeding each child, assisting children with eating and drinking, after toileting or assisting children with toileting, using tobacco products, handling garbage and organic waste, touching animals or pets, handling bodily fluids and after contamination by any means. It was determined based on observation that in Room B a staff member cleaned a child's nose while holding the baby to feed them without washing hands after. It was further determined, that in Room J a staff member did not wash hands before or after diapering.

Correction Deadline: 9/29/2025

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

N/A

Comment

The Provider currently does not dispense/administer medication.

Policies and Procedures

591-1-1-.21 Operational Policies & Procedures

Technical Assistance

Technical Assistance

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.dec.state.ga.us/CCS/Regulations.aspx> or through the Center on Shaken Baby Syndrome found at: <https://dontshake.org/>.

Correction Deadline: 10/4/2025

Safety

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

Met

Comment

Age-appropriate discussion and/or redirection observed.

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

Not Met

Technical Assistance

Consultant discussed the emergency medical forms need to be filled out to their entirety.

Correction Deadline: 10/4/2025

Finding

591-1-1-.36(7)(c)3. requires that the driver or other designated person document in writing the date and time of arrival and departure each time the vehicle departs from the Center, is loaded or unloaded at each school and when the vehicle returns to the Center; each time the vehicle departs from the Center, arrives at the location where any child is picked up or dropped off and when the vehicle returns to the Center; each time the vehicle leaves the Center, arrives at a field trip destination, leaves a field trip destination, and returns to the Center. It was determined on a review of records that on September 26, 2025, no times were listed for afternoon transportation to New Hope.

Correction Deadline: 9/30/2025

Correction Deadline: 2/26/2025

Corrected on 9/29/2025

.36(7)(d)2. - Citation observed to be corrected based on reviewed forms.

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.

Correction Deadline: 2/26/2025

Corrected on 9/29/2025

.30(2) - Citation corrected. Staff stated proper procedures.

Correction Deadline: 2/26/2025

Corrected on 9/29/2025

.30(4) - Citation observed to be corrected all cots were observed to be covered.

Staff Records

Records Reviewed: 21

Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 5

Staff # 1

Not Met

Date of Hire: 03/20/2025

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(3)-Health & Safety Certificate

Staff # 7 Not Met

Date of Hire: 02/25/2025

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(3)-Health & Safety Certificate

Staff # 9 Not Met

Date of Hire: 05/13/2025

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(3)-Health & Safety Certificate

Staff # 10 Not Met

Date of Hire: 02/24/2025

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.14(2)-First Aid Missing,.14(2)-CPR missing,.33(3)-Health & Safety Certificate

Staff # 16 Not Met

Date of Hire: 03/27/2025

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(3)-Health & Safety Certificate

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 member #12 was over 45 days of hire and did not have first aid and CPR.

Correction Deadline: 10/29/2025

Technical Assistance

Discussed that effective July 1, 2025, new staff are required to obtain pediatric First Aid and pediatric CPR training within 45 days of employment. It was further discussed that programs must have at least one person with current pediatric First Aid and pediatric CPR training in each classroom at all times.

Correction Deadline: 10/9/2025

591-1-1-.33 Staff Training

Not Met

Technical Assistance

: Discussed that all Employees, including volunteers, independent contractors, students-in-training, etc. should have a completed initial program orientation form on file.

Correction Deadline: 9/30/2025

Technical Assistance

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: 9/30/2025

Finding

591-1-1-.33(3) 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: prevention and control of infectious diseases (including immunizations); prevention of sudden infant death syndrome and use of safe sleeping practices; administration of medication, consistent with standards for parental consent; prevention of and response to emergencies due to food and allergic reactions; 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; prevention of shaken baby syndrome, abusive head trauma and child maltreatment; 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); handling and storage of hazardous materials and the appropriate disposal of bio contaminants; precautions in transporting children; recognition and reporting of child abuse and neglect; and child development. It was determined based on a review of records staff members (#1, #9, #11, #12 and #18) did not complete the 10 hour health and safety training within the first 90 days of employment as required.

Correction Deadline: 10/6/2025

Recited on 9/29/2025

Defer

591-1-1-.33(5)-Citation will be deferred until the first regulatory visit of 2026 as staff have until December 31, 2025 to complete annual training for the 2025 year.

Correction Deadline: 3/28/2025

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

Not Met

Finding

591-1-1-.31(2)(c) requires the Center to maintain a copy and/or written verification of the credential or degree awarded to the lead teacher that is required by these rules in the lead teacher's file, to make the document available for inspection and to provide the document to Department staff upon request. It was determined based on a review of records that six of nine classrooms did not have a lead teacher.

Correction Deadline: 9/29/2025

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, mealtime, 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 in Room B an infant was drinking a bottle on the floor and the staff member was at the sink cleaning bottles with her back turned.

Correction Deadline: 9/29/2025

