



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: 5/28/2025 **VisitType:** Complaint Investigation Follow Up **Arrival:** 9:00 AM **Departure:** 11:30 AM

CCLC-47908

The Preferred Choice

214 N. 13th Street Griffin, GA 30223 Spalding County
(770) 233-8984 admin@thepreferredchoice.com

Regional Consultant

Brandi Mangino

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brandi.mangino@decal.ga.gov

Mailing Address

Same

Quality Rated: ★ ★

<u>Compliance Zone Designation</u>			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.
05/28/2025	Complaint Investigation Follow Up	Good Standing	
02/24/2025	Licensing Study	Good Standing	
10/31/2024	Monitoring Visit	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- BL	One Year Olds	1	5	C	7	C	NA	NA	Floor Play
Main	B- BR	One Year Olds	1	5	C	6	C	NA	NA	Centers
Main	C- 2R	Two Year Olds	1	3	C	7	C	NA	NA	Centers
Main	D- 1R	Four Year Olds	1	6	C	12	C	17	C	Centers
Main	E- 1L		0	0	C	8	C	11	C	
Main	F- Front Far Righ		0	0	C	4	C	NA	NA	

Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 44

Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 52

Total # Children this Date: 19

Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 44

Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 52

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	A	126	C

Comments

Plan developed on this date.

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.

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 user id 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:

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 1 855-800-7747 or qualityrated@decal.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 Complaint Investigation Follow Up:

Facility

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

Met

Correction Deadline: 2/24/2025

Corrected on 5/28/2025

.25(13) - Citation corrected. Consultant discussed ensuring the locks on doors remained locked and locks on desk drawer.

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

Met

Correction Deadline: 2/24/2025

Corrected on 5/28/2025

.26(9) - Citation observed to be corrected as corrections were made.

Food Service

591-1-1-.15 Food Service & Nutrition

Met

Correction Deadline: 2/24/2025

Corrected on 5/28/2025

.15(7) - Citation corrected. 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 older than four (4) years of age 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.

Policies and Procedures

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

Met

Correction Deadline: 3/1/2025

Corrected on 5/28/2025

.21(3) - Citation observed to be corrected.

Safety

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

Not Met

Finding

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. It was determined based on observation that buses ending in AJK and 9525 each had two seats that were observed to be taped and in need of repair.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The center will maintain that all transportation vehicles are clean, in safe repair, and free from hazards.

Correction Deadline: 6/30/2025

Recited on 5/28/2025

Staff Records

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

Met

Correction Deadline: 2/24/2025

Corrected on 5/28/2025

.09(1)(a) - Citation corrected as background check was completed and the center director stated that no new staff had been hired since the last visit.

Correction Deadline: 2/24/2025

Corrected on 5/28/2025

Citation corrected as background check was completed and the center director stated that no new staff had been hired since the last visit..09(1)(c) -

Staffing and Supervision

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

Met

Correction Deadline: 2/24/2025

Corrected on 5/28/2025

.32(4) - Citation observed to be corrected as the classes were separated as needed.

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

Met

Correction Deadline: 2/24/2025

Corrected on 5/28/2025

.32(7) - Citation observed to be corrected as appropriate supervision was observed.