



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: 12/16/2025 VisitType: Licensing Study

Arrival: 9:00 AM Departure: 12:30 PM

CCLC-2289

Bessie's Child Care

1842 Wrightsboro Road Augusta, GA 30904 Richmond County
(706) 481-9968

Regional Consultant

April Christian

Phone: ()

Fax:

april.christian@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.
12/16/2025	Licensing Study	Good Standing	
04/02/2025	Complaint Closure	Good Standing	
04/02/2025	Complaint Investigation & Monitoring Visit	Support	
			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

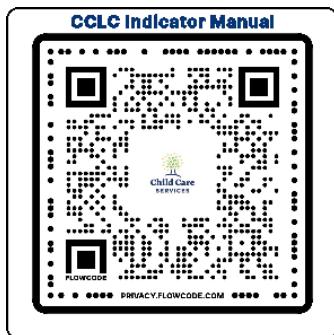
Building	Room	Age Group	Staff	Children	NC/C	Max 35 SF.	35 SF. Comp.	Max 25 SF.	25 SF. Comp.	Notes
I	A - 1st Right	One Year Olds	2	6	C	15	C	NA	NA	Free Play
I	B - 2nd Right	Infants and One Year Olds	1	3	C	5	C	NA	NA	Free Play
I	C - 1st Left	GA PreK	1	5	C	32	C	NA	NA	Art
I	D - 2nd Left	Three Year Olds	1	7	C	12	C	NA	NA	Free Play,Centers
I	E - 3rd Left		0	0	C	44	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
			Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 108			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0				
II	F - Left Side	Two Year Olds	1	6	C	12	C	NA	NA	Art
II	G - Right Side	Three Year Olds	1	5	C	14	C	NA	NA	Art,Free Play
			Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 26			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0				
Total # Children this Date: 32			Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 134			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0				

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
----------	------------	----------------------	-----------------------

Enrolled Children						
Under 1 years	1 years	2 years	3 years	4 years	5 years (Prekonly)	5 years and older
3	8	7	10	0	7	34

Comments

The findings of this report were reviewed with the Director on this date.



For additional information regarding any licensing topics discussed during this visit, please consult the Rules and Regulations Indicator Manual. This manual provides comprehensive clarification of each rule, including evaluation indicators, related best practices, and relevant considerations to support your program's continued and sustained compliance.

To access the Indicator Manual, please scan the QR code below or visit our website at <https://www.dec.al.ga.gov/CCS/RulesAndRegulations.aspx>.

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!



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

Summary Report

Date: 12/16/2025 **VisitType:** Licensing Study

Arrival: 9:00 AM **Departure:** 12:30 PM

CCLC-2289

Bessie's Child Care

1842 Wrightsboro Road Augusta, GA 30904 Richmond County
(706) 481-9968

Regional Consultant

April Christian

Phone: ()

Fax:

april.christian@decal.ga.gov

Mailing Address

Same

The following information is associated with a Licensing Study:

Activities and Equipment

591-1-1-.03 Activities

Met

Comment

Lesson Plans were observed to be posted and reflected the current weeks activities in each classroom.

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

Not Met

Comment

A variety of equipment and toys were observed throughout the center on this date.

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 potential hazards were observed:

Building I

Room A-1st Right

- There was a broken handle on the changing table causing sharp edges and a small hole.

Room B- 2nd Right

- There were three holes on the right side of the room above the white shelf causing potential entrapment.
- There was ripped fabric on the blue couch exposing the cushion material.

Room C-1st Left

- There was a broken heating vent on the floor in the cozy area causing sharp edges.
- There was a small screw protruding from the bottom toy shelf in the music area causing sharp edges.

Room D:

- There was a broken door in the kitchen area causing cracks with sharp edges.
- There were two protruding nails on the bottom and middle of the toy shelf in the grocery store area causing sharp edges.

Building II

Room G:

- There were two stacked red chairs causing a tipping hazard.

Room F:

- There were three plastic totes stacked behind the changing table with decoration items causing a tipping hazard.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

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

Correction Deadline: 12/16/2025

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

Center does not provide swimming activities.

Children's Records

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

Records were observed to be complete and well organized.

Facility

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 on this date.

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 observed:

Building I- Room B

- There was an unlocked cabinet under the changing table with packs of baby wipes that indicate "keep out of reach of children".

Building 1 Room D

- There were two packs of parent choice wipes and a box of latex gloves in the green cubby on the right side of the classroom that indicate "keep out of reach of children".

Building II - Right

- There was a pack of Parent's Choice wipes and two containers of glitter on a desk in the left of the classroom next to the bathroom accessible to children.

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: 1/16/2026

Recited on 12/16/2025

Comment

591-1-1-.25(8) - Please ensure all electrical outlets are covered in Building I and Building II.

Correction Deadline: 12/16/2025

591-1-1-.26 Playgrounds(CR)**Not Met****Comment**

Discussed maintenance of resilient surface. Please fluff and redistribute.

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 on this date:

Middle Playground

- The blue tractor had rust throughout the handles.
- The yellow car with large wheels had rust on the handles and the wheel was not properly secured.

Back Playground

- The blue seesaw had rust throughout the handles.

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: 1/16/2026

Recited on 12/16/2025

Correction Deadline: 9/27/2023

Corrected on 12/16/2025

.26(9) - The previous citations were observed corrected on this date. The exposed metal hooks and the concrete brick were removed. The protruding and exposed roots were painted and the Miracle Grow potting soil was removed.

Food Service

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

Met

Comment

Please ensure that infant feeding forms are updated regularly.

Comment

CACFP Meal Pattern Requirements effective October 1, 2017 will be implemented October 1, 2018: 3 Components for breakfast: Grains, Vegetables, Fruits or both, Milk
5 Components for lunch – Grains, Meat/Meat alternates, Fruits, Vegetable, and Milk OR Grains, Meat/Meat alternates, 2 different types of vegetables, and Milk
2 of 5 Components for snack

Provided Updated CACFP Infant Meal pattern and Child/Adult Meal pattern flyers.

The Crediting Handbook for the CACFP can be located on DECAL and USDA's website:

DECAL

<http://decalfga.gov/CACFP/Handbook.aspx>

USDA

<http://www.fns.usda.gov/cacfp/cacfp-handbooks>

591-1-1-.18 Kitchen Operations

Met

Comment

Discussed proper steps for dishwashing on this date.

Comment

Kitchen appears clean and well organized on this date.

Health and Hygiene

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

Met

Correction Deadline: 8/22/2023

Corrected on 12/16/2025

.07(5) - The previous citation was observed corrected. In Room A Building II the Consultant did not observe pacifier straps attached to the front of children clothing.

591-1-1-.10 Diapering Areas & Practices(CR)**Met****Correction Deadline: 8/22/2023****Corrected on 12/16/2025****.10(9) - The previous citation was observed corrected on this date. The infant bottles were observed labeled and place in refrigerator on this date.**

591-1-1-.17 Hygiene(CR)**Met****Correction Deadline: 4/2/2025****Corrected on 12/16/2025****.17(7) - The previous citation was observed corrected on this date. The Consultant observed handwashing before lunch as required.**

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**Met****Comment**

Program observed complete emergency drills

591-1-1-.27 Posted Notices**Met****Comment**

Observed all required posted notices.

591-1-1-.29 Required Reporting**Met****Comment**

Discussed reporting requirements.

Safety

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

Center does not keep animals on premises.

591-1-1-.11 Discipline(CR)**Met****Correction Deadline: 3/18/2025****Corrected on 12/16/2025****.11(2) - The previous citation was observed corrected on this date. The compliant closure was closed on April 2, 2025 and substantiated.**

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)**Met****Correction Deadline: 4/3/2025****Corrected on 12/16/2025****.36(7)(c)2. - The previous citation was observed corrected on this date. The documents reviewed had load and unload indicated for the children transported on the afternoon route of December 8- December 12, 2025 from the Center to Lamar Milledge Elementary.**

Sleeping & Resting Equipment

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 infant crib sheets were not tight fitting on this date.

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: 1/16/2026

Recited on 12/16/2025

Correction Deadline: 4/2/2025

Corrected on 12/16/2025

.30(2)(c) - The previous citation was observed corrected on this date. Upon arrival of the Consultant the infants were awake and playing on the floor.

Staff Records

Records Reviewed: 12

Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 1

Staff # 3

Not Met

Date of Hire: 05/28/2024

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(4)-Food Prep Training Missing 4 hrs.

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

Met

Comment

Criminal record checks were observed to be complete.

591-1-1-.09 Criminal Records Check(CR)

Met

Comment

Criminal records checks were observed to be complete.

591-1-1-.14 First Aid & CPR(CR)

Met

Comment

Evidence observed of 100% of center Staff certified in First Aid and CPR containing emergency care for infants and children on this date.

591-1-1-.33 Staff Training

Not Met

Comment

591-1-1-.33(4) - Please ensure the Director and staff with primary responsibility for food preparation complete the four hour nutrition training.

Correction Deadline: 1/15/2026

Finding

Previously Cited: 91-1-1-.33(5) requires that every calendar year after the first year of employment, all supervisory and care giver 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 upon a review of records that two staff members did not have their Health and Safety Orientation training complete.

591-1-1-.33(6) requires that evidence of orientation and training shall be documented and maintained in the Personnel file and/or Georgia's workforce registry and professional development system of each Staff member and shall be available to the Department for inspection. It was determined based on review of record that staff did not have (10) clock hours of Annual training for 2024.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

Previously Cited: The Center will plan and schedule the required 10 hours of annual training each year and follow up to ensure the training is completed.

The Center will develop and implement procedures to review staff records for documentation of training and orientation, to obtain and place missing documentation in staff records, and to file such documents in staff records or through Georgia's workforce registry and professional development system on an ongoing basis.

Correction Deadline: 1/16/2026

Recited on 12/16/2025

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
--	------------

Correction Deadline: 8/22/2023

Corrected on 12/16/2025

.32(1) - The previous citation was observed corrected on this date. The Consultant observed Staff: child ratio of 1:3 upon entering Room A Building II on this date.

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

Comment

Staff observed to provide direct supervision and be attentive to children's needs.