



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: 4/28/2025 **VisitType:** Monitoring Visit

Arrival: 8:10 AM **Departure:** 9:30 AM

CCLC-48971

A Brighter Choice Learning Academy

140 Lowe Road Roberta, GA 31078 Crawford County
(478) 836-5243 abrighterchoice@bellsouth.net

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.
04/28/2025	Monitoring Visit	Good Standing	
03/17/2025	TA Follow Up	NA	
02/20/2025	TA Follow Up	NA	

Ratios/License Capacity

Building	Room	Age Group	Staff	Children	NC/C	Max 35 SF.	35 SF. Comp.	Max 25 SF.	25 SF. Comp.	Notes
Building Two	Classroom 1		0	0	C	35	C	NA	NA	
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 35			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0							
Main	A - 1L/ 6 weeks- 12 months	Infants	1	4	C	8	C	NA	NA	Breakfast
Main	B - 2LM- 1's and 2's	Two Year Olds	1	5	C	22	C	NA	NA	Breakfast
Main	C - Back Right - 2's		0	0	C	8	C	NA	NA	
Main	D/E-Front Right	Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds	1	8	C	16	C	NA	NA	Breakfast, Transitioning
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 54			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0							
Total # Children this Date: 17			Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 89			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0				

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	A - Left (6weeks - 2 years)	84	C
Main	B- Right - 2's	95	C

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

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.decga.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:

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 855-800-7747 or qualityrated@decga.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 Monitoring Visit:

Activities and Equipment

Records Reviewed: 7

Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 2

Staff # 2

Not Met

Date of Hire: 07/31/2024

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(3)-Health & Safety Certificate

Staff # 7

Not Met

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.24(1)-No Record

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

Met

Comment

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

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

N/A

Comment

Center does not provide swimming activities.

Facility

Records Reviewed: 7

Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 2

Staff # 2

Not Met

Date of Hire: 07/31/2024

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(3)-Health & Safety Certificate

Staff # 7

Not Met

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.24(1)-No Record

Technical Assistance

Consultant discussed the ventlization in the purple restroom needs to be checked as it was not in working order.

Correction Deadline: 4/28/2025

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)**Technical Assistance****Comment**

Please be mindful to keep items that pose a hazard inaccessible to children.

Technical Assistance

Consultant discussed cleaning vents to ensure no dust is present and the ceiling tiles in the back corner of the 2nd Right Class needed replaced due to staining.

Correction Deadline: 4/28/2025

591-1-1-.26 Playgrounds(CR)**Not Met****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 hazards were accessible to children in care:

- concrete barriers that go around flower beds were not secured and loose lying on the ground
- portion of the water hose was not secured behind the fence

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: 4/28/2025

Food Service

Records Reviewed: 7

Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 2

Staff # 2

Not Met

Date of Hire: 07/31/2024

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(3)-Health & Safety Certificate

Staff # 7

Not Met

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.24(1)-No Record

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

591-1-1-.15(1) requires that meals and snacks are served, with serving sizes dependent upon the age of the child, that meet nutritional guidelines as established by the United States Department of Agriculture Child and Adult Care Food Program. Meals and snacks shall be varied daily, and additional servings of nutritious food shall be offered to children over and above the required daily minimum, if not contraindicated by special diets. It was determined based on observation that USDA guidelines were not met in that cereal and milk were served for breakfast and no veggie/fruit were offered.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

Center Staff will prepare menus and/or serve foods that meet the USDA guidelines and will offer and serve seconds to children.

Correction Deadline: 4/28/2025

Technical Assistance

Food Service and Nutrition Feeding of Infants and Children 591-1-1-.15(2)(g) The Consultant discussed with the Director that center Personnel shall ensure that children do not have excessive amounts of food in their mouths while eating and are chewing their food appropriately to prevent instances of choking. Children shall always be seated when eating and shall not be allowed to lie down or be put to sleep while food is present in their mouths.

Food Service and Nutrition Restrictions 591-1-1-.15(7) 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.

Correction Deadline: 4/28/2025

Health and Hygiene

Records Reviewed: 7

Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 2

Staff # 2 Not Met

Date of Hire: 07/31/2024

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(3)-Health & Safety Certificate

Staff # 7 Not Met

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.24(1)-No Record

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

Met

Comment

Staff state proper knowledge of diapering procedures.

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

Met

Comment

Staff were observed to remind children to wash hands.

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

N/A

Comment

The Provider currently does not dispense/administer medication.

Safety

Records Reviewed: 7

Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 2

Staff # 2 Not Met

Date of Hire: 07/31/2024

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(3)-Health & Safety Certificate

Staff # 7 Not Met

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.24(1)-No Record

591-1-1-.11 Discipline(CR)**Met****Comment**

Age-appropriate discussion and/or redirection observed.

591-1-1-.36 Transportation(CR)**Met****Comment**

Center does not provide routine transportation.

Sleeping & Resting Equipment**Records Reviewed: 7****Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 2**

Staff # 2

Not Met

Date of Hire: 07/31/2024

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(3)-Health & Safety Certificate

Staff # 7

Not Met

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.24(1)-No Record

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

591-1-1-.30(1)(a)2 requires that a crib mattress is firm, tight-fitting without gaps, at least 2 inches thick and covered with a waterproof, washable material. Before a change of occupant, each mattress shall be cleaned with a disinfectant. It was determined based on observation that one crib mattress was observed to be non porous due to stitching designs.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The center will ensure that a crib mattress is firm, tight-fitting without gaps, at least

Correction Deadline: 4/28/2025**Staff Records****Records Reviewed: 7****Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 2**

Staff # 2

Not Met

Date of Hire: 07/31/2024

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(3)-Health & Safety Certificate

Staff # 7

Not Met

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.24(1)-No Record

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

Criminal record checks were observed to be complete.

Finding

591-1-1-.24(1) requires the center to maintain a personnel file on the Director, all Employees, Provisional Employees, Personnel, Staff, Students-in-Training, Volunteers, Clerical, Housekeeping, Maintenance, and other Support Staff for the duration of the term of employment plus one calendar year, and it shall contain the following: identifying information to include: name, date of birth, social security number, current address and current telephone number; employment history; as applicable to the position held: evidence of education and qualifying work experience; evidence of all training required by these rules which shall include: title of training, date of training, trainer's signature, location of training and number of clock hours obtained; a statement completed by the staff member that the information provided is true and accurate; any other records required by these rules; and as applicable to the position held, evidence of required orientation including date and signature of person providing the orientation; It was determined based on a review of records that one staff member did not have a personal record on file at the current center prior to being present and the file was at the sister center.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will secure required information for all Personnel. The Center will ensure that complete information is in the personnel file for all Directors, Employees, Provisional Employees, Personnel, Staff, Students-in-Training, Volunteers, Clerical, Housekeeping, Maintenance and other Support Staff.

Correction Deadline: 5/3/2025

591-1-1-.33 Staff Training**Not Met****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 observation that staff member #2 was over 90 days of hire and did not have health and safety orientation on file.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will develop and implement a plan to schedule and track this training for all employees based on their hire dates and will ensure that the training includes all required components as required.

Correction Deadline: 5/28/2025

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 observation that two of three classrooms did not have a lead teacher with the qualified lead teacher requirements.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will review lead teacher records to ensure the required documentation is on file and will obtain and file it if not found.

Correction Deadline: 4/28/2025

Technical Assistance

Please note the listed director must be onsite at least 80 percent of the time. The director was not present while consultant was on site on this date.

Correction Deadline: 4/28/2025

Staffing and Supervision

Staff # 2 Not Met

Date of Hire: 07/31/2024

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(3)-Health & Safety Certificate

Staff # 7 Not Met

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.24(1)-No Record

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, 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 the staff member present in the 1st Left Classroom left the one-year-old children alone in the class for a brief moment and walked accross the hall to the office. In addition, the staff members in the 1st Left and 2nd Left Classrooms were not seated within arms length of the children while they were eating and were serving the kids.

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: 4/28/2025