



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: 3/3/2025 **VisitType:** Licensing Study

Arrival: 1:00 PM **Departure:** 3:30 PM

CCLC-1991

Maidee Smith Early Care and Learning Center
607 Union Street LaGrange, GA 30241 Troup County
(706) 882-2012 maideeseclc2@gmail.com

Regional Consultant
Neli Todorova
Phone: (770) 359-5167
Fax: (678) 891-5630
neli.todorova@decal.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.
03/03/2025	Licensing Study	Good Standing	
07/30/2024	Monitoring Visit	Good Standing	
07/24/2023	Licensing Study	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	Front	Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds	2	18	C	41	C	NA	NA	Nap
Main	Right Side	One Year Olds and Two Year Olds	3	12	C	14	C	NA	NA	Nap
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 55			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0							
Second Building	Front Classroom	Infants and One Year Olds	2	6	C	12	C	NA	NA	Nap, Floor Play
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 12			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0							
Total # Children this Date: 36			Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 67			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0				

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	playground	0	C

Enrolled Children						
Under 1 years	1 years	2 years	3 years	4 years	5 years (Prekonly)	5 years and older
3	3	3	9	10	0	9

Comments

The purpose of the visit is to follow up on previous visit and conduct a Licensing Visit.

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 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@decal.ga.gov for more information. Free technical assistance is available!



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(Findings Report)

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Same

The following information is associated with a Licensing Study:

Activities and Equipment

Records Reviewed: 10

Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 1

Staff # 4

Not Met

Date of Hire: 02/25/2025

Reminder - Health & Safety training is required within 90 calendar days of hired

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.09-Criminal Records Check Missing

591-1-1.12 Equipment & Toys(CR)

Met

Comment

Equipment and furniture observed to be properly secured, as applicable.

591-1-1.35 Swimming Pools & Water-related Activities(CR)

Met

Comment

Center does not provide swimming activities.

Children's Records

Records Reviewed: 10

Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 1

Staff # 4

Not Met

Date of Hire: 02/25/2025

Reminder - Health & Safety training is required within 90 calendar days of hired

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.09-Criminal Records Check Missing

591-1-1.08 Children's Records

Met

Comment

Records were observed to be complete and well organized.

Facility

Records Reviewed: 10**Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 1**

Staff # 4

Not Met

Date of Hire: 02/25/2025

Reminder - Health & Safety training is required within 90 calendar days of hired"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.09-Criminal Records Check Missing

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)**Met****Comment**

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

Comment

Please secure cleaning tools (i.e., broom, plunger) out of reach of children.

591-1-1-.26 Playgrounds(CR)**Met****Comment**

Discussed maintenance of resilient surface. Please fluff and redistribute. The regular swings need at least six inches of mulch in the fall zones.

Comment

Playground observed to be clean and in good repair.

Food Service**Records Reviewed: 10****Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 1**

Staff # 4

Not Met

Date of Hire: 02/25/2025

Reminder - Health & Safety training is required within 90 calendar days of hired"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.09-Criminal Records Check Missing

591-1-1-.15 Food Service & Nutrition**Met****Comment**

Center menu meets USDA guidelines.

591-1-1-.18 Kitchen Operations**Met****Comment**

Kitchen appears clean and well organized.

Health and Hygiene**Records Reviewed: 10****Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 1**

Staff # 4

Not Met

Date of Hire: 02/25/2025

Reminder - Health & Safety training is required within 90 calendar days of hired"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.09-Criminal Records Check Missing

591-1-1-.07 Children's Health**Technical Assistance****Technical Assistance**

591-1-1-.07(5) - Please ensure that there are no attachments on the pacifiers.

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

Hand washing requirements for diapering were discussed with the director on this date. Discussed using a mat for diapering of the one-year-olds in the bathroom and proper disinfecting because the program was licensed in 1988.

591-1-1-.17 Hygiene(CR) **Met****Comment**

Staff were observed to remind children to wash hands.

591-1-1-.20 Medications(CR) **Met****Comment**

The Provider currently does not dispense/administer medication.

Policies and Procedures**Records Reviewed: 10****Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 1**

Staff # 4

Not Met

Date of Hire: 02/25/2025

Reminder - Health & Safety training is required within 90 calendar days of hired

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.09-Criminal Records Check Missing

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**Records Reviewed: 10****Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 1**

Staff # 4

Not Met

Date of Hire: 02/25/2025

Reminder - Health & Safety training is required within 90 calendar days of hired

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.09-Criminal Records Check Missing

591-1-1-.05 Animals **Met****Comment**

Center does not keep animals on premises.

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

Staff were observed to maintain a positive learning environment on this date.

591-1-1-.13 Field Trips(CR) **Met****Comment**

Center does not participate in field trips at this time.

Comment

Center does not provide routine transportation.

Sleeping & Resting Equipment

Records Reviewed: 10	Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 1
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Staff # 4

Not Met

Date of Hire: 02/25/2025

Reminder - Health & Safety training is required within 90 calendar days of hired

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.09-Criminal Records Check Missing

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.

Staff Records

Records Reviewed: 10	Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 1
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Staff # 4

Not Met

Date of Hire: 02/25/2025

Reminder - Health & Safety training is required within 90 calendar days of hired

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.09-Criminal Records Check Missing

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

Not Met

Finding

591-1-1-.09(1)(a) requires that a Center ensure that every actual and potential Director, Employee and Provisional Employee of a Child Care Learning Center submit both a Records Check Application to the Department and Fingerprints to an authorized fingerprinting site. It was determined based on review of records that Staff #4 did not have a current Satisfactory Comprehensive Background check and there was no application for a background check submitted. Staff was hired on February 25, 2025 and was observed in room Front of the Main Building caring for children on the day of the visit.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

IMMEDIATE CORRECTION - The Center will to ensure that every actual and potential Director, Employee and Provisional Employee of a Child Care Learning Center submit both a Records Check Application to the Department and Fingerprints to an authorized fingerprinting site as required. The program's owner or an officer/member of the corporation must view the A to Z Background Check video units pertaining to this records check rule and return the signed affidavit within one week from this visit date. The Center will to ensure the CRC rules are maintained.

Correction Deadline: 3/3/2025

Finding

591-1-1-.09(1)(c) requires the Center to ensure that every Employee has a valid and current satisfactory Comprehensive Records Check Determination on file prior to being present at the Center while any child is present for care or before an individual age 17 or older resides in the Center. The Comprehensive Records Check Determination must have a Records Check Clearance Date that is no older than the preceding 12 months of the hire date; provided, however, if the Employee has had a lapse of employment from the child care industry that lasted for 180 days (6 months) or longer, a new satisfactory Comprehensive Records Check Determination is required. It was determined based on review of records that Staff #4 did not have a current Satisfactory Comprehensive Background check and there was no application for a background check submitted. Staff was hired on February 25, 2025 and was observed in room Front of the Main Building caring for children on the day of the visit.

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Correction Deadline: 3/3/2025

591-1-1-.14 First Aid & CPR**Met****Comment**

Evidence observed of 50% of center staff certified in First Aid and CPR.

591-1-1-.33 Staff Training**Met****Comment**

Documentation observed of required staff training for 2024.

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

Discussed that all lead staff must enroll in an approved education program within 6 months of hire and complete degree within 18 months.

Comment

Staff observed to be compliant with applicable laws and regulations.

Staffing and Supervision

Records Reviewed: 10**Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 1**

Staff # 4

Not Met

Date of Hire: 02/25/2025

Reminder - Health & Safety training is required within 90 calendar days of hired

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.09-Criminal Records Check Missing

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)**Met****Comment**

Adequate supervision observed on this date.