



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: 9/12/2023 **VisitType:** Complaint Investigation & Licensing Study **Arrival:** 10:30 AM **Departure:** 5:00 PM

CCLC-58397

Bree's Creative Learning Childcare Center

3905 Inner Perimeter Road Valdosta, GA 31605 Lowndes County
 (229) 469-7254 travis_carter23@yahoo.com

Regional Consultant

Rena Keene

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Mailing Address

3922 Karaline Cir
 Valdosta, GA 31605

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.
09/12/2023	Complaint Investigation & Licensing Study	Good Standing	
07/10/2023	Complaint Closure	Good Standing	
06/23/2023	Complaint Investigation & 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
Main1	A	Two Year Olds	3	19	C	19	C	NA	NA	Transitioning, Lunch
Main1	B	One Year Olds	2	12	C	17	C	NA	NA	Centers, Lunch, Transitioning
Main1	C	Infants	2	10	C	13	C	NA	NA	Lunch, Transitioning, Diapering
Main1	D	Infants	2	12	C	12	C	NA	NA	Floor Play, Feeding
Main1	E		0	0	C	40	C	NA	NA	
Main1	G	Three Year Olds	3	31	C	36	C	NA	NA	Transitioning, Lunch
Main1	H		0	0	C	25	C	NA	NA	
Main1	I	GA PreK	4	30	NC	53	C	NA	NA	Circle Time
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 215					Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0					
Total # Children this Date: 114					Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0					

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main1	A	75	C
Main1	B	153	C
Main1	C	28	C

Comments

The purpose of today's visit was to conduct a Licensing Study. The center is Quality-Rated with a three-star rating.

Plan of Improvement: Developed This Date 09/12/2023

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.state.ga.us/CCS/Regulations.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!

Travis Carter, Program Official

Date

Rena Keene, Regional Consultant

Date



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(Findings Report)

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The following information is associated with a Licensing Study Visit:

Activities and Equipment

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)

Met

Comment

Center does not provide swimming activities.

Children's Records

Records Reviewed: 7

Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 4

Child # 1

Not Met

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.08(3)-Address of Release Person Missing,.08(1)(a)-Name of both parents

Child # 2

Not Met

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.08(1)(a)-Work Address Missing,.08(1)(a)-Work Number Missing,.08(3)-Address of Release Person Missing,.08(1)-Doctor, Clinic, Phone Numbers,.08(1)-Allergies and Disabilities

Child # 3

Not Met

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.08(3)-Address of Release Person Missing,.08(1)(a)-Work Number Missing,.08(1)(a)-Work Address Missing,.08(1)-Allergies and Disabilities,.08(1)-Doctor, Clinic, Phone Numbers

Child # 5

Not Met

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.08(1)(a)-Work Address Missing,.08(1)(a)-Work Number Missing

591-1-1-.08 Children's Records**Not Met****Finding**

591-1-1-.08(1) requires the Center Staff to maintain a file for each child while such child is in care and for one year after that child is no longer enrolled. In order for the file to be complete, the file shall contain the following: child's name, birth date, sex, address, living arrangement, name of school if applicable; names of both Parents, home and work addresses, and home and work telephone numbers; name(s) and addresses of the person(s) to whom the child may be released including address, telephone numbers, relationship to child and to Parent(s), and other identifying information; name(s) and telephone number(s) of person(s) to contact in emergencies when the Parent cannot be reached; name and telephone number of the child's primary source of health care; and a statement regarding known allergies, physical problems, mental health disorders, intellectual disabilities or developmental disabilities which limit the child's participation in the program. It was determined based on a review of children's records that all required information was not on file for the following children:

1. The record for Child No. 1 was missing the names for both parents and the address for one of the persons to whom the child may be released
2. The record for Child No. 2 was missing the work addresses and telephone numbers for both parents
3. The record for Child No. 3 was missing the addresses and relationship of the persons to whom the child may be released. The record also did not include the telephone number for the child's doctor. Additionally, an entry was not made in the enrollment form to address any allergies or special needs the child may have
4. The record for Child No. 5 did not include the work address and telephone numbers for both parents

POI (Plan of Improvement)

Center staff will develop a plan that includes how to obtain all required information for currently enrolled children and how to ensure this is done for future enrollees as well. The plan will also include how and where to maintain files for the required amount of time. The plan will be implemented and followed.

Correction Deadline: 9/12/2023**Recited on 9/12/2023****Facility****591-1-1-.06 Bathrooms****Met****Comment**

Bathrooms observed to be clean and well maintained.

591-1-1-.19 License Capacity(CR)**Met****Correction Deadline: 6/23/2023****Corrected on 9/12/2023****.19(1) - The licensed capacity was observed to be compliant in all classrooms.****591-1-1-.25 Physical Plant - Safe Environment(CR)****Met****Comment**

Center appears clean and well maintained.

Comment

No hazards observed accessible to children on this date.

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

Technical Assistance

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. Two washout areas were observed on the playground on the west side of the building resulting from recent storms in the area, as well as one on the playground on the east side of the building. The holes range in depth from three to six inches. Please ensure that tripping hazards are avoided until these holes can be filled. Please also ensure that the anchoring studs for the art boards, chalkboard and musical instruments are driven in the ground so that they are flush with the surface and do not pose a hazard to the children.

Correction Deadline: 9/12/2023

Food Service**591-1-1-.15 Food Service & Nutrition****Not Met****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://dec.al.ga.gov/CACFP/Handbook.aspx>

USDA

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

The lunch served during the visit included chicken strips, mashed potatoes, pears, rolls and milk.

Finding

591-1-1-.15(2)(a) requires Center Personnel to hold and feed infants less than six months of age and older children who cannot hold their own bottles or sit alone. Baby bottles shall never be propped; the infant's head shall be elevated while feeding. It was determined based on Consultant's observation that one infant who was five months old was not held while being fed. The child was observed to be lying a floor pillow holding her own bottle.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will train Staff to hold infants less than six months old or who can not hold their own bottle, to never prop bottles and to elevate infant's heads during feeding. The director will monitor Staff to ensure appropriate feeding procedures are followed.

Correction Deadline: 9/12/2023

591-1-1-.18 Kitchen Operations**Technical Assistance****Technical Assistance**

591-1-1-.18(5) requires the refrigeration of all perishable and potentially hazardous foods at 40 degrees Fahrenheit or below and served promptly after cooking. Freezer temperature shall be maintained at zero (0) degrees Fahrenheit or below. The freezer in the kitchen was showing two (2) degrees Fahrenheit on the gauge. Please be sure that all refrigerators and freezers measure at or below the required temperature.

Correction Deadline: 9/12/2023

Health and Hygiene

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

Proper diapering procedures observed.

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

Staff were observed to remind children to wash hands.

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

The Provider currently does not dispense/administer medication.

Policies and Procedures

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

Observed all required posted notices.

Safety

591-1-1-.05 Animals	Met
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Comment

Center does not keep animals on premises.

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

Center does not participate in field trips at this time.

591-1-1-.36 Transportation(CR)	Not Met
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Finding

591-1-1-.36(7)(b) requires that an emergency medical information record be maintained in the vehicle for each child being transported. The emergency medical information record for each child shall include a listing of the child's full name, date of birth, allergies, special medical needs and conditions, current prescribed medications that the child is required to take on a daily basis for a chronic condition, the name and telephone number of the child's doctor, the local medical facility that the Center uses in the area where the Center is located and the telephone numbers where the Parents can be reached. It was determined based on a review of transportation records that emergency medical information was not on the vehicle for Child No 2 and Child No. 4 when they were transported from the center to W.G. Nunn Elementary School on the mornings of September 11, 2023, and September 12, 2023. One additional child who was transported from Sallas Mahone Elementary School to the center in the afternoon on September 6, 2023, September 7, 2023, and September 8, 2023, did not have emergency medical information on the vehicle. The forms for two additional children did not address any allergies that the children may have.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will obtain a complete emergency medical information record for each child that is transported and maintain a copy on the vehicle.

Correction Deadline: 9/13/2023

Finding

591-1-1-.36(7)(d)2. requires that the second designated Staff person conduct a check of the vehicle immediately upon the completion of the first check of the vehicle. The responsible person shall physically walk through the entire vehicle; visually inspect all seat surfaces, under all seats and in all compartments or recesses in the vehicle's interior; and sign the passenger transportation checklist(s), indicating all of the children have exited the vehicle. There shall be continuous watchful oversight of the vehicle between the first check and second check. It was determined based on a review of transportation records for the past week that a second check of the vehicle was not conducted on September 8, 2023 when thirteen children were transported from Sallas Mahone Elementary School to the center during the afternoon route. Additionally, a second check of the vehicle was not made after three children were transported from J. L. Lomax Elementary School to the center in the afternoon of September 8, 2023.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will train Staff who are or may be involved in transporting children in how to thoroughly inspect a vehicle and properly complete transportation documentation. The Center will review and monitor.

Correction Deadline: 9/12/2023

Sleeping & Resting Equipment**591-1-1-.30 Safe Sleeping and Resting Requirements(CR)****Technical Assistance****Technical Assistance**

591-1-1-.30(2) requires the Center to provide a safe sleep environment in accordance with American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) and American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) recommendations as listed in these rules for all infants. Center Staff shall place an infant to sleep on the infant's back in a crib unless the Center has been provided a physician's written statement authorizing another sleep position for that particular infant that includes how the infant shall be placed to sleep and a time frame that the instructions are to be followed. When an infant can easily turn over from back to front and back again, Staff shall continue to put the infant to sleep initially on the infant's back but allow the infant to roll over into his or her preferred position and not re-position the infant. Sleepers, sleep sacks and wearable blankets that fit according to the commercial manufacturer's guidelines and will not slide up around the infant's face may be used when necessary for the comfort of the sleeping infant. Swaddling shall not be used unless the Center has been provided a physician's written statement authorizing its use for a particular infant that includes instructions and a time frame for swaddling the infant. Center Staff shall not place objects or allow objects to be placed in or on the crib with an infant such as but not limited to toys, pillows, quilts, comforters, bumper pads, sheepskins, stuffed toys, or other soft items and shall not attach objects or allow objects to be attached to a crib with a sleeping infant, such as, but not limited to, crib gyms, toys, mirrors and mobiles. Infant feeding plans were attached to the outside of cribs that have a Plexiglas protection. Staff removed the infant feeding plans during the visit.

Correction Deadline: 9/12/2023

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

Criminal record checks were observed to be complete.

Comment

Director provided [] file(s) for employees hired since last visit.

Finding

591-1-1-.14(3) requires the Center to have a first aid kit in each building of the Center and in any vehicle used by the Center for transportation of children, that contains scissors, tweezers, gauze pads, adhesive tape, thermometer, band-aids, assorted sizes, antibacterial ointment, insect-sting preparation, an antiseptic cleansing solution, triangular bandages, rubber gloves, protective eye wear, a protective face mask, and a cold pack. The first aid kit, together with a first aid instruction manual which must be kept with the kit at all times, shall be stored so that it is not accessible to children but is easily accessible to Staff. It was determined based on Consultant's observation that the white van used to transport children did not have a first aid kit that contained the required items. The only items in the kit were a cold pack, scissors and face masks. Please ensure that all vehicles and the building have a complete first aid kit with all required items.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

Center Staff will provide any missing first aid kits, add any missing items to each first aid kit and will develop and use a plan for checking the kits and replacing missing items in each kit in the future. First aid kits and instruction manuals will be stored so that they kits are not accessible to children but are easily accessible to Center Staff.

Correction Deadline: 9/22/2023

591-1-1-.33 Staff Training**Technical Assistance****Technical Assistance**

591-1-1-.33 - Please ensure completed orientation checklists are on file for office staff.

Correction Deadline: 6/24/2023

Corrected on 9/12/2023

.33(2) - It was determined based on a review of staff records that evidence of orientation was on file for staff who have direct care responsibilities.

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

Correction Deadline: 6/23/2023

Corrected on 9/12/2023

.31(2)(b)2. - It was determined based on a review of staff records that all staff currently serving as lead teachers either currently possess an acceptable credential or are enrolled in a CDA program with a PLP on file.

Correction Deadline: 6/23/2023

Corrected on 9/12/2023

.31(2)(b)3.(ii)(I) - (VIII) - It was determined based on a review of staff records that all staff who are currently serving in the capacity of lead teacher and do not possess one of the required credentials has a written PLP on file.

Staffing and Supervision**591-1-1-.32 Staff:Child Ratios and Group Size(CR)****Met**

Correction Deadline: 6/23/2023

Corrected on 9/12/2023

.32(1) - Staff to child ratios were observed to be compliant in all classrooms.

The following information is associated with a Complaint Investigation Visit:

Safety

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

Met

Correction Deadline: 7/10/2023

Corrected on 9/12/2023

.11(1) - Appropriate discipline and guidance was observed in all classrooms during the visit.

Staffing and Supervision

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

Met

Correction Deadline: 6/23/2023

Corrected on 9/12/2023

.32(7) - Supervision was observed to be adequate in all classrooms. Staff were observed to be attentive to the children.