



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: 11/12/2025 **VisitType:** Licensing Study

Arrival: 10:00 AM **Departure:** 2:10 PM

CCLC-56441

Watch Me Grow Learning Place

500 E. Martin Luther King Jr Drive Valdosta, GA 31601 Lowndes
County
(229) 262-2967

Regional Consultant

Kayla Coats

Phone: (470) 676-8185

Fax:

kayla.coats@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.
11/12/2025	Licensing Study	Support	
06/24/2025	POI Follow Up	Good Standing	
03/25/2025	Licensing Study	Deficient	

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	Room A	Infants	1	3	C	17	C	NA	NA	Floor Play,Feeding,Na p
Main	Room B	Two Year Olds	1	8	C	10	C	NA	NA	Centers,Outside ,Lunch
Main	Room C	Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds	1	10	C	11	C	NA	NA	Lunch,Free Play,Centers
Main	Room D	One Year Olds	1	5	C	28	C	NA	NA	Story,Free Play,Lunch
Main	Room E		0	0	C	26	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 92			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0							
Total # Children this Date: 26			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0							

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	Playground A	72	C

Enrolled Children						
Under 1 years	1 years	2 years	3 years	4 years	5 years (Prekonly)	5 years and older
4	6	8	6	7	0	30

Comments

A copy of the visit report was left with the Provider on this date. The CCS Consultant discussed and left a copy of the updated Child Care Weather Watch Chart with the program today. Weather does not permit outdoor play when there is active precipitation or when weather advisories are in effect. Consult the Child Care Weather Watch Chart resource for further guidance, considering specific weather conditions.

Plan of Improvement: To Be Submitted 11/26/2025

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!



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Summary Report

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The following information is associated with a Licensing Study:

Activities and Equipment

591-1-1-.03 Activities

Not Met

Finding

591-1-1-.03(2) requires the Center to keep current lesson plans on site that reflect appropriate instruction practices and activities to support children's development The Center shall have sufficient and varied play and learning equipment and materials to support the above program of activities in all developmental areas. It was determined based on observation that there were no current lesson plans posted in any classrooms on this date.

Correction Deadline: 11/12/2025

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

Met

Comment

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

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

N/A

Comment

Center does not provide swimming activities.

Children's Records

Records Reviewed: 10

Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 2

Child # 1

Not Met

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.08(1)-No Record

Child # 2

Not Met

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.08(1)-No Record

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

Records were observed to be complete and well organized.

Evening Care**591-1-1-.32 Staffing/Supervision(CR)****Met****Comment**

No evening care hours provided

Facility**591-1-1-.06 Bathrooms****Met****Comment**

Please monitor bathrooms for necessary supplies.

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****Technical Assistance**

591-1-1-.25(11) - Please ensure that all flooring is vacuumed daily and deep cleaned on a regular basis.

Correction Deadline: 12/12/2025**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 present:

in Main Room B:

- there was an unlocked storage cabinet that contained five large containers of glue that were labeled as choking hazards and not for use for children under the age of 3-years-old.
- a can of Lysol spray on the bathroom counter

in Main Room D:

- a staff bag that contained a bottle of over-the-counter Ibuprofen was located on top of the cots and was within reach of the children.

Correction Deadline: 11/12/2025

Finding

591-1-1-.25(3) requires the Center and surrounding premises to be kept clean, free of debris and in good repair. Hygienic measures such as, but not limited to, screened windows and proper waste disposal procedures shall be utilized to minimize the presence of rodents, flies, roaches and other vermin at the Center. It was determined based on observation that in Main Room B, there were multiple areas of chipped paint on the wall located near the cot storage area.

Correction Deadline: 11/19/2025

Recited on 11/12/2025

Finding

591-1-1-.25(8) requires protective caps on all unused electrical outlets within children's reach and requires that electrical outlets in use be made inaccessible to children. It was determined based on observation that all rooms in use had multiple electrical outlets that were not covered with protective caps.

Correction Deadline: 11/12/2025

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

Not Met

Comment

Discussed maintenance of resilient surface. Please fluff and redistribute.

Finding

591-1-1-.26(4) requires that playgrounds be protected from traffic or other hazards by a (4) four foot high fence or other barrier approved by this Department. Fencing material shall not present a hazard to children and shall be maintained so as to prevent children from leaving the playground area by any means other than through an approved access route. Fence gates shall be kept closed except when persons are entering or exiting the area. It was determined based on observation that on the playground to the left, there was a 5-inch gap in the corner of the fence.

Correction Deadline: 11/12/2025

Recited on 11/12/2025

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 on the playground to the right, the picnic table had four protruding bolts underneath the bench areas which posed a hazard to the children in care.

Correction Deadline: 11/12/2025

Recited on 11/12/2025

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 on the playground to the right, landscape fabric was exposed underneath and around the main play structure which posed a tripping hazard to the children in care.

Correction Deadline: 11/12/2025

Recited on 11/12/2025

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

Not Met

Comment

Center menu meets USDA guidelines.

Finding

591-1-1-.15(2) requires that a signed written feeding plan for children less than one (1) year of age shall be obtained from Parent(s) and that instructions from the Parent(s) shall be updated regularly as new foods are added or other dietary changes are made. The feeding plan shall be posted in the child's assigned room and must include the child's feeding schedule, the amount of formula or breast milk to be given, instructions for the introduction of solid foods, the amount of food to be given and notation of any type(s) of commercially premixed formula which may not be used in an emergency because of food allergies. It was determined that there were no feeding plans posted in Main Room A for the infants in care.

Correction Deadline: 11/12/2025

Finding

591-1-1-.15(3) requires baby bottles and formula to be labeled with the individual child's name; supplied by the Parent daily in bottles; and refrigerated at a temperature of forty (40) degrees Fahrenheit or less. Only the current day's formula or breast milk shall be served. If formula must be provided by the Center, only commercially prepared, ready-to-feed formula shall be used. Refrigerated or frozen breast milk shall only be heated or thawed under warm running water or in a container of warm water. It was determined based on observation that in Main Room A, there was a bottle of formula that was not labeled with the infant's name and was prepared in a plastic water bottle.

Correction Deadline: 11/12/2025

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

Kitchen appears clean and well organized on this date.

Health and Hygiene**591-1-1-.10 Diapering Areas & Practices(CR)****Not Met****Comment**

Proper diapering procedures observed.

Finding

591-1-1-.10(6) requires cCenter sStaff to keep any items which might harm a child out of a child's reach. It was determined based on observation that in Main Room A, two packs of wipes and a pack of latex gloves were located on top of the changing table and within the reach of children.

Correction Deadline: 11/12/2025

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

Please ensure lids remain on trash containing organic waste.

Comment

Staff were observed to remind children to wash hands on this date.

591-1-1-.20 Medications(CR)	N/A
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Comment

The Provider currently does not dispense/administer medication.

Policies and Procedures

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

591-1-1-.21(1)(a-o) - Discussed updating the Center's policies and procedures to include the program's practices regarding the expulsion and suspension of children enrolled for care within the description of behavior management and discipline actions used by the Center.

Correction Deadline: 11/17/2025

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.21(2)(r) - New - Discussed to ensure a description of the practices followed by the Center to prevent shaken baby syndrome and abusive head trauma in children up to five years of age that includes the following information: how to recognize, respond to, and report the signs and symptoms of shaken baby syndrome and abusive head trauma; strategies to assist staff members in understanding how to care for infants and how to cope with a crying, fussing, or distraught child; strategies to ensure staff members understand the brain development of children up to five years of age; and a list of prohibited behaviors when dealing with children. Additional information can be found in the CCLC Indicator Manual found on DECAL's website at: <https://www.dec.state.ga.us/CCS/Regulations.aspx> or through the Center on Shaken Baby Syndrome found at: <https://dontshake.org/>.

Correction Deadline: 11/17/2025

Safety

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

Center does not keep animals on premises.

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

Age-appropriate discussion and/or redirection observed.

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

Center does not participate in field trips at this time.

Finding

591-1-1-.36(3)(a-b) requires any Center that provides any type of transportation to obtain two (2) hours of state-approved or state-accepted transportation training, biannually, for the Director and for each person responsible for or who participates in the transportation of children. The training shall include, but is not limited to, a review of the transportation rules, a review of approved transportation forms and procedures, and instruction on the usage and completion of the forms and procedures. This training may be counted as part of the annual training requirements for Staff. It was determined based on a review of records and Director statement that there was no evidence on file of the required two (2) hours of biennial transportation training for one of the center bus drivers. It was also determined that Staff #5, who serves as a bus driver had transportation training that expired on September 29, 2025.

Correction Deadline: 11/22/2025

Finding

591-1-1-.36(4)(a) requires an annual safety check for each vehicle. The annual safety check, completed by a trained individual, should include a check of the: tires, headlights, horn, taillights, turn signals, brake lights, brakes, suspension, exhaust system, steering, windows, windshields and windshield wipers. A copy of the annual safety check will be kept in the Center or on the vehicle and should include evidence of any repairs and/or replacements that were identified as needed on the inspection report. It was determined based on a review of transportation records and staff statements that a current vehicle inspection was not available for either of the two vehicles used to transport children, a Chevrolet Express and a Ford E-350. The most recent inspection form available for the Chevrolet Express was dated August 25, 2023.

Correction Deadline: 11/17/2025

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 the following vehicles were not in safe repair or in clean condition:

Transportation Vehicle Tag # SCS4593:

- torn seat belt strap on the third row of the vehicle
- fire extinguisher was not anchored
- trash and debris on the floor of the vehicle

Transportation Vehicle Tag # TES9490:

- the first two rows of the vehicle had unusable seat belts due to loose fitting after market seat covers and latches that did not fasten.
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Correction Deadline: 11/13/2025

Finding

591-1-1-.36(6) requires written Parental authorization for routine transportation provided by or on behalf of the Center. Written authorization must include the routine pick-up location, routine pick-up time, routine delivery location, routine delivery times and the name of any person authorized to receive the child. It was determined based on a review of transportation forms for the current week and staff statements that one child was transported to and from Scintilla Charter Academy who did not have a written parental authorization on file.

Correction Deadline: 11/13/2025

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 for the current week and staff statements that two children who were transported to and from Scintilla Charter Academy on Monday, November 10, 2025, and on Tuesday, November 11, 2025, did not have the required emergency medical information on the vehicle while they were transported. Additionally, three other children were transported during the current week whose emergency medical form did not include the medical facility used by the center.

Correction Deadline: 11/13/2025

Finding

591-1-1-.36(7)(c)2. requires that the driver or other designated person shall immediately document in writing, with a check or other mark/symbol to account for each child listed on the passenger transportation checklist each time a child enters and exits the vehicle. The driver or other designated staff person shall document in writing with a different mark/symbol to account for each child listed on the passenger transportation checklist who was not present on the vehicle for any reason. An explanation shall be documented in writing whenever a child is transported to a field trip site but is not present on the return trip to the Center. It was determined based on a review of transportation records for the current week and staff statements that children were not accounted for when transported as follows:

1. Two children were transported from Sallas Mahone Elementary School to the center on the afternoon of November 11, 2025, who were not accounted for by check mark when they boarded the vehicle and when they exited the vehicle.
2. Two children were transported for Scintilla Charter Academy to the center on the afternoon of November 11, 2025, who were not accounted for by check mark when they boarded the vehicle and when they exited the vehicle.
3. One child was transported from Valdosta Middle School to the center on the afternoon of November 11, 2025, and was not accounted for by check mark when the child boarded and exited the vehicle.

Additionally one other child was listed on the transportation log for Scintilla Charter Academy for Monday, November 10, 2025, on Tuesday, November 11, 2025, and on Wednesday, November 12, 2025, and indicated by check mark that the child entered and exited the vehicle on those days, who staff stated no longer attends the center.

Correction Deadline: 11/13/2025

Sleeping & Resting Equipment

591-1-1-.30 Safe Sleeping and Resting Requirements(CR)

Not Met

Correction Deadline: 6/24/2025

Corrected on 11/12/2025

.30(2) - This citation was observed corrected on this date. Electrical wire hanging near infant cribs had been removed.

Correction Deadline: 6/24/2025

Corrected on 11/12/2025

.30(2)(c) - The previous citation was observed corrected on this date. All children were observed napping in appropriate sleeping equipment.

Finding

591-1-1-.30(4). requires that if cots and mats are stored in the children's activity room or area, they shall be stored to prevent children's access to them and to allow maximum use of play space. When storage is available and used for the storage of cots and mats that allows the cots, mats and any bedding to be stored without touching any other cots, mats or bedding, the bedding may be left on the cot or mat. When such storage is not available for the cots and mats, each child's bedding shall be kept separate from other children's bedding and stored in containers marked for individual use, such as, but not limited to, bins, cubbies, or bags. It was determined based on observation that cots in Main Rooms B, C, and D were stored in an area that was accessible to the children and did not have coverings preventing the children's access to them.

Correction Deadline: 11/12/2025

Staff Records

Records Reviewed: 8

Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 1

Staff # 5

Not Met

Date of Hire: 07/17/2023

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.36(3)(a-b)-2 hrs. Transportation Training missing

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

Met

Comment

Criminal record checks were observed to be complete.

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

Not Met

Comment

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

Comment

Please be mindful of training expiration dates.

Comment

Please replace/add missing/expired item(s) in first aid kit(s).

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 observation that transportation vehicle Tag # TES9490 did not have a first aid kit.

Correction Deadline: 11/22/2025

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

591-1-1-.33(5)(b)1. - New - Discussed that effective July 1, 2025, all staff are required to obtain at least two hours in evidence based, developmentally appropriate language and literacy practices and at least two hours in on-going child development and health and safety related topics as part of their 10 hours of annual training.

Correction Deadline: 12/12/2025

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.

Staffing and Supervision

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.