



Bright from the Start Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning
3 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive SE, 670 East Tower
Atlanta, GA 30334
 Phone: (404) 657-5562 WWW.DECAL.GA.GOV

Date: 9/17/2026 **VisitType:** Complaint Investigation & Licensing **Arrival:** 12:10 PM **Departure:** 5:45 PM
Study

CCLC-57459

Big Blue Marble - Athens

2400 Daniels Bridge Rd. Athens, GA 30606 Oconee County
 (706) 369-3070

Regional Consultant

Lynn Schnitzer

Phone: (470) 720-0215

Fax:

lynn.schnitzer@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.
09/17/2026	Complaint Investigation & Licensing Study	Good Standing	
02/02/2026	Complaint Closure	Good Standing	
01/14/2026	Complaint Investigation & 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	Room 1 - 1L	Infants	1	4	C	19	C	NA	NA	Floor Play, Feeding, Nap
Main	Room 2 - 2L	One Year Olds	2	12	C	19	C	NA	NA	Nap
Main	Room 3 - 3L		0	0	C	21	C	NA	NA	
Main	Room 4 - 4L		0	0	C	25	C	NA	NA	
Main	Room 5 - Mid Left	One Year Olds and Two Year Olds	1	8	C	27	C	NA	NA	Nap
Main	Room 6 - Mid Right		0	0	C	26	C	NA	NA	
Main	Room 7 - 3R	GA PreK	1	8	C	30	C	NA	NA	Nap
Main	Room 8 - 2R	Three Year Olds	1	12	C	48	C	NA	NA	Nap
Main	Room 9 - 1R		0	0	C	40	C	NA	NA	
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 255			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0							
Total # Children this Date: 44			Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 255							
			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0							

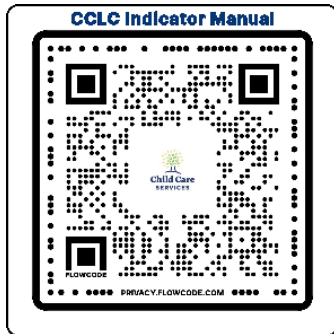
Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	A	26	C
Main	B	66	C
Main	C	49	C
Main	D	81	C

Enrolled Children					
Infant (0-12 months)	Toddler (1-2 yrs)	Preschool (3-5yrs/full time care)	School Age (before/after care only)	GA PreK only	Summer Only
6	23	16	2	9	0

Comments

September 17, 2026-the visit was not closed on this date. The report was discussed with the director, Christy Foulk. Upon completion, the report will be emailed to the center.

Plan of Improvement: Developed 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.decal.ga.gov/CCS/RulesAndRegulations.aspx>.



For additional information regarding the full compliance inspection results of this program or any licensed program in the state, access the Child Care Services Compliance-at-a Glance website by scanning this QR code or visiting: <https://families.decal.ga.gov>.

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 Visit:

Activities and Equipment

591-1-1-.03 Activities

Met

Correction Deadline: 1/14/2026

Corrected on 9/17/2026

.03(1) - The previous citation was observed corrected on this date. The Consultant observed the center to have current lesson plans posted.

Comment

Age-appropriate activities observed throughout the center.

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)

N/A

Comment

Center does not provide swimming activities.

Children's Records

591-1-1-.08 Children's Records

Technical Assistance

Comment

Parent authorizations obtained/completed.

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.08(1) - Consultant discussed with the director to ensure that children's enrollment records includes the following information:

- Parents' work and contact information.
- Parents' work and personal address.
- Emergency contact persons' name and contact information.
- Release to persons' names and address.
- Doctor's name and contact information.
- Allergy/medical information

Correction Deadline: 9/17/2026

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.08(1)(a) - Consultant discussed with the director to ensure that the center has a letter from the doctor describing the time frame and procedures for a child how wears a helmet for medical purposes.

Correction Deadline: 9/17/2026

Facility**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(11) requires that floor coverings be tight, smooth, free of odors and washable or cleanable. It was determined based on observation that there was a gap between two floor boards under the back left window in Room 4 4L.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

Floors will be maintained to be safe and sanitary.

Correction Deadline: 10/17/2026

Correction Deadline: 1/14/2026

Corrected on 9/17/2026

.25(13) - The previous citation was observed corrected on this date. The Consultant observed no hazards accessible to children on this date.

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 the toilet seat was loose in the right restroom in classroom 8 - 2R. Further, several toilets had bolts extending beyond two threads.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will attach the toilet seat securely and cover the toilet bolts with caps.

Correction Deadline: 9/21/2026

Recited on 9/17/2026

591-1-1-.26 Playgrounds(CR)**Not Met****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 there was a gap measuring approximately 5 inches under the back gate between playgrounds A and B.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will routinely check the fence to determine if it is in good repair and remains at least 4 feet high, and will repair any hazards. The Center will train Staff to identify and report any fence hazards and to keep the fence gates closed when not in use.

Correction Deadline: 9/17/2026

Food Service**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 on this date.

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

Staff stated proper knowledge of diapering procedures.

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

Correction Deadline: 1/14/2026

Corrected on 9/17/2026

.17(7) - The previous citation was observed corrected on this date. The Consultant observed hand washing taking place as required.

591-1-1-.20 Medications(CR)**Technical Assistance****Technical Assistance**

591-1-1-.20(1) - Consultant discussed with the director to ensure that medication authorization forms have the prescription number of the medication.

Correction Deadline: 9/17/2026

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.20(2) - Consultant discussed with the director to ensure that medication is in its original container with the child's first and last name.

Correction Deadline: 9/17/2026

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.

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

Center does not keep animals on premises.

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)**Not Met****Comment**

Complete documentation of transportation observed on this date.

Comment

The vehicle had an approved fire extinguisher and first aid kit on this date.

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 that the director's transportation training had expired on September 6, 2026.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The director completed transportation training during the visit.

Correction Deadline: 9/27/2026

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 records that vehicle tag number SDD2099 was last inspected on July 29, 2025.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will obtain the annual vehicle inspection.

Correction Deadline: 9/22/2026

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.36(7)(b) - Consultant discussed with the director to ensure that one of two emergency medical forms had information regarding the child's medical conditions, allergies, or other special needs.

Correction Deadline: 9/18/2026

Sleeping & Resting Equipment

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

Technical Assistance

Correction Deadline: 1/16/2026

Corrected on 9/17/2026

.30(1)(b)1 - The previous citation was observed corrected on this date. The Consultant observed that the mats were in good repair.

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.30(2) - Consultant discussed with the director to ensure that center staff always place children in cribs on their backs and that staff understand infant safe sleep procedures.

Correction Deadline: 9/17/2026

Staff Records

Records Reviewed: 14

Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 5

Staff # 3

Not Met

Date of Hire: 01/09/2023

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.31(2)(b)2.-Staff Qualifications-Education Missing

Staff # 5

Not Met

Date of Hire: 08/03/2026

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

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.09-Criminal Records Check Missing

Staff # 6

Not Met

Date of Hire: 08/19/2016

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

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

Staff # 9

Not Met

Date of Hire: 07/06/2026

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

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.14(2)-CPR missing,.14(2)-First Aid Missing

Staff # 11

Not Met

Date of Hire: 07/24/2026

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

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.14(2)-CPR missing,.14(2)-First Aid Missing

591-1-1-.09 Criminal Records and Comprehensive Background Checks(CR)**Not Met****Comment**

Director provided seven files for employees hired since last visit January 14, 2026.

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 a review of records that staff #5, hire date August 3, 2026, did not submit a Records Check Application to the Department or submit their Fingerprints to an authorized fingerprinting site.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

IMMEDIATE CORRECTION - The Center will 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 ensure the CRC rules are maintained.

Correction Deadline: 9/17/2026**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 #5, hire date August 3, 2026, did not have a valid and current satisfactory Comprehensive Records Check Determination on file. Staff #5 was observed in front lobby during the visit.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

IMMEDIATE CORRECTION - The Center will 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. 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 ensure the CRC rules are maintained.

Correction Deadline: 9/17/2026**591-1-1-.14 First Aid & CPR(CR)****Not Met****Comment**

Complete first aid kits observed in center and on the vehicle on this date.

Finding

591-1-1-.14(1)(a) requires all Staff who provide direct care to children must obtain certification in a biennial training program in pediatric cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and a triennial training program in pediatric first aid within the first 45 days of employment. Current and valid evidence of the successful completion of such training shall be maintained on the Center's premises. The hours obtained completing this certification will not count towards the required annual training hours. It was determined based on a review of records that staff #9, hire date July 6, 2026, and staff #11, hire date July 24, 2026, did not have certification in pediatric cardiopulmonary resuscitation and pediatric first aid on file.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

All caregiver Staff will complete the required training. The Director will send copies via email verification of completed CPR/First Aid certification to the consultant upon completion and will develop a plan to ensure all caregiver Staff have completed this training within the first 45 days of employment and that evidence of successful completion of the training is on file available for inspection.

Correction Deadline: 9/21/2026

Recited on 9/17/2026

Finding

591-1-1-.14(2)(b) requires that there must always be one staff person present in each classroom where children are present that has current and valid pediatric cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and pediatric first aid training. It was determined based on observation that there was not a staff person with current and valid pediatric cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and pediatric first aid training in Room 7 - 3R. Staff #11, hire date July 24, 2026, was in Room 7 - 3R did not have evidence of CPR/first aid training.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Director will schedule and/or position caregiver Staff throughout the Center to ensure at least one currently pediatric CPR and First Aid trained Staff person is present in each classroom where children are present.

Correction Deadline: 9/17/2026

591-1-1-.33 Staff Training

Technical Assistance

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.33(3)(a)-(k) - New - Consultant discussed with the director to ensure that Staff #5, hire date August 3, 2026, takes Health and Safety Orientation training within 90 days of their hire date. Staff #5 completed Health and Safety Orientation training on August 7, 2023, more than 12 months before their hire date.

Correction Deadline: 10/17/2026

Correction Deadline: 2/13/2026

Corrected on 9/17/2026

.33(5)(a) - The previous citation was observed corrected on this date. The Consultant observed that center staff had completed training in 2026. Center staff has until December 31, 2026 to complete the full 10 hours.

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

Not Met

Finding

591-1-1-.31(2)(b)2. requires teachers and lead caregivers to meet minimum academic requirements and qualifying experience at the time of employment. It was determined based on a review of records that staff #3, hire date January 9, 2023, a did not have evidence of the required education credentials on file.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

A teacher/lead caregiver will be hired that meets the minimum academic requirements and qualifying work experience.

Correction Deadline: 9/25/2026

Recited on 9/17/2026

Staffing and Supervision

591-1-1-.32 Staff:Child Ratios and Group Size(CR)

Met

Comment

Center observed to maintain appropriate staff:child ratios.

Correction Deadline: 1/14/2026

Corrected on 9/17/2026

.32(7) - The previous citation was observed corrected on this date. The Consultant observed adequate supervision throughout the center on this day.

The following information is associated with a Complaint Investigation Visit:

Safety

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

Met

Correction Deadline: 1/30/2026

Corrected on 9/17/2026

.11(2) - The previous citation was observed corrected on this date. The Consultant observed age appropriate redirection on this date.

Staff Records

Records Reviewed: 14

Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 5

Staff # 3

Not Met

Date of Hire: 01/09/2023

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.31(2)(b)2.-Staff Qualifications-Education Missing

Staff # 5

Not Met

Date of Hire: 08/03/2026

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

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.09-Criminal Records Check Missing

Staff # 6

Not Met

Date of Hire: 08/19/2016

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

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

Staff # 9

Not Met

Date of Hire: 07/06/2026

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

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.14(2)-CPR missing,.14(2)-First Aid Missing

Staff # 11

Not Met

Date of Hire: 07/24/2026

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

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.14(2)-CPR missing,.14(2)-First Aid Missing

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

Not Met

Correction Deadline: 2/2/2026

Corrected on 9/17/2026

.31(13) - The previous citation was observed corrected on this date. The Consultant observed center staff to be compliant with all applicable laws and regulations.

