



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: 11/10/2025 **VisitType:** Monitoring Visit

Arrival: 9:25 AM **Departure:** 10:50 AM

CCLC-33544

Sweet & Tenderhearted Childcare

27206 US Hwy 80 W Portal, GA 30450 Bulloch County
(912) 865-2556

Lead Consultant

Kimberly Stoy

Phone: (678) 747-6836

Fax: (706) 314-7859

kimberly.stoy@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.
11/10/2025	Monitoring Visit	Good Standing	
05/28/2025	Licensing Study	Good Standing	
04/16/2024	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	Back Right	Infants	1	1	C	5	C	NA	NA	Floor Play
Main	Front Right	Two Year Olds	1	5	C	12	C	17	C	Free Play
Main	Left	Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds	1	8	C	24	C	33	C	Free Play
Main	Middle Right	One Year Olds	1	6	C	10	C	NA	NA	Free Play
			Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 51		Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 51					
Total # Children this Date: 20			Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 51		Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 51		Building @25 capacity limited by Fire Marshall Limitations			

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	Playground	22	C

Enrolled Children						
Under 1 years	1 years	2 years	3 years	4 years	5 years (Prekonly)	5 years and older
1	7	8	4	4	0	11

Comments

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.

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



Summary Report

Date: 11/10/2025 **VisitType:** Monitoring Visit

Arrival: 9:25 AM **Departure:** 10:50 AM

CCLC-33544

Sweet & Tenderhearted Childcare

27206 US Hwy 80 W Portal, GA 30450 Bulloch County
(912) 865-2556

Lead Consultant

Kimberly Stoy

Phone: (678) 747-6836

Fax: (706) 314-7859

kimberly.stoy@dec.al.ga.gov

Mailing Address
Same

The following information is associated with a Monitoring Visit:

Activities and Equipment

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

Not Met

Correction Deadline: 5/28/2025

Corrected on 11/10/2025

.12(2) - Consultant observed that the equipment and furniture were free from hazards on this date.

Finding

591-1-1-.12(4) requires that equipment and furniture is secured if it is of a weight or mass that could cause injury from tipping, falling, or being pulled or pushed over. It was determined based on observation the television in the Left Room as not anchored.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will ensure that the identified equipment or furniture and any other such existing or future items are secured adequately and will have a system for checking these for stability.

Correction Deadline: 11/14/2025

Recited on 11/10/2025

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

Met

Comment

Center does not provide swimming activities.

Children's Records

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

Met

Correction Deadline: 5/28/2025

Corrected on 11/10/2025

.08(1) - Consultant observed records to be complete on this date.

Facility

591-1-1-.06 Bathrooms

Met

Correction Deadline: 6/27/2025

Corrected on 11/10/2025

.06(1) - Consultant observed that the Center had four working toilets on this date.

591-1-1-.19 License Capacity(CR)	Met
----------------------------------	-----

Comment

Licensed capacity observed to be met on this date.

591-1-1-.25 Physical Plant - Safe Environment(CR)	Met
---	-----

Correction Deadline: 5/28/2025

Corrected on 11/10/2025

.25(13) - Consultant did not observe any accessible hazards on this date.

591-1-1-.26 Playgrounds(CR)	Not Met
-----------------------------	---------

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 the merry-go-round and train tunnel need to be repainted or removed due to chipping paint and rust. It was further determined that the basketball net needs to be replaced or removed due to exposed screws in the back that measure one inch in length.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will provide a variety of age-appropriate equipment that is arranged so as not to obstruct supervision of children. Staff will check the equipment daily to ensure that the equipment is free of hazards, rust and splinters.

Correction Deadline: 12/10/2025

Recited on 11/10/2025

Health and Hygiene

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

Comment

Proper diapering procedures observed.

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

Correction Deadline: 5/28/2025

Corrected on 11/10/2025

.17(7) - Consultant observed proper hand washing on this date.

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

Comment

The Provider currently does not dispense/administer medication.

Policies and Procedures

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

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: 11/15/2025

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.decal.ga.gov/CCS/RulesAndRegulations.aspx> or through the Center on Shaken Baby Syndrome found at: <https://dontshake.org/>.

Correction Deadline: 11/15/2025

Correction Deadline: 6/2/2025

Corrected on 11/10/2025

.21(3) - Consultant observed that emergency drills had been completed since the last visit.

Safety

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

Met

Comment

Age-appropriate discussion and/or redirection observed.

591-1-1-.36 Transportation(CR)

N/A

Comment

Center does not provide routine transportation.

Sleeping & Resting Equipment

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

Not Met

Finding

591-1-1-.30(1)(a)3 requires that each crib shall have only an individual, tight-fitting sheet which is changed daily or more often as needed and prior to a change of occupant. It was determined based on observation that two out of four crib sheets in Back Right room were not tight-fitting on this date.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The center will ensure that each crib has an individual, tight-fitting sheet which is changed daily or more often as needed and prior to a change of occupant.

Correction Deadline: 11/11/2025

Recited on 11/10/2025

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 mats stored in the Left Room, Front Right Room, and Middle Room were stored where children had access to them.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will store cots and mats so children do not have access to them and they don't take up play space and will store them so each child's bedding is separate from the others.

Correction Deadline: 11/14/2025

Recited on 11/10/2025

Staff Records

Records Reviewed: 12

Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 1

Staff # 8

Not Met

Date of Hire: 06/06/2024

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(3)-Health & Safety Certificate

591-1-1-.09 Criminal Records and Comprehensive Background Checks(CR)**Met****Correction Deadline: 5/28/2025****Corrected on 11/10/2025****.09(1)(a) - Consultant observed that all current staff members had comprehensive satisfactory background checks completed on this date.****Correction Deadline: 5/28/2025****Corrected on 11/10/2025****.09(1)(c) - Consultant observed that all current staff members had comprehensive satisfactory background checks completed on this date.**

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

591-1-1-.14(1)(a) - Discussed that effective July 1, 2025, new staff are required to obtain pediatric First Aid and pediatric CPR training within 45 days of employment. It was further discussed that programs must have at least one person with current pediatric First Aid and pediatric CPR training in each classroom at all times.

Correction Deadline: 11/10/2025

591-1-1-.33 Staff Training**Not Met****Technical Assistance**

591-1-1-.33(1) - Discussed that all Employees, including volunteers, independent contractors, students-in-training, etc. should have a completed initial program orientation form on file.

Correction Deadline: 11/10/2025**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 a review of records that staff #8 who was hired on June 6, 2024 did not have evidence of completing the health and safety orientation within the first 90 days of employment.

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: 11/28/2025**Recited on 11/10/2025****Defer**

591-1-1-.33(5)- Consultant will review annual training for 2025 during the first regulatory visit of 2026.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will plan and schedule the required 10 hours of annual training each year and follow up to ensure the training is completed.

Correction Deadline: 12/31/2025

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: 12/10/2025

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

Met

Comment

Staff observed to be compliant with applicable laws and regulations.

Staffing and Supervision

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

Met

Comment

Discussed combining children of mixed ages.

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

Met

Comment

Adequate supervision observed on this date.