



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: 9/16/2025 **VisitType:** Licensing Study

Arrival: 8:15 AM **Departure:** 10:15 AM

CCLC-48971

A Brighter Choice Learning Academy

140 Lowe Road Roberta, GA 31078 Crawford County
(478) 836-5243

Regional Consultant

Brandi Mangino

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brandi.mangino@dec.al.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.
09/16/2025	Licensing Study	Good Standing	
09/11/2025	TA Follow Up	NA	
07/23/2025	TA Follow Up	NA	

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	A - 1L/ 6 weeks- 12 months	Infants and One Year Olds	1	2	C	8	C	NA	NA	Free Play,Diapering
Main	B - 2LM- 1's and 2's	Two Year Olds	1	4	C	22	C	NA	NA	Free Play
Main	C - Back Right - 2's		0	0	C	8	C	NA	NA	
Main	D/E-Front Right	Three Year Olds	1	2	C	16	C	NA	NA	Free Play
			Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 54		Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0					
Total # Children this Date: 8			Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 54		Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0					

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	A - Left (6weeks - 2 years)	84	C
Main	B- Right - 2's	95	C

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

Comments

The purpose of this visit was to conduct a licensing study.

- 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: 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.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

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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(7) requires the center to provide outdoor activities daily, weather permitting. It was determined based on observation that Rooms A and B were scheduled to go outside at 9:15 A.M. and as of 9:30 A.M. the classes had not went outside.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will follow a schedule that allows for all children to have the required amount of daily outside play time.

Correction Deadline: 9/16/2025

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)

Met

Comment

Center does not provide swimming activities.

Children's Records

Records Reviewed: 5

Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 4

Child # 1

Not Met

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.08(1)-Allergies and Disabilities

Child # 2

Not Met

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.08(3)-Address of Release Person Missing

Child # 4

Not Met

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.08(1)-Emergency Contact information Missing

Child # 5

Not Met

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.08(1)-No Record

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 records the following information was missing:

- one of five did not have the center application on file
- one of five did not have listed if the child had any special conditions or allergies
- one of five was missing information for the release person
- one of five was missing information for the emergency contact

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: 9/16/2025**Technical Assistance**

Please ensure that sign in and out is fully being completed for children each day.

Correction Deadline: 9/16/2025**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)**Met****Comment**

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

591-1-1-.26 Playgrounds(CR)**Met****Correction Deadline: 4/28/2025****Corrected on 9/16/2025**

.26(9) - Citation observed to be corrected.

Food Service**591-1-1-.15 Food Service & Nutrition****Not Met****Correction Deadline: 4/28/2025****Corrected on 9/16/2025**

.15(1) - Citation observed to be corrected

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 based on observation that the center does not have a current and signed infant feeding plan on file posted in the classroom.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center Director will develop and implement a plan to obtain and post the completed feeding plan as part of the enrollment process and to have parents update the plans on a regular basis that will include center staff involved with enrollment and those working in the infant classrooms.

Correction Deadline: 9/16/2025

Finding

591-1-1-.15(7) requires that food be served according to manufacturer's instructions and recommendations. Foods that are associated with young children's choking incidents, such as, but not limited to, peanuts, hot dogs, raw carrots, popcorn, fish with bones, cheese cubes, grapes and any other food that is of similar shape and size of the trachea/windpipe shall not be served to the children less than four (4) years of age. Children older than four (4) years of age may be served these foods provided that the foods are cut in such a way as to minimize choking. Food shall not be accessible or served to children until it has been chopped, diced, cut or mashed and is appropriate for each child's age and individual eating, chewing and swallowing ability. It was determined based on a review of the center menu that blueberries were being served to children under the age of four.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will train Staff and monitor food served and accessible to children to ensure that the food does not present a choking hazard.

Correction Deadline: 9/16/2025

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

591-1-1-.10(1) requires Centers first licensed after March 1, 1991, and Centers that are renovated after March 1, 1991, to provide ventilation in the diapering areas with functioning exhaust fans and a duct system or by the required amount of window space provided by operable windows when open. It was determined based on observation that ventilation was not being used in Room A during a diapering change.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The responsible person(s) at the center will ensure that the exhaust fans and duct systems are functioning or that the required amount of operable window space is provided in each diapering area.

Correction Deadline: 9/16/2025

591-1-1-.17 Hygiene(CR)**Not Met****Finding**

591-1-1-17(7) requires that children wash their hands with liquid soap and warm running water upon arrival for care, when moving from one child care group to another, upon re-entering the child care area after outside play, before and after eating meals and snacks, handling or touching food, playing in water; after toileting and diapering, playing in sand, touching animals or pets, and contact with bodily fluids and after contamination by any other means. It was determined based on observation that in Room B a child came in for the day and was not required to wash hands.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will train Staff on required handwashing for children and Staff will ensure children's hands are washed when required. The Director will monitor for compliance.

Correction Deadline: 9/16/2025

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

The Provider currently does not dispense/administer medication.

Policies and Procedures

Finding

591-1-1-.21(3) requires that the Center conduct drills for fire, tornado and other emergency situations. The fire drills will be conducted monthly and tornado and other emergency situation drills will be conducted every six months. The Center shall maintain documentation of the dates and times of these drills for two years. It was determined based on a review of records that the center did not conduct a fire drill for the month of August 2025.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will hold the drills as required and keep the documentation of the drills on file for two years.

Correction Deadline: 9/21/2025

Technical Assistance

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.

Also 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: 9/21/2025

591-1-1-.27 Posted Notices

Not Met

Finding

591-1-1-.27 requires each Center to post in a designated area for public viewing near the front entrance the following: the Center's current License or Permit; a copy of these rules; a copy of the current communicable disease chart; a statement allowing Parent(s) access to all child care areas upon notifying any staff member of his or her presence; names of persons responsible for the administration of the Center in the administrator's absence; the dated current week's menu for meals and snacks; emergency plans for severe weather, fire, and other emergency situations; a statement requiring visitors to check in with Staff when entering the Center; no smoking signs; and a notice provided by the Department which advises Parents of their right to review a copy of the Center's most recent license evaluation report upon request to the Center Director. The Center shall provide any Parent with a copy of this evaluation report upon request. It was determined based on observation that the following posted notices were missing:

- director designee
- most recent licensing report

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will post the notices as required and ensure they remain posted.

Correction Deadline: 9/16/2025

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)**

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.

Correction Deadline: 4/28/2025

Corrected on 9/16/2025

.30(1)(a)2 - Citation corrected.

Staff Records	
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Records Reviewed: 4

Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 4

Staff # 1 Not Met

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.24(1)-No Record

Staff # 2 Not Met

Date of Hire: 03/23/2022

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training

Staff # 3 Not Met

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(4)-Food Prep Training Missing 4 hrs.

Staff # 4 Not Met

Date of Hire: 06/09/2025

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.24(1)-Evidence of Orientation Missing,.14(2)-First Aid Missing,.14(2)-CPR 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

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 one staff member had online first aid and CPR training.

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: 9/30/2025

Technical Assistance

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: 9/26/2025

Finding

591-1-1-.24(1) requires the center to maintain a personnel file on the Director, all Employees, Provisional Employees, Personnel, Staff, Students-in-Training, Volunteers, Clerical, Housekeeping, Maintenance, and other Support Staff for the duration of the term of employment plus one calendar year, and it shall contain the following: identifying information to include: name, date of birth, social security number, current address and current telephone number; employment history; as applicable to the position held: evidence of education and qualifying work experience; evidence of all training required by these rules which shall include: title of training, date of training, trainer's signature, location of training and number of clock hours obtained; a statement completed by the staff member that the information provided is true and accurate; any other records required by these rules; and as applicable to the position held, evidence of required orientation including date and signature of person providing the orientation; It was determined based on a review of records that one staff member did not have a personal record on file for viewing at the time of the visit.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will secure required information for all Personnel. The Center will ensure that complete information is in the personnel file for all Directors, Employees, Provisional Employees, Personnel, Staff, Students-in-Training, Volunteers, Clerical, Housekeeping, Maintenance and other Support Staff.

Correction Deadline: 9/16/2025

Recited on 9/16/2025

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

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

Correction Deadline: 9/17/2025

Finding

591-1-1-.33(2)(a)-(n) requires the initial Center orientation to include the following subjects: a) the Center's policies and procedures; b) the portions of these rules dealing with the care, health and safety of children; c) the Staff person's assigned duties and responsibilities; d) reporting requirements for suspected cases of child abuse, neglect or deprivation; e) communicable diseases and serious injuries; f) emergency weather plans; g) the program's emergency preparedness plan; h) childhood injury control; i) the administration of medicine; j) reducing the risk of Sudden Unexpected Infant Death (SUID), which includes Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS); k) hand washing; l) fire safety; m) water safety; and n) prevention of HIV/AIDS and blood borne pathogens. It was determined based on a review of records that one staff member had an incomplete orientation form in that it was not signed by the person giving the orientation and was not marked off that each item was discussed,

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will provide orientation in all missing subjects to the employee(s) and will take steps to provide a complete orientation to new Employees in the future.

Correction Deadline: 9/17/2025

Correction Deadline: 5/28/2025

Corrected on 9/16/2025

.33(3)(a)-(k) - Citation observed to be corrected.

Technical Assistance

Consultant discussed that food service training needs to be on file for the director and any staff member handling the food by September 30, 2025.

Correction Deadline: 10/16/2025

Finding

591-1-1-.33(5)(b)1. requires the annual ten (10) clock hours of training shall include at least two (2) hours in evidence based, developmentally appropriate language and literacy practices. It was determined based on observation that annual training for 2024 was not one file for two staff members.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will plan and schedule the required 10 hours of annual training each year to include a least two (2) hours in evidence based, developmentally appropriate language and literacy practices and follow up to ensure the training is completed.

Correction Deadline: 10/16/2025

Technical Assistance

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: 10/16/2025

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

Not Met

Finding

591-1-1-.31(1)(a) requires the Center to have a Director who is responsible for the supervision, operation and maintenance of the Center. The Director must be on the Center's premises. If the Director is absent from the Center at any time during the hours of the Center's operation, there shall be an officially designated person on the Center site to assume responsibility for the operation of the Center, and this person shall have full access to all records required to be maintained under these rules. It was determined based on observation that upon arrival the center did not have a designated person in charge that was able to obtain all required documents needed by the department to conduct the visit.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will ensure a director, responsible for the supervision, operation and maintenance of the Center is on the premises. during operating hours. The Center will officially designate a person to assume responsibility for the operation of the Center when the director is not present who has full access to all records.

Correction Deadline: 9/16/2025

Finding

591-1-1-.31(11) requires the Center to have qualified and sufficient direct-care, clerical, housekeeping, maintenance and other employees to ensure full compliance with these rules without neglecting the supervision of children. It was determined based on observation that upon arrival the center was not staffed in a manner that breakfast could be served to the children. Breakfast was placed in the oven and center staff were in classrooms with no one to leave and serve the food as needed until the listed director arrived.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will ensure that an adequate number of qualified employees is available to ensure full compliance with these rules without neglecting the supervision of the children.

Correction Deadline: 9/16/2025

Finding

591-1-1-.31(2)(c) requires the Center to maintain a copy and/or written verification of the credential or degree awarded to the lead teacher that is required by these rules in the lead teacher's file, to make the document available for inspection and to provide the document to Department staff upon request. It was determined based on observation that two of three classrooms did not have a lead teacher with the qualified lead teacher requirements.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will review lead teacher records to ensure the required documentation is on file and will obtain and file it if not found.

Correction Deadline: 9/30/2025

Recited on 9/16/2025

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

Correction Deadline: 4/28/2025

Corrected on 9/16/2025

.32(7) Citation observed to be corrected.

