



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: 7/15/2025 **VisitType:** Complaint Investigation & Licensing Study **Arrival:** 10:30 AM **Departure:** 5:15 PM

CCLC-26666

Ms. Julie's Child Care & Learning Center

93 Laurel Ridge Rd. Blairsville, GA 30512 Union County
(706) 781-1575 msjuliehughes@gmail.com

Lead Consultant

Dianne Clarke

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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.
07/15/2025	Complaint Investigation & Licensing Study	Support	
07/08/2025	Complaint Closure	Good Standing	
06/24/2025	Complaint Investigation Follow Up	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	A	Infants and One Year Olds	1	6	C	11	C	NA	NA	Diapering, Free Play, Nap
Main	B	One Year Olds and Two Year Olds and Three Year Olds	3	14	C	19	C	NA	NA	Outside, Free Play
Main	C		0	0	C	26	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
Main	D		0	0	C	20	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
Main	E-Cafeteria	Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds and Five Year Olds and Six Year Olds and Over	2	30	NC	11	NC	NA	NA	Lunch, Transitioning
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.:			87		Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0					
Total # Children this Date: 50			Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 87		Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0					

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	A-Playground Under 2	13	C
Main	B- 3 Yrs and Older	61	C

Enrolled Children						
Under 1 years	1 years	2 years	3 years	4 years	5 years (Prekonly)	5 years and older
0	0	0	0	0	0	48

Comments

Be sure to enter all temporary closures by 7 a.m. (vacation, emergencies, school closures, inclement weather, holidays etc...) in DECAL KOALA at all times under the Required Report tab whenever your facility is closed temporarily because you are not caring for children for one or more days. SAVE the report before exiting.

All amendments are required to be electronically submitted in DECAL KOALA.

Please be sure to hide staff who are no longer employed in your DECAL KOALA account. Please reach out for help with this, if needed.

Please ensure that the director and staff responsible for food preparation completes the four (4) hours of nutrition training as soon as possible but within the first year of employment.

**There is a free Transportation Training available on OLLI in Georgia PDS (GaPDS). Health and Safety Orientation Training 15-hour course is available free online in OLLI (staff must successfully complete all three trainings to meet licensing requirements). PLEASE NOTE: If the Health & Safety Orientation Training date is outside of the previous 12 months, the training was not approved for 10 credit hours, or the training certificate is not documented in the employee's GaPDS account, the Staff person will be required to take this training again, within their first 90 days of employment at a new facility. Reminder: Health and Safety Orientation Training can only be taken once every five years.

Talk about updated orientation checklist.

Indicator manual and utilizing it.

Discussed regarding ensuring to complete rechecks for Criminal Records checks at least 90 days before the five-year expiration. Suggestion: Check monthly or sooner to ensure that staff's criminal records checks are not expiring.

Don't forget to post a new license annually.

Discussed regarding nap mats using tape to repair; must replace (if applicable).

Recent Changes/Updates: Core Rule: CPR and First Aid will be due within 45 days. 2 hours of required Literacy training annually beginning July 1, 2025.

Also, SUIDS (Sudden Unexpected Infant Death Syndrome no longer SIDS) must be included on the orientation checklist along with abusive head trauma. **Please don't forget to add to your childcare policies and procedures concerning expulsion, suspension, and practices followed to prevent shaken baby syndrome and abusive head trauma.

Plan of Improvement: To Be Submitted 07/29/2025

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.decal.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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(Findings Report)

Date: 7/15/2025 **VisitType:** Complaint Investigation & Licensing **Arrival:** 10:30 AM **Departure:** 5:15 PM
Study

CCLC-26666

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The following information is associated with a CI/LS:

Activities and Equipment

Records Reviewed: 6

Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 4

Staff # 1

Not Met

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.14(2)-CPR missing,.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training

Staff # 2

Not Met

Date of Hire: 05/15/2025

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

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.14(2)-CPR missing

Staff # 5

Not Met

Date of Hire: 09/28/2023

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.14(2)-CPR missing

Staff # 6

Not Met

Date of Hire: 05/12/2023

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training

591-1-1-.03 Activities

Technical Assistance

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.03(2) - Please ensure that a lesson plan is available for the current week at all times for all classroom.

Correction Deadline: 7/15/2025

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

Technical Assistance

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.12(2) - Please ensure that worn vinyl toys are removed from the environment as they are no longer able to be properly cleaned as required.

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

Met

Comment

Center does not provide swimming activities.

Children's Records**Records Reviewed: 6****Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 4**

Staff # 1

Not Met

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.14(2)-CPR missing,.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training

Staff # 2

Not Met

Date of Hire: 05/15/2025

Reminder - Health & Safety training is required within 90 calendar days of hired"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.14(2)-CPR missing

Staff # 5

Not Met

Date of Hire: 09/28/2023

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.14(2)-CPR missing

Staff # 6

Not Met

Date of Hire: 05/12/2023

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training

591-1-1-.08 Children's Records**Technical Assistance****Technical Assistance**

591-1-1-.08(1) - Please ensure that parents complete their work address for all children enrolled.

Correction Deadline: 7/15/2025**Prior Visits: 12/06/2024****Facility****Records Reviewed: 6****Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 4**

Staff # 1

Not Met

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.14(2)-CPR missing,.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training

Staff # 2

Not Met

Date of Hire: 05/15/2025

Reminder - Health & Safety training is required within 90 calendar days of hired"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.14(2)-CPR missing

Staff # 5

Not Met

Date of Hire: 09/28/2023

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.14(2)-CPR missing

Staff # 6

Not Met

Date of Hire: 05/12/2023

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training

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

Not Met

Finding

591-1-1-.19(1) requires a Center to provide 35 square feet of usable space per child, which will determine the Center's License capacity. It was determined based on observation that the Center exceeded the licensed capacity for classroom E-Cafeteria when a ratio of 1:27 was observed, when E-Cafeteria was licensed for 11.

Correction Deadline: 7/15/2025

Prior Visits: 06/24/2025

Recited on 7/15/2025

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

Not Met

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 the following hazards were accessible:
 -B classroom, wipes packaging were observed to be accessible in drawers beneath the changing table.
 -E-Cafeteria: There were plastic grocery bags accessible on hooks near E-Cafeteria classroom and also zip lock bags were observed to be accessible on a table with children's clothing. In a child's bag Cortisone was observed to be accessible.

Correction Deadline: 7/15/2025

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

Not Met

Finding

591-1-1-.26(8) requires climbing and swinging equipment to have a resilient surface beneath the equipment and the fall zone from such equipment must be adequately maintained by the Center to assure continuing resiliency. It was determined based on observation that the mulch beneath the wooden ladder on the playground structure of playground B was observed to be four and a half inches where six were needed.

Correction Deadline: 7/25/2025

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.26(9) - Please ensure that broken bins are removed from the playground.

Correction Deadline: 7/15/2025

Health and Hygiene

Records Reviewed: 6

Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 4

Staff # 1 Not Met

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.14(2)-CPR missing,.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training

Staff # 2 Not Met

Date of Hire: 05/15/2025

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

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.14(2)-CPR missing

Staff # 5 Not Met

Date of Hire: 09/28/2023

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.14(2)-CPR missing

Staff # 6 Not Met

Date of Hire: 05/12/2023

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training

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

Met

Comment

Proper diapering procedures observed.

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

Met

Comment

Proper hand washing observed throughout the center on this date.

Finding

591-1-1-.20(4) requires the Center to keep medication in a cabinet or container that is locked or otherwise not accessible to the children and to be stored separate from cleaning chemicals, supplies or poisons. Medications requiring refrigeration shall be placed in a leak-proof container in a refrigerator that is not accessible to the children. It was determined based on observation that Omeprazole and Lansoprazole tablets were observed to be accessible in a child's bag in the hallway near E-Cafeteria classroom.

Correction Deadline: 7/15/2025

Safety

Records Reviewed: 6**Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 4**

Staff # 1

Not Met

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.14(2)-CPR missing,.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training

Staff # 2

Not Met

Date of Hire: 05/15/2025

Reminder - Health & Safety training is required within 90 calendar days of hired"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.14(2)-CPR missing

Staff # 5

Not Met

Date of Hire: 09/28/2023

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.14(2)-CPR missing

Staff # 6

Not Met

Date of Hire: 05/12/2023

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training

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

Age-appropriate discussion and/or redirection observed.

591-1-1-.36 Transportation(CR)**Met****Comment**

Center does not provide routine transportation.

Sleeping & Resting Equipment

Records Reviewed: 6**Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 4**

Staff # 1

Not Met

Records Reviewed: 6**Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 4**

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.14(2)-CPR missing,.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training

Staff # 2

Not Met

Date of Hire: 05/15/2025

Reminder - Health & Safety training is required within 90 calendar days of hired"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.14(2)-CPR missing

Staff # 5

Not Met

Date of Hire: 09/28/2023

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.14(2)-CPR missing

Staff # 6

Not Met

Date of Hire: 05/12/2023

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training

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

Pleasant naptime environment observed.

Staff Records

Records Reviewed: 6**Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 4**

Staff # 1

Not Met

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.14(2)-CPR missing,.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training

Staff # 2

Not Met

Date of Hire: 05/15/2025

Reminder - Health & Safety training is required within 90 calendar days of hired"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.14(2)-CPR missing

Staff # 5

Not Met

Date of Hire: 09/28/2023

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.14(2)-CPR missing

Staff # 6

Not Met

Date of Hire: 05/12/2023

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training

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

Comment

Criminal record checks were observed to be complete.

-Please ensure that applicants/staff are listing exact dates (including month/day/year) on 10-year work history form in order to determine any breaks in service from the childcare industry.

-Please ensure that all staff, volunteers, independent contractors, substitutes, therapists, etc...has their records check electronically ported to the center's list in KOALA before being present at the facility.

-Please ensure that records checks are redone if there is a six-month (180 calendar days) break in service from the childcare industry.

-Please also ensure that satisfactory records checks are updated before the expiration date.

-Ensure that all therapists and other independent contractors have an updated records check on file, before being present at the center or home or ensure that the individual is supervised at all times by a staff member who has a comprehensive records check if they do not have a records check on file.

-Please ensure that staff with a national background check is always present with a staff member who has a comprehensive background check. Staff should never be by themselves.

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

Not Met

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 a review of records that the following staff completed CPR training online:

-Staff #1 hired on May 9, 2019.

-Staff #2 hired on September 24, 2008.

-Staff #5 hired on September 28, 2023.

Correction Deadline: 7/29/2025

591-1-1-.33 Staff Training

Not Met

Finding

591-1-1-.33(5)(a) requires that every calendar year after the first year of employment, all supervisory and caregiver Personnel, except independent contractors, Students-in-Training and volunteers, shall attend ten (10) clock hours of diverse training which is offered by an accredited college, university or vocational program or other Department-approved source. It was determined based on a review of records that staff #2 hired on September 24, 2028 and staff #6 hired on May 12, 2023, did not have evidence of ten hours of annual training.

Correction Deadline: 8/14/2025

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

Staff # 1 Not Met

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.14(2)-CPR missing,.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training

Staff # 2 Not Met

Date of Hire: 05/15/2025

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

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.14(2)-CPR missing

Staff # 5 Not Met

Date of Hire: 09/28/2023

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.14(2)-CPR missing

Staff # 6 Not Met

Date of Hire: 05/12/2023

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training

591-1-1-.32 Staff:Child Ratios and Group Size(CR) Not Met

Correction Deadline: 6/24/2025

Prior Visits: 06/24/2025

Corrected on 7/15/2025

.32(2) - The previous citation was observed to be corrected in that two staff were present in the classroom. There were three staff present.

Finding

591-1-1-.32(4) requires that children under three years old be housed in separate physical areas from older children and cannot be mixed with older children except at specified times and circumstances. It was determined based on observation that a ratio of 3:14 was present in classroom B, consisting of two 1-year-olds, eight 2-year-olds, and four 3-year-olds.

Correction Deadline: 7/15/2025

Prior Visits: 06/24/2025

Recited on 7/15/2025

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

Met

Comment

Adequate supervision observed on this date. Discussed the supervision rule during mealtimes which states: Staff shall be attentive and participating with all children during mealtimes and shall be seated within an arm's length away from children thirty-six (36) months of age and younger.