



**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:** 3/22/2023 **VisitType:** Licensing Study **Arrival:** 10:00 AM **Departure:** 12:15 PM

**CCLC-54657**

**Ball Ground Academy**

200 Valley Street Ball Ground, GA 30107 Cherokee County  
 (678) 454-5437 bgacademy@yahoo.com

**Regional Consultant**

Sharnette Glenn

Phone: 404-651-8365

Fax: 404-334-4612

sharnette.glenn@dec.al.ga.gov

**Mailing Address**  
 Same

**Quality Rated:** ★

<b>Compliance Zone Designation</b>			<b>Compliance Zone Designation</b> - 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.  <b>Good Standing</b> - Program is demonstrating an acceptable level of performance in meeting the rules. <b>Support</b> - Program performance is demonstrating a need for improvement in meeting rules. <b>Deficient</b> - Program is not demonstrating an acceptable level of performance in meeting the rules.
03/22/2023	Licensing Study	Good Standing	
07/11/2022	Complaint Investigation & Monitoring Visit	Good Standing	
07/11/2022	Complaint Closure	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-First Right Preschool	Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds	1	11	C	16	C	NA	NA	Art
Main	B -2nd Right Four Year Olds	GA PreK	2	21	C	24	C	NA	NA	Circle Time
Main	C-1st Left Room Infants	One Year Olds and Two Year Olds	1	6	C	15	C	NA	NA	Art
Main	D -2nd Lt. Infant	Infants	3	3	C	13	C	NA	NA	Floor Play
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 68					Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0					
Total # Children this Date: 41					Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0					

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	Infant Toddler Playground	12	C
Main	Preschool Front Playground	31	C

**Comments**

The purpose of this visit is to conduct a licensing study and follow up from the previous visit.

Plan of Improvement: No Plan Developed

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](http://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](mailto:qualityrated@decgal.ga.gov) for more information. Free technical assistance is available!**

Virginia Smith, Program Official

Date

Sharnette Glenn, Consultant

Date



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**(Findings Report)**

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Same

The following information is associated with a Licensing Study:

**Activities and Equipment**

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

**Met**

**Comment**

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

**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**

**Met**

**Comment**

Records were observed to be complete and well organized.

**Facility**

**591-1-1-.06 Bathrooms**

**Met**

**Comment**

Bathrooms observed to be clean and well maintained.

**Comment**

Please monitor bathrooms for necessary supplies.

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

Licensed capacity observed to be routinely met by center.

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

Center appears clean and well maintained.

**Correction Deadline: 7/11/2022**

**Corrected on 3/22/2023**

**.25(13) - The previous citation was corrected.**

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**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 that rust was observed on the blue and yellow metal boat on the right exterior playground. It was also determined that chipping paint was observed on the orange and red train on the left exterior playground. The provider stated the center will be getting new playground equipment.

**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: 4/28/2023**

**Recited on 3/22/2023**

<b>Food Service</b>
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**591-1-1-.15 Food Service & Nutrition****Met****Comment**

Please ensure that bottles are covered and fully labeled with child's full name.

**Comment**

CACFP Meal Pattern Requirements effective October 1, 2017 will be implemented October 1, 2018: 3

Components for breakfast: Grains, Vegetables, Fruits or both, Milk

5 Components for lunch – Grains, Meat/Meat alternates, Fruits, Vegetable, and Milk OR Grains, Meat/Meat alternates, 2 different types of vegetables, and Milk

2 of 5 Components for snack

Provided Updated CACFP Infant Meal pattern and Child/Adult Meal pattern flyers.

The Crediting Handbook for the CACFP can be located on DECAL and USDA's website:

DECAL

<http://dec.al.ga.gov/CACFP/Handbook.aspx>

USDA

<http://www.fns.usda.gov/cacfp/cacfp-handbooks>

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

Discussed proper steps for dishwashing.

**Comment**

Kitchen appears clean and well organized.

## Health and Hygiene

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

**Comment**

Staff state proper knowledge of diapering procedures.

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

**Comment**

Proper hand washing observed throughout the center.

**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** Met

**Comment**

Program observed complete emergency drills

**591-1-1-.22 Parental Access** Met

**Comment**

591-1-1-.22 - Consultant discussed to the provider that the parent of the child should have access to all child care areas of the center at any time the child is in attendance.

**Correction Deadline: 3/22/2023**

## Safety

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

**Comment**

Center does not keep animals on premises.

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

**Comment**

Age-appropriate discussion and/or redirection observed.

**Comment**

Staff were observed to maintain a positive learning environment on this date.

**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)** N/A

**Comment**

Center does not provide routine transportation.

## Sleeping & Resting Equipment

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

Discussed SIDS and infant sleeping position.

**Comment**

591-1-1-.30(1)(a)3 - Consultant discussed with the provider to make sure the infant sheet is being wash daily.

**Correction Deadline: 3/22/2023**

<b>Staff Records</b>
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**591-1-1-.09 Criminal Records and Comprehensive Background Checks(CR)****Met****Comment**

Criminal record checks were observed to be complete.

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**591-1-1-.09 Criminal Records Check(CR)****Met****Comment**

Criminal records checks were observed to be complete.

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

Complete first aid kits observed in center and on vehicles.

**Comment**

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

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**591-1-1-.24 Personnel Records****Not Met****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 review of staff files that there was no evidence of the required center training orientation for staff members #2, #8, and #11.

**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: 3/27/2023**

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**591-1-1-.33 Staff Training****Not Met****Comment**

Discussed staff training. Please obtain required documentation.

**Finding**

91-1-1-.33(5) 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 task-focused in on-going health, safety and early childhood or child development related topics and which is offered by an accredited college, university or vocational program or other Department-approved source. The annual ten (10) clock hours of training shall be chosen from the following fields: child development, including discipline, guidance, nutrition, injury control and safety; health, including sanitation, disease control, cleanliness, detection and disposition of illness; child abuse and neglect, including identification and reporting, and meeting the needs of abused and/or neglected children; and business related topics, including parental communication, recordkeeping, etc.; provided however that such business related training shall be limited to no more than two (2) of the required ten (10) clock hours of training. Records of completion of such training shall be maintained, as required by these rules. It was determined based on review of staff files that there was no evidence of the required annual ten hours training for staff member #1.

**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: 4/21/2023**

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

**Met**

**Comment**

Staff observed to be compliant with applicable laws and regulations.

<b>Staffing and Supervision</b>
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**591-1-1-.32 Staff:Child Ratios and Group Size(CR)**

**Met**

**Comment**

Center observed to maintain appropriate staff:child ratios.

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

**Met**

**Comment**

Adequate supervision observed on this date.

**Correction Deadline: 7/11/2022**

**Corrected on 3/22/2023**

**.32(7) - The previous citation was corrected.**