



**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:** 2/23/2023    **VisitType:** Monitoring Visit    **Arrival:** 11:20 AM    **Departure:** 1:00 PM

**CCLC-17259**

**Big Apple Learning Center**

514 N. Franklin Street Dublin, GA 31021 Laurens County  
 (478) 272-5472 bigapplelearning@bellsouth.net

**Regional Consultant**

Laura Johnson

Phone: (470) 891-3520

Fax: (678) 913-0577

laura.johnson@dec.al.gov

**Mailing Address**

P.O. Box 4344  
 Dublin, GA 31040

**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.
02/23/2023	Monitoring Visit	Good Standing	
07/26/2022	Licensing Study	Good Standing	
02/21/2022	Monitoring Visit	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
One	A-Front left	One Year Olds	1	8	C	16	C	NA	NA	Nap
One	B- Back left	Infants	1	7	NC	11	C	NA	NA	Floor Play
One	C-Back right	Two Year Olds	1	10	C	25	C	NA	NA	Nap
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.:			52		Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.:		0			
Two	E-Building Two Left	Three Year Olds	2	26	C	36	C	NA	NA	Nap
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.:			36		Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.:		0			
Total # Children this Date: 51			Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 88		Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.:		0			

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
One	Infant-Toddler	13	C
Two	School age	169	C

**Comments**

The purpose of this visit was to conduct a Monitoring Visit. The Director stated that the program does not provide routine transportation or administer medications. Transportation records were reviewed during the visit. Criminal Records Checks were observed complete.

Plan of Improvement: Developed This Date 02/23/2023

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.

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#### 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.

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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 1 855-800-7747 or [qualityrated@dec.al.ga.gov](mailto:qualityrated@dec.al.ga.gov) for more information. Free technical assistance is available!**

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Frankie Jackson, Program Official

Date

Laura Johnson, Consultant

Date



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**(Findings Report)**

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The following information is associated with a Monitoring Visit:

**Activities and Equipment**

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

**Met**

**Comment**

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

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

**N/A**

**Comment**

Center does not provide swimming activities.

**Evening Care**

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

**Met**

**Comment**

No evening care hours provided

**Facility**

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

**Technical Assistance**

**Technical Assistance**

591-1-1-.06(1) - The consultant spoke with the Director about repairing the out of order toilet in the girls bathroom of Classroom D and the out of order toilet in the bathroom for Classroom C to ensure that the center has the correct number of toilets for enrolled children as required. Other toilets were available for both classrooms.

**Correction Deadline: 3/25/2023**

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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.

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

**Correction Deadline: 9/16/2022**

**Corrected on 2/23/2023**

**.26(4) - This citation was corrected on this date. No fence hazards were observed on the playground.**

**Technical Assistance**

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.

The consultant spoke with the Director about removing, repairing, or replacing the red fire truck from the Infant/Toddler Playground that was cracked on the roof and had rough, sharp edges.

**Correction Deadline: 3/5/2023**

**Finding**

591-1-1-.26(9) requires the playground to be kept clean, free from litter and free of hazards, such as but not limited to rocks, exposed tree roots and exposed sharp edges of concrete. It was determined based on observation that a small active ant bed was located near the corner of the building on the School Age playground.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

The Center will remove any litter and fix or remove hazards from the playground and will routinely monitor the playground and remove litter and hazards.

**Correction Deadline: 3/2/2023**

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<b>Health and Hygiene</b>
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**591-1-1-.10 Diapering Areas & Practices(CR)** **Met**

**Comment**

Staff state proper knowledge of diapering procedures.

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

**Comment**

Proper hand washing observed throughout the center.

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

**Comment**

The Provider currently does not dispense/administer medication.

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<b>Policies and Procedures</b>
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**591-1-1-.21 Operational Policies & Procedures** **Met**

**Correction Deadline: 8/31/2022**

Corrected on 2/23/2023

.21(3) - This citation was corrected on this date. A review of records showed that the center documented completing a lockdown drill in December 2022.

**Safety**

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

**Comment**

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

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

**Comment**

Complete documentation of transportation observed.

**Comment**

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

**Sleeping & Resting Equipment**

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

**Comment**

Discussed SIDS and infant sleeping position.

**Comment**

Pleasant naptime environment observed.

**Staff Records**

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

**Comment**

Criminal record checks were observed to be complete.

**Comment**

Director provided two files for employees hired since the last visit.

**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)** **Not Met**

**Finding**

591-1-1-.32(1) requires the Center to maintain the required Staff:child ratios as follows: under 1 year or under 18 months if not walking = 1:6; 1 year and walking = 1:8; 2 years = 1:10; 3 years = 1:15; 4 years = 1:18; 5 years = 1:20; and 6 years and older = 1:25. A Center must establish groupings of children for care with maximum group sizes as follows: under 1 year = 12; under 18 months/not walking = 12; 1 year and walking = 16; 2 years = 20; 3 years = 30; 4 years = 36; 5 years = 40; and 6 years and older = 50. It was determined based on observation that Classroom B had a child staff ratio of 1:7 infants and required a staff:child ratio of 2:7.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

The Center will hire additional Staff or reschedule current Staff to meet required Staff:child ratios and will organize children into groups that meet requirements.

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

Met

**Comment**

Staff observed to provide direct supervision and be attentive to children's needs.