



**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:** 8/4/2023    **VisitType:** Licensing Study    **Arrival:** 9:15 AM    **Departure:** 2:45 PM

**CCLC-17693**

**Childcare Network #89**

3584 Mt. Zion Church Road Valdosta, GA 31605 Lowndes County  
 (229) 242-1141 cni89@childcarenetwork.com

**Regional Consultant**

Rena Keene

Phone: (912) 544-9930  
 Fax: (912) 544-9926  
 rena.keene@decal.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.
08/04/2023	Licensing Study	Good Standing	
07/14/2023	Complaint Investigation by Phone	Good Standing	
03/08/2023	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
Main	A-infant	Infants	1	6	C	16	C	NA	NA	Floor Play, Diapering, Circle Time
Main	B-1's		0	0	C	15	C	NA	NA	
Main	C-2's	One Year Olds and Two Year Olds	1	9	C	21	C	NA	NA	Centers, Clean Up
Main	D-PreK		0	0	C	26	C	37	C	
Main	E-After School	Five Year Olds	1	13	C	26	C	36	C	Centers
Main	F-PreK	Four Year Olds	1	13	C	27	C	NA	NA	Circle Time
Main	G-PreK	Six Year Olds and Over	1	11	NC	26	C	36	C	Centers, Art, Free Play
Main	H-2's	Three Year Olds	1	10	C	15	C	NA	NA	Story, Centers
Main	I-2's		0	0	C	17	C	NA	NA	
<b>Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 189</b>					<b>Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 220</b>					
<b>Total # Children this Date: 62</b>			<b>Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 189</b>			<b>Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 220</b>				

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	Playground A-infant/Tod	55	C
Main	Playground B-PreK	62	C

Main	Playground C-school-age	121	C
Main	Playground D	29	C

**Comments**

The purpose of today's visit was to conduct a Licensing Study. The center participates in the Quality Rated program and has a three-star rating.

Plan of Improvement: Developed This Date 08/04/2023

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.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!**

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Karla Berlioz, Program Official

Date

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Rena Keene, Regional Consultant

Date



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**(Findings Report)**

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The following information is associated with a Licensing Study:

**Activities and Equipment**

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

**Met**

**Correction Deadline: 3/8/2023**

**Corrected on 8/4/2023**

**.12(2) - Equipment was observed to be clean and in safe condition.**

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

**Met**

**Comment**

Center does not provide swimming activities.

**Children's Records**

**Records Reviewed: 7**

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

Child # 1

Not Met

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.08(1)(a)-Work Address Missing,.08(1)(a)-Work Number Missing

Child # 2

Not Met

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.08(1)(a)-Work Address Missing,.08(1)-Doctor, Clinic, Phone Numbers

Child # 3

Not Met

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.08(1)(a)-Name of both parents,.08(1)(a)-Work Address Missing,.08(1)(a)-Work Number Missing,.08(1)-Doctor, Clinic, Phone Numbers

Child # 4 Not Met

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.08(1)(a)-Work Address Missing,.08(1)(a)-Work Number Missing

Child # 5 Not Met

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.08(1)(a)-Work Address Missing,.08(1)(a)-Work Number Missing

Child # 7 Not Met

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.08(1)(a)-Work Address Missing,.08(1)(a)-Work Number Missing

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**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 children's records, that six of the seven records reviewed did not contain complete information regarding both parents to include the work addresses and/or work telephone numbers for the non-custodial parent. Two of the seven records reviewed did not contain complete information regarding the child's health care provider - the record for Child No. 2 did not show the doctor's telephone number and the record for Child No. 3 had no information listed for the child's primary health care provider.

**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: 8/4/2023****Finding**

591-1-1-.08(2) requires Center Staff to maintain a file for each child that includes evidence of age-appropriate immunizations or a signed affidavit against such immunizations for each child enrolled in the center on a form approved by the Department, and to allow no child to continue enrollment in the Center for more than thirty (30) days without such evidence. It was determined based on staff statements and center records that three of the fourteen children previously found by a Public Health audit to have no current immunization record on file was still lacking the required immunization certification.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

Center staff will have and use a plan to track immunization forms for all enrolled children and to ensure the form or affidavit are obtained from the parent or guardian within 30 days of enrollment. Parents will be informed their child cannot remain enrolled in the center without this documentation.

**Correction Deadline: 8/7/2023****Recited on 8/4/2023**

**591-1-1-.06 Bathrooms****Not Met****Finding**

591-1-1-.06(6) requires Center Staff to equip bathrooms with soap, toilet tissue and single-use towels or cloth towels used only once between launderings. It was determined based on Consultant's observation that there was no toilet tissue in all bathrooms used by children. The following bathrooms were not equipped with toilet tissue:

1. The boy's bathroom in the one and two-year-old classroom
2. The girl's bathroom in the four-year-old classroom
3. The boy's bathroom in the four-year-old classroom
4. The girl's bathroom in the three-year-old classroom

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

The Center will provide all required supplies and will train and monitor Staff to ensure that supplies are available in bathrooms. Cloth towels will be used only once between laundering.

**Correction Deadline: 8/4/2023****591-1-1-.19 License Capacity(CR)****Met****Comment**

Licensed capacity observed to be routinely met by center.

**591-1-1-.26 Playgrounds(CR)****Technical Assistance****Correction Deadline: 3/22/2023****Corrected on 8/4/2023****.26(4) - The fencing was observed to be safe and in good repair.****Technical Assistance**

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. Rough edges and some minor splintering was observed on the two middle posts of the shelter on the playground on the right side of the building. Please monitor to ensure wood surfaces are smooth and pose no hazard for splinters to the children.

**Correction Deadline: 8/4/2023**

**Technical Assistance**

591-1-1-.15 - Center's menu meets guidelines.

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>

Please be sure that menus are revised to show substitutions made. Meal served during visit included chicken salad, crackers, green beans, mandarin oranges and milk. Carrots were shown on the menu posted rather than green beans,

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**591-1-1-.18 Kitchen Operations****Not Met****Finding**

591-1-1-.18(5) requires the refrigeration of all perishable and potentially hazardous foods at 40 degrees Fahrenheit or below and served promptly after cooking. Freezer temperature shall be maintained at zero (0) degrees Fahrenheit or below. It was determined based on Consultant's observation that the freezer in the center's kitchen showed the temperature to be at five (5) degrees Fahrenheit, but it is required that freezers be maintained at zero (0) degrees Fahrenheit or below. Additionally, the refrigerator used in the infant room to store baby formula (bottles) measured fifty (50) degrees Fahrenheit, and the refrigerator is required to be maintained at forty-five (45) degrees Fahrenheit or below.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

The Center will refrigerate foods as required, will train Staff on proper refrigerator and freezer temperature settings and monitor the settings. Food will be served promptly after cooking.

**Correction Deadline: 8/4/2023**

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

591-1-1-.10(4) requires that if diapers are changed on a diaper changing surface, the surface shall be smooth, nonporous, and equipped with a guard or rails to prevent falls. Between each diaper change, the diaper changing surface shall be cleaned with a disinfectant and dried with a single-use disposable towel. It was determined based on Consultant's observation that staff did not clean and disinfect the diaper changing table between each diaper change in the classroom where one and two-year-old children were housed. When consultant arrived in the classroom, loose particles were observed on the diaper-changing surface. Later, two one-year-old children were observed to have their diapers changed and the staff did not clean and disinfect the changing table surface after diapering the first child before the second child was diapered. Additionally, the changing table surface was not cleaned following the second child's diapering.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

The Center will ensure there is a smooth, nonporous changing surface that has a guard or rails for safety in each classroom that houses children wearing diapers. Center Staff will be trained and have adequate supplies to properly clean the diaper changing surface between each diaper change.

**Correction Deadline: 8/4/2023**

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

Staff were observed to remind children to wash hands.

**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 Consultant's observation that there is no heated running water in five of the six classrooms in use during visit.

**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: 8/4/2023**

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**591-1-1-.20 Medications(CR)****Not Met****Finding**

591-1-1-.20(2) requires that written authorization to dispense medication is limited to two weeks unless otherwise prescribed by a physician or authorized under Georgia law. Medication shall only be dispensed out of its original container which must be labeled with the child's name or as authorized under Georgia law. It was determined based on a review of a medication form for administering the drug, Concerta, that a written authorization was on file that exceeded two weeks, which was not supported by a physician's statement. The authorization showed the authorization dates to be June 12, 2023 through August 30, 2023. The logs showed that the medication was administered on June 12, 2023, June 13, 2023, June 15, 2023, June 16, 2023 and July 5, 2023, and no explanation was entered for the days when the medicine was not administered.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

The Center will train all Staff on the medication requirements. The designated person(s) will monitor the dispensing of medications.

**Correction Deadline: 8/4/2023**

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<b>Policies and Procedures</b>
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**591-1-1-.27 Posted Notices****Technical Assistance****Technical Assistance**

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 licensure evaluation report upon request to the Center Director. The Center shall provide any Parent with a copy of this evaluation report upon request. Please post the person in charge of the administration of the center and the employee in charge in the absence of the Director.

**Correction Deadline: 8/4/2023**

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<b>Safety</b>
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**591-1-1-.05 Animals****Met****Comment**

Center does not keep animals on premises.



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

**Comment**

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

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**591-1-1-.13 Field Trips(CR)** **Met**

**Comment**

Field trip documentation observed to be complete.

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**591-1-1-.36 Transportation(CR)** **Technical Assistance**

**Technical Assistance**

591-1-1-.36 - Consultant discussed with Director documentation requirements for the coming school year when children are transported the following week.

**Comment**

A current/completed inspection was observed for all vehicles used in transporting children this date.

**Technical Assistance**

591-1-1-.36(4)(b) requires that the interior of a transportation vehicle be clean, in safe repair and free of hazardous items, objects and/or other non-essential items which could cause injury. Please be sure that the debris, paper and trash is cleaned up in the vehicle marked, C259, prior to using for the beginning of school when children are transported. Also, please ensure that all safety equipment is anchored.

**Correction Deadline: 8/5/2023**

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**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**

Pleasant naptime environment observed.

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**Staff Records**

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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.

**Comment**

Director provided four (4) files for employees hired since last visit. All background checks were observed to be complete.

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**591-1-1-.14 First Aid & CPR** **Technical Assistance**

**Comment**

Evidence observed of 100% of center staff certified in First Aid and CPR.

**Technical Assistance**

591-1-1-.14(3) requires the Center to have a first aid kit in each building of the Center and in any vehicle used by the Center for transportation of children, that contains scissors, tweezers, gauze pads, adhesive tape, thermometer, band-aids, assorted sizes, antibacterial ointment, insect-sting preparation, an antiseptic cleansing solution, triangular bandages, rubber gloves, protective eye wear, a protective face mask, and a cold pack. The first aid kit, together with a first aid instruction manual which must be kept with the kit at all times, shall be stored so that it is not accessible to children but is easily accessible to Staff. Please add thermometers to the first aid kits on the vehicles and ensure that expired items are replaced.

**Correction Deadline: 8/14/2023**

**Finding**

591-1-1-.31(1)(b)2 requires the Director to possess at least one of the sets of minimum academic requirements and qualifying child care experience listed in Rule 591-1-1-.31(1)(b)2.(i-xiii). It was determined based on a review of records and the Director's statement that she does not possess on of the required credentials to be Director. The Director stated that she plans to review her CDA, but has not obtained a current CDA since 2016.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

The Center will ensure that the Director meets the minimum education and work requirements and secure the necessary documentation.

**Correction Deadline: 9/4/2023**

**Recited on 8/4/2023**

**Finding**

591-1-1-.31(2)(b)2. requires teachers and lead caregivers to meet minimum academic requirements and qualifying experience at the time of employment. It was determined based on a review of staff records and staff statements that three of the seven classrooms\* currently in use do not have a lead teacher that meets the minimum academic requirements.

\*The seventh classroom is the Georgia Pre-K Classroom that begins the school year the week following the Licensing Study visit. This was noted because the form shows only six classrooms in use during visit.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

A teacher/lead caregiver will be hired that meets the minimum academic requirements and qualifying work experience.

**Correction Deadline: 8/4/2023**

**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**

**Comment**

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