



**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

**Cover Sheet**

**Date:** 9/2/2021      **VisitType:** Licensing Study      **Arrival:** 9:30 AM      **Departure:** 11:30 AM

**CCLC-10983**

**Noah's Ark Child Care & Learning Center**

293 Knight Trail Thomaston, GA 30286 Upson County  
(706) 648-6353 noahsarkdaycare@windstream.net

**Regional Consultant**

Brandi Mangino

Phone: (478) 314-9726

Fax: (478) 599-0169

brandi.mangino@dec.al.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.
09/02/2021	Licensing Study	Good Standing	
05/13/2021	Incident Investigation Closure	Good Standing	
03/31/2021	Incident 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/0-12 mths	Infants	2	3	C	14	C	NA	NA	Free Play, Floor Play
Main	B/ 3years	Infants and One Year Olds	2	10	C	14	C	NA	NA	Lunch
Main	C/ 1 year	One Year Olds	2	11	C	19	C	NA	NA	Transitioning
Main	D/ 2 year	Two Year Olds	2	14	C	21	C	NA	NA	Lunch
Main	E/ 3 years	Three Year Olds	1	8	C	16	C	NA	NA	Lunch
Main	F/ 4 year	Four Year Olds	1	6	C	19	C	NA	NA	Transitioning
Main	G/ 6-8 year		0	0	C	19	C	NA	NA	
Main	H/ 8-12 year		0	0	C	19	C	NA	NA	
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 133					Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0		Building @35 capacity limited by Fire Marshall Limitations			
Total # Children this Date: 52			Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 133			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0				

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	A	10	C
Main	B	2	C
Main	C	32	C
Main	D	46	C

**Comments**

A virtual visit was conducted on August 8, 2021.

Plan of Improvement: Developed This Date 09/08/2021

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.state.ga.us/CCS/Regulations.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



### Important New Deadlines:

Due to the ongoing COVID restrictions, the deadline to become Quality Rated for programs who want to continue to receive Childcare and Parent Services (CAPS), has been extended to at least December 31, 2021.

Get started today! Sign up by completing a short online application: <https://qualityrated.dec.state.ga.us/>  
Request free technical assistance to help you earn your star rating by contacting the Quality Rated help desk at 855-800-7747 or [qualityrated@dec.state.ga.us](mailto:qualityrated@dec.state.ga.us)

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), e-mail the following information to [CCSRefutations@dec.state.ga.us](mailto:CCSRefutations@dec.state.ga.us).

- 1) Facility name, license number and visit date
- 2) Your name, title/relationship to the facility, e-mail address & up to two phone number(s) where you can be reached
- 3) Specific rule number(s) that you are refuting, along with your concerns or questions regarding the rule citation

Refutations must be submitted to Child Care Services (CCS) within 10 business days of the completion date.

A sample form for submitting a refutation can be found at: <http://dec.state.ga.us/ChildCareServices/RefutationInformation.aspx>

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)

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Casharia Walker, Program Official

Date

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Brandi Mangino, Consultant

Date



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### Findings Report

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#### CCLC-10983

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The following information is associated with a Licensing Study:

### Activities and Equipment

#### 591-1-1-.03 Activities

Met

#### Comment

Family schedule and lesson plans observed.

**Correction Deadline: 9/2/2021**

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

Met

#### Comment

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

#### Comment

Discussed rotating toys to support the procedures of daily disinfecting.

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

Not Evaluated

#### Comment

Center does not provide swimming activities.

### Children's Records

**Records Reviewed: 5**

**Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 2**

Child # 1	Not Met
<u>"Missing/Incomplete Components"</u>	
.08(1)-Allergies and Disabilities,.08(1)-Emergency Contact information Missing	
Child # 2	Met
Child # 3	Met
Child # 4	Not Met

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.08(3)-Address of Release Person Missing,.08(1)-Doctor, Clinic, Phone Numbers

Child # 5

Met

**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, mental retardation or developmental disabilities which limit the child's participation in the program. It was determined based on a review of records that the following information was missing from enrollment applications:

- one of five did not have the full address of the emergency contact
- one of five did not have the physicians phone number listed
- one of five did not have listed if the child had any allergies or special needs
- one of five did not have the relationship listed 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: 9/16/2021**

**Facility**

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

**Met**

**Comment**

Licensed capacity observed to be routinely met by center.

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

**Met**

**Comment**

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

Please ensure the fan in the after school room is inaccessible.

**Comment**

Please secure cleaning tools (i.e., broom, plunger) out of reach of children.

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

**Met**

**Comment**

Discussed maintenance of resilient surface. Please fluff and redistribute.

**Food Service**

**591-1-1-.15 Food Service & Nutrition**

**Met**

**Comment**

Please ensure that infant feeding forms are updated regularly.

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

Kitchen appears clean and well organized.

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**Health and Hygiene**

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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 of children and staff was discussed with the director on this date.

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

591-1-1-.20(1) requires Personnel to obtain specific written authorization from the child's physician or parent in order to dispense prescription or non-prescription medications, except for first aid. Such authorization will include when applicable, date; full name of the child; name of the medication; prescription number, if any; dosage; the dates to be given; the time of day to be dispensed; and signature of parent. It was determined based on a review of records that medication was due to be dispensed from May 3, 2021 until May 7, 2021 and it was not logged that medication was given on May 7, 2021.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

The Center will train Staff to obtain and review parental authorizations to ensure the authorization contains complete information. The designated person(s) will monitor daily.

**Correction Deadline: 9/8/2021**

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**Policies and Procedures**

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**591-1-1-.27 Posted Notices****Met****Comment**

Please make sure that all required signs are posted and up to date.

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**Safety**

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**591-1-1-.05 Animals****Not Evaluated****Comment**

Center does not keep animals on premises.

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

Age-appropriate discussion and/or redirection observed.

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

Center does not participate in field trips at this time.

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

## Staff Records

**Records Reviewed: 21**

**Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 8**

Staff # 1	Met
Date of Hire: 06/03/2019	
Staff # 2	Met
Staff # 3	Met
Staff # 4	Met
Date of Hire: 02/11/2021	
Staff # 5	Not Met
Date of Hire: 01/05/2021	
<u>"Missing/Incomplete Components"</u>	
.14(2)-CPR missing,.14(2)-First Aid Missing,.24(1)-Evidence of Orientation Missing	
Staff # 6	Not Met
Date of Hire: 08/03/2021	
<u>Reminder - Health &amp; Safety training is required within 90 calendar days of hired</u>	
<u>"Missing/Incomplete Components"</u>	
.24(1)-Evidence of Orientation Missing	
Staff # 7	Met
Date of Hire: 09/18/2015	
Staff # 8	Not Met
<u>"Missing/Incomplete Components"</u>	
.14(2)-First Aid Missing,.14(2)-CPR missing,.33(3)-Health & Safety Certificate	
Staff # 9	Met
Date of Hire: 06/14/2014	
Staff # 10	Met
Date of Hire: 05/20/2019	
Staff # 11	Not Met

**Records Reviewed: 21****Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 8**

Date of Hire: 02/11/2021

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.14(2)-First Aid Missing,.14(2)-CPR missing,.33(3)-Health &amp; Safety Certificate

Staff # 12

Met

Date of Hire: 09/12/2019

Staff # 13

Not Met

Date of Hire: 05/10/2021

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.14(2)-CPR missing,.14(2)-First Aid Missing

Staff # 14

Met

Date of Hire: 07/09/2021

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

Staff # 15

Not Met

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.14(2)-CPR missing,.14(2)-First Aid Missing,.33(3)-Health &amp; Safety Certificate

Staff # 16

Met

Date of Hire: 06/23/2016

Staff # 17

Met

Date of Hire: 08/05/2021

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

Staff # 18

Not Met

Date of Hire: 02/02/2021

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.14(2)-First Aid Missing,.14(2)-CPR missing

Staff # 19

Not Met

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(3)-Health &amp; Safety Certificate

Staff # 20

Met

Staff # 21

Met

Date of Hire: 07/30/2020

**Staff Credentials Reviewed: 7****591-1-1-.09 Criminal Records and Comprehensive Background Checks(CR)****Met****Comment**

Criminal record checks were observed to be complete.



**Finding**

591-1-1-.14(1) requires the Center Director and, at any given time, at least fifty percent (50%) of the caregiver Staff to successfully complete a biennial training program in cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and a triennial training program in first aid. The first aid training must be done by certified or licensed health care professionals or trainers and must deal with the provision of emergency care to infants and children. The Center shall maintain current evidence of the successful completion of such training which shall be available to the Department for inspection. It was determined based on a review of records that the center director had expired first aid and CPR training. It was further determined that four of 19 staff members had valid first aid and CPR.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

The Center Director and at least 50% of the caregiver Staff will complete the needed training. The Director will send written verification to the consultant upon completion and will develop a plan to ensure that at least 50% of the caregiver Staff have completed this training at any given time and that evidence of successful completion of the training is on file available for inspection.

**Correction Deadline: 10/2/2021****Finding**

591-1-1-.14(2) requires a Staff member who is trained in CPR and first aid to be on the premises and on any field trip whenever any child is present. In addition, Staff who provide direct care to children must satisfactorily obtain certification in first aid and CPR by December 29, 2016 if employed prior to September 30, 2016 and within 90 days of their hire date if employed after September 30, 2016. It was determined based on a review of records that six staff members did not complete first aid and CPR training within 90 days of their hire date.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

The Center will develop a schedule to ensure there is always a staff person with current first aid and CPR training present and will develop and implement a plan to ensure all staff members have satisfactorily completed first aid and CPR training by the specified date.

**Correction Deadline: 10/2/2021**

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

591-1-1-.33(1) requires all Employees and Provisional Employees to receive Initial Center orientation prior to assignment to children or task. It was determined based on a review of records that two of 19 staff members did not have initial orientation paperwork submitted with the administrative review.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

The Center will develop and provide orientation for all new Staff prior to their staff's assignment to children or task.

**Correction Deadline: 9/2/2021****Finding**

591-1-1-.33(3) requires each Staff member with direct care responsibilities to complete health and safety orientation training within the first 90 days of employment. The state-approved training hours obtained will count toward required first year training hours. The training must address the following health and safety topics: prevention and control of infectious diseases (including immunizations); prevention of sudden infant death syndrome and use of safe sleeping practices; administration of medication, consistent with standards for parental consent; prevention of and response to emergencies due to food and allergic reactions; building and physical premises safety, including identification of and protection from hazards that can cause bodily injury such as electrical hazards, bodies of water, and vehicular traffic; prevention of shaken baby syndrome, abusive head trauma and child maltreatment; emergency preparedness and response planning for emergencies resulting from a natural disaster or a human-caused event (such as violence at a child care facility); handling and storage of hazardous materials and the appropriate disposal of bio contaminants; precautions in transporting children; recognition and reporting of child abuse and neglect; and child development. It was determined based on a review of records that four staff members that have been working at the center for over 90 days did not have their health and safety orientation.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

The Center will develop and implement a plan to schedule and track this training for all employees based on their hire dates and will ensure that the training includes all required components as required.

**Correction Deadline: 10/2/2021**

**Finding**

591-1-1-.33(4) requires within the first year of employment, the Director and person with primary responsibility for food preparation shall have four clock hours of training in food nutrition planning, preparation, serving, proper dish washing and food storage. It was determined based on a review of records that the center director had two of four required food service and nutrition training.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

The Center will schedule food preparation training, as required, and follow up to ensure the training is completed.

**Correction Deadline: 10/2/2021**

**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 a review of records that one of five staff members did not have annual training for the 2020 year.

**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: 10/2/2021**

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**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**

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**591-1-1-.32 Staff:Child Ratios and Group Size(CR)**

**Met**

**Comment**

Adequate supervision observed on this date.

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

**Met**

**Comment**

Adequate supervision observed on this date.