



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: 4/20/2023 **VisitType:** Licensing Study **Arrival:** 8:05 AM **Departure:** 10:30 AM

CCLC-24210

A Brighter Choice Early Learning Center, Inc.

106 Morris Street Fort Valley, GA 31030 Peach County
 (478) 825-9555 abrighterchoice@bellsouth.net

Region Consultant

Brandi Mangino

Phone: (478) 314-9726

Fax: (478) 599-0169

brandi.mangino@dec.al.ga.gov

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.
04/20/2023	Licensing Study	Good Standing	
10/18/2022	Monitoring Visit	Good Standing	
03/17/2022	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
Building 2	A: Right		0	0	C	4	C	NA	NA	
Building 2	B: Middle		0	0	C	17	C	NA	NA	
Building 2	C: Left		0	0	C	4	C	NA	NA	
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 25			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0							
Main	A - Middle	Three Year Olds	1	7	C	24	C	NA	NA	Centers
Main	B - 1st Left (intants)	Infants and One Year Olds	2	8	C	26	C	NA	NA	Free Play,Floor Play,Diapering
Main	C - Right	Two Year Olds	1	9	C	14	C	NA	NA	Centers
Main	D - Far Rear Right room		0	0	C	20	C	NA	NA	
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 84			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0							
Total # Children this Date: 24			Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 109							
			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0							

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	A	15	C
Main	B	76	C

Comments

Plan of Improvement developed on this date.

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.

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 user id 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 1 855-800-7747 or qualityrated@dec.al.ga.gov for more information. Free technical assistance is available!

Florine Dodson, Program Official

Date

Brandi Mangino, Consultant

Date



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

(Findings Report)

Date: 4/20/2023 VisitType: Licensing Study Arrival: 8:05 AM Departure: 10:30 AM

CCLC-24210

A Brighter Choice Early Learning Center, Inc.

106 Morris Street Fort Valley, GA 31030 Peach County
(478) 825-9555 abrighterchoice@bellsouth.net

Region Consultant

Brandi Mangino

Phone: (478) 314-9726

Fax: (478) 599-0169

brandi.mangino@decal.ga.gov

Mailing Address
Same

The following information is associated with a Licensing Study:

Activities and Equipment

591-1-1-.03 Activities

Not Met

Finding

591-1-1-.03(2) requires the Center to keep current lesson plans on site that reflect appropriate instruction practices and activities to support children's development The Center shall have sufficient and varied play and learning equipment and materials to support the above program of activities in all developmental areas. It was determined based on observation that Room A, B and C did not have current lesson plans.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will keep current lesson plans on site that include appropriate instruction practices and activities and will have sufficient and varied play and learning equipment and materials to support the activities.

Correction Deadline: 4/20/2023

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)

Met

Comment

Center does not provide swimming activities.

Children's Records

591-1-1-.08 Children's Records

Technical Assistance

Technical Assistance

Please ensure that enrollment applications are completely filled out.

Correction Deadline: 4/20/2023

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.

Correction Deadline: 10/18/2022

Corrected on 4/20/2023

.25(13) - Citation corrected.

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

Playground observed to be clean and in good repair.

Food Service**591-1-1-.15 Food Service & Nutrition****Not Met****Finding**

591-1-1-.15(2) requires that a signed written feeding plan for children less than one (1) year of age shall be obtained from Parent(s) and that instructions from the Parent(s) shall be updated regularly as new foods are added or other dietary changes are made. The feeding plan shall be posted in the child's assigned room and must include the child's feeding schedule, the amount of formula or breast milk to be given, instructions for the introduction of solid foods, the amount of food to be given and notation of any type(s) of commercially premixed formula which may not be used in an emergency because of food allergies. It was determined based on a review of records that one of three infant feeding plans did not have the type of formula, amount of formula and the parent did not initial off on if the child was to have solid foods.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center Director will develop and implement a plan to obtain and post the completed feeding plan as part of the enrollment process and to have parents update the plans on a regular basis that will include center staff involved with enrollment and those working in the infant classrooms.

Correction Deadline: 4/20/2023

Finding

591-1-1-.15(3) requires baby bottles and formula to be labeled with the individual child's name; supplied by the Parent daily in bottles; and refrigerated at a temperature of forty (40) degrees Fahrenheit or less. Only the current day's formula or breast milk shall be served. If formula must be provided by the Center, only commercially prepared, ready-to-feed formula shall be used. Refrigerated or frozen breast milk shall only be heated or thawed under warm running water or in a container of warm water. It was determined based on observation that bottles were not premade they had powder formula inside and the staff member had to fill the bottles for feeding.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will train Staff to follow the required procedures, ensure that parents are fully informed, and will review and monitor regularly.

Correction Deadline: 4/20/2023

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

591-1-1-.18(4) requires kitchen lights to be shielded. It was determined based on observation that the kitchen lights were not shielded.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will install or repair a shield on the kitchen light.

Correction Deadline: 4/30/2023

Finding

591-1-1-.18(7) requires each Center to have a designated space for storage of food and kitchen items and that the area be kept clean and free of accumulation of dust, dirt, food particles and grease deposits. It was determined based on observation that the vent in the kitchen ceiling had dust build-up, and the material behind the kitchen sink was chipping material.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will designate an area for the storage of these items, will thoroughly clean the space, if needed, develop and implement a plan to train Staff, as needed, and inspect the storage area daily.

Correction Deadline: 4/20/2023

Health and Hygiene

591-1-1-.07 Children's Health

Met

Correction Deadline: 10/18/2022

Corrected on 4/20/2023

.07(5) - Citation observed to be corrected.

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

Not Met

Finding

591-1-1-.10(1) requires Centers first licensed after March 1, 1991, and Centers that are renovated after March 1, 1991, to provide ventilation in the diapering areas with functioning exhaust fans and a duct system or by the required amount of window space provided by operable windows when open. It was determined based on observation that the ventilation was not used during diapering in Room B.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The responsible person(s) at the center will ensure that the exhaust fans and duct systems are functioning or that the required amount of operable window space is provided in each diapering area.

Correction Deadline: 4/20/2023

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 observation that a towel was used under a child for diapering in the infant classroom. The staff member indicated that the each child had a towel and it was used of the morning time when the changing station was cold. A new towel was not used each time. It was further determined that the diapering station was not sanitized after diapering in Room B.

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: 4/20/2023

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

Not Met

Comment

Staff were observed to remind children to wash hands.

Correction Deadline: 10/18/2022

Corrected on 4/20/2023

.17(7) - Citation observed to be corrected.

Finding

591-1-1-.17(8) requires staff to wash their hands with liquid soap and warm running water upon arrival for the day, when moving from one child care group to another, upon re-entering the child care area after outside play, before and after diapering each child, dispensing medication, applying topical medications, handling and preparing food, eating, drinking, preparing bottles, feeding each child, assisting children with eating and drinking, after toileting or assisting children with toileting, using tobacco products, handling garbage and organic waste, touching animals or pets, handling bodily fluids and after contamination by any means. It was determined based on observation that In Room B a staff member did not wash hands after diapering or cleaning a child's nose.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will ensure liquid soap and warm running water are available for handwashing, train Staff on the handwashing requirements, review the requirements with Staff periodically, and monitor handwashing.

Correction Deadline: 4/20/2023

591-1-1-.20 Medications(CR)**Not Evaluated****Comment**

The Provider currently does not dispense/administer medication.

Policies and Procedures

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

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

Safety

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

Center does not keep animals on premises.

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

Age-appropriate discussion and/or redirection observed.

591-1-1-.13 Field Trips(CR)**Not Evaluated****Comment**

Center does not participate in field trips at this time.

591-1-1-.36 Transportation(CR)**Not Evaluated****Comment**

Center does not provide routine transportation.

Sleeping & Resting Equipment

591-1-1-.30 Safe Sleeping and Resting Requirements(CR)**Not Met****Finding**

591-1-1-.30(1)(a)3 requires that each crib shall have only an individual, tight-fitting sheet which is changed daily or more often as needed and prior to a change of occupant. It was determined based on staff statements that crib sheets are changed "every other day".

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The center will ensure that each crib has an individual, tight-fitting sheet which is changed daily or more often as needed and prior to a change of occupant.

Correction Deadline: 4/20/2023

Finding

591-1-1-.30(1)(d) requires that all sleeping and resting equipment shall be arranged to avoid obstructing access to exit doors, to provide the caregivers access to each child, and to prevent children's access to cords hanging from window treatments and other hazardous objects. To reduce the transfer of airborne diseases, sleeping and resting equipment shall be arranged as follows. There shall be a minimum of twenty-four inch (24") corridor between each row of sleeping or resting equipment. There shall be a minimum of twelve inches (12") between each piece of sleeping or resting equipment in each row of equipment. Children shall be placed on cots and mats so that one child's head is toward another child's feet in the same row. It was determined based on observation that cribs in Room B were not spaced accordingly in that they were spaced approximately three inches apart.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will arrange and place sleeping and resting equipment according to the requirements in the rule; will train Staff; and will monitor for continued compliance.

Correction Deadline: 4/20/2023

Staff Records**591-1-1-.09 Criminal Records and Comprehensive Background Checks(CR)****Technical Assistance****Technical Assistance**

Consultant discussed that since the listed director has been out the last two regulatory visits that before returning a new background check will be required.

Correction Deadline: 4/20/2023

591-1-1-.14 First Aid & CPR**Not Met****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 listed director does not have current 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: 5/20/2023

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 the director does not have the required 10 hours of annual training for the 2022 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: 5/20/2023

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 the center does not have a director meeting the requirements as the listed director has not been present at the center the last two regulatory visits and their CDA has expired.

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: 4/20/2023

Finding

591-1-1-.31(2)(c) requires the Center to maintain a copy and/or written verification of the credential or degree awarded to the lead teacher that is required by these rules in the lead teacher's file, to make the document available for inspection and to provide the document to Department staff upon request. It was determined based on a review of records that the center does not have lead teachers for two of three classrooms that are in use.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will review lead teacher records to ensure the required documentation is on file and will obtain and file it if not found.

Correction Deadline: 4/20/2023

Technical Assistance

The center director has been out the past two regulatory visits on extended leave. The center needs a director meeting the requirements and that can be present the majority of the time. Consultant further discussed due to the owner of the center being present and the director of another center being present at the current visit and the last regulatory visit they are required to be at the centers they are directors of the majority of the time.

Correction Deadline: 4/20/2023

Staffing and Supervision
Comment

Center observed to maintain appropriate staff:child ratios.

Finding

591-1-1-.32(7) requires that children be supervised at all times appropriate to the individual age, needs and capabilities of each child. Such supervision must include, but not be limited to, indoor and outdoor activities, mealtimes, naptime, transportation, field trips, and transitions between activities. "Supervision" means that the appropriate number of Staff members are physically present in the area where children are being cared for and are providing watchful oversight to the children, volunteers and Students-in-Training. The persons supervising in the child care area must be alert, positioned to maximize their ability to hear and see the children at all times, and able to respond promptly to the needs and actions of the children being supervised, as well as the actions of the volunteers and Students-in-Training, and provide timely attention to the children's actions and needs. 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. It was determined based on observation that a three-year-old child entered the building and was allowed to walk down the hallway to their classroom without a staff member walking them. It was further determined, that the staff member in Room C would take children to their classrooms and due to wall barriers of the room she was not able to fully provide watchful oversight of the classroom.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will train Staff and monitor to ensure they are providing supervision and watchful oversight to the children at all times.

Correction Deadline: 4/20/2023

Recited on 4/20/2023