



**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:** 10/18/2022 **VisitType:** Monitoring Visit

**Arrival:** 8:00 AM

**Departure:** 10:10 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

**Regional Consultant**

Brandi Mangino

Phone: (478) 314-9726

Fax: (478) 599-0169

brandi.mangino@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.
10/18/2022	Monitoring Visit	Good Standing	
03/17/2022	Monitoring Visit	Good Standing	
09/15/2021	Licensing Study	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 and Four Year Olds	1	7	C	24	C	NA	NA	Transitioning
Main	B - 1st Left (infants)	Infants and One Year Olds	2	6	C	26	C	NA	NA	Transitioning
Main	C - Right	Two Year Olds	2	5	C	14	C	NA	NA	Breakfast, Transitioning
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: 18			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

A plan of improvement was developed on this date.

Plan of Improvement: Developed This Date 10/18/2022

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 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@dec.state.ga.us](mailto:qualityrated@dec.state.ga.us) for more information. Free technical assistance is available!**

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)

---

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:** 10/18/2022 **VisitType:** Monitoring Visit

**Arrival:** 8:00 AM

**Departure:** 10:10 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

**Mailing Address**  
Same

**Regional Consultant**

Brandi Mangino

Phone: (478) 314-9726

Fax: (478) 599-0169

brandi.mangino@decal.ga.gov

The following information is associated with a Monitoring Visit:

### Activities and Equipment

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

**Technical Assistance**

**Technical Assistance**

Consultant discussed that one infant feeding chair in the infant classroom needs the safety straps.

**Correction Deadline: 10/18/2022**

**Technical Assistance**

Consultant discussed the radio on top of the shelf in the Right Classroom needs to be secured so it does not pose a falling hazard.

**Correction Deadline: 10/18/2022**

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

**Not Evaluated**

**Comment**

Center does not provide swimming activities.

### 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)**

**Not Met**

**Finding**

591-1-1-.25(13) requires that potentially hazardous equipment, materials and supplies be stored in a locked area inaccessible to children. It was determined based on observation that the following hazards were accessible to children in care:

Middle Room:

rubber gloves over the sink

Right Room:

Diaper rash cream and clorox wipes on a shelf within reach

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

The Center will identify all hazardous items and keep them in a locked area inaccessible to children. The Center will inform all Staff about hazardous items and the safe storage of those items.

**Correction Deadline: 10/18/2022**

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

Playground observed to be clean and in good repair.

**Health and Hygiene****591-1-1-.07 Children's Health****Not Met****Finding**

591-1-1-.07(5) requires Center Staff to not permit children to wear around their necks or attach to their clothing pacifier or other hazardous items. It was determined based on observation that an infant had a pacifier clip attached to their clothing.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

The Center will instruct Staff regarding this safety requirement.

**Correction Deadline: 10/18/2022**

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

Staff state proper knowledge of diapering procedures.

**591-1-1-.17 Hygiene(CR)****Not Met****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 observation that a child entered the Middle room for the day and was not required to wash hands.

**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: 10/18/2022**

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

The Provider currently does not dispense/administer medication.

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

Age-appropriate discussion and/or redirection observed.

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

Center does not provide routine transportation.

**Sleeping & Resting Equipment**

**Comment**

Discussed SIDS and infant sleeping position.

**Staff Records****Records Reviewed: 15****Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 0**

Staff # 1	Met
Date of Hire: 07/27/2022	<u>Reminder - Health &amp; Safety training is required within 90 calendar days of hired</u>
Staff # 2	Met
Date of Hire: 01/18/2022	
Staff # 3	Met
Date of Hire: 06/18/2019	
Staff # 4	Met
Date of Hire: 08/08/2022	<u>Reminder - Health &amp; Safety training is required within 90 calendar days of hired</u>
Staff # 5	Met
Date of Hire: 03/08/2010	
Staff # 6	Met
Date of Hire: 04/03/2013	
Staff # 7	Met
Date of Hire: 07/19/2018	
Staff # 8	Met
Date of Hire: 03/01/2017	
Staff # 9	Met
Date of Hire: 05/14/2015	
Staff # 10	Met
Date of Hire: 06/22/2022	
Staff # 11	Met
Date of Hire: 04/05/2022	
Staff # 12	Met
Date of Hire: 02/23/2022	
Staff # 13	Met
Date of Hire: 04/02/2014	

**Records Reviewed: 15**

**Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 0**

Staff # 14

Met

Date of Hire: 04/14/2022

Staff # 15

Met

Date of Hire: 10/17/2022

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

**Staff Credentials Reviewed: 8**

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

**Met**

**Comment**

Director provided four file(s) for employees hired since last visit.

**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**

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

**Met**

**Correction Deadline: 3/17/2022**

**Corrected on 10/18/2022**

**.32(1) - Citation observed to be corrected.**

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

**Not Met**

**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 two-year-old child walked down the hall from the classroom to the three-year-old class.

**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: 10/18/2022**