



**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:** 5/12/2022 **VisitType:** Licensing Study

**Arrival:** 8:45 AM

**Departure:** 10:00 AM

**CCLC-47908**

**The Preferred Choice**

214 N. 13th Street Griffin, GA 30223 Spalding County  
 (770) 233-8984 admin@thepreferredchoice.com

**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.
05/12/2022	Licensing Study	Good Standing	
08/05/2021	Monitoring Visit	Good Standing	
03/23/2021	Licensing Study	Good Standing	

**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.

**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- BL	Infants and One Year Olds	1	5	C	7	C	NA	NA	Feeding, Floor Play
Main	B- BR	One Year Olds	1	3	C	6	C	NA	NA	Circle Time, Diapering
Main	C- 2R	Two Year Olds and Three Year Olds	1	4	C	7	C	NA	NA	Circle Time
Main	D- 1R	Four Year Olds	1	5	C	12	C	17	C	Art, Homework
Main	E- 1L		0	0	C	8	C	11	C	
Main	F- Front Far Righ		0	0	C	4	C	NA	NA	
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 44					Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 52					
Total # Children this Date: 17			Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 44			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 52				

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	A	126	C

**Comments**

An in person visit, administrative review were conducted on May 12, 2022.

Plan of Improvement: Developed This Date 05/12/2022

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)

Zakiyyah Ali, 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:** 5/12/2022    **VisitType:** Licensing Study    **Arrival:** 8:45 AM    **Departure:** 10:00 AM

#### CCLC-47908

#### The Preferred Choice

214 N. 13th Street Griffin, GA 30223 Spalding County  
(770) 233-8984 admin@thepreferredchoice.com

**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 Licensing Study:

### Activities and Equipment

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

Technical Assistance

#### Technical Assistance

Consultant discussed the computer screen in the 1L Classroom on the self needs to be moved or secured.

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

Met

#### Comment

Center does not provide swimming activities.

### Children's Records

**Records Reviewed: 5**

**Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 1**

Child # 1	Met
Child # 2	Not Met
<u>"Missing/Incomplete Components"</u>	
.08(1)-Parent Names, Work Numbers	
Child # 3	Met
Child # 4	Met
Child # 5	Met

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

Technical Assistance

#### Technical Assistance

Please ensure that parents work information is filled out on enrollment applications.

Correction Deadline: 5/12/2022

**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)**

**Technical Assistance**

**Comment**

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

**Technical Assistance**

Coconsultant discussed the walls in the kitchen need repaired and the bolts on the bottom of toilets needs to be cut flush or have caps.

**Correction Deadline: 5/12/2022**

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

**Not Met**

**Comment**

Discussed maintenance of resilient surface. Please fluff and redistribute.

**Technical Assistance**

Consultant discussed to monitor S hooks and chains on swings for rust.

**Correction Deadline: 5/12/2022**

**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 the following items posed hazards on the playground:

- vines through fencing
- large tree in back that provides shade needs to be trimmed
- limbs
- wooden fencing against the building
- 

**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: 5/12/2022**

**Food Service**

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

**Technical Assistance**

**Comment**

Please ensure that infant feeding forms are updated regularly.

**Technical Assistance**

Consultant discussed menu requirements.

**Correction Deadline: 5/12/2022**

**Health and Hygiene**

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

**Not Met**

**Technical Assistance**

Consultant discussed the position of diapering stations or submitting of supervision plan.

**Correction Deadline: 5/12/2022**

**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 staff in the Back Right Classroom did not disinfect the diapering station before or after the diaper change.

**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: 5/12/2022**

---

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

**Not Met**

**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 staff in the Back Right Classroom did not wash hands prior to diapering.

**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: 5/12/2022**

---

**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.

**Comment**

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

**Comment**

The vehicle was checked for compliance. Proper restraints were observed and discussed with the director.

**Finding**

591-1-1-.36(7)(b) requires that an emergency medical information record be maintained in the vehicle for each child being transported. The emergency medical information record for each child shall include a listing of the child's full name, date of birth, allergies, special medical needs and conditions, current prescribed medications that the child is required to take on a daily basis for a chronic condition, the name and telephone number of the child's doctor, the local medical facility that the Center uses in the area where the Center is located and the telephone numbers where the Parents can be reached. It was determined based on a review of records that the following information was missing from emergency medical forms:

- four Of 26 did not have the fathers information
- one of 26 did not have the physicans name or number
- one of 26 did not have if the child was on any medication
- one of 26 did not have if the child had any special needs
- 11 of 26 did not have home number listed
- 21 of 26 did not have a work number listed
- five of 26 did any numbers listed for one of the parents

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

The Center will obtain a complete emergency medical information record for each child that is transported and maintain a copy on the vehicle.

**Correction Deadline: 5/13/2022**

**Sleeping & Resting Equipment**

**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: 6**

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

Staff # 1	Met
Date of Hire: 05/01/2000	
Staff # 2	Met
Date of Hire: 03/30/2000	
Staff # 3	Met
Date of Hire: 05/02/2014	
Staff # 4	Met
Date of Hire: 02/07/2018	
Staff # 5	Met

**Records Reviewed: 6**

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

Date of Hire: 08/03/2015

Staff # 6

Met

Date of Hire: 01/21/2021

**Staff Credentials Reviewed: 5**

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

**Met**

**Comment**

Consultant requested to view all Criminal Record checks for employees hired after last visit. Director stated that there have been no new hires since last visit

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

**Met**

**Comment**

Please replace/add missing/expired item(s) in first aid kit(s).

**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**

**Comment**

Discussed combining children of mixed ages.

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

**Met**

**Comment**

Adequate supervision observed on this date.