



**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:** 6/22/2023    **VisitType:** Incident Investigation  
 Closure from visit on  
 09/01/2022

**CCLC-1444**

**Special Investigations Unit Sr. Specialist**

**Cherokee Academy At Clayton**

Beverly Pollard

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 Same

**Quality Rated:** ★ ★

<b>Compliance Zone Designation</b>		
06/22/2023	Incident Investigation Closure	Good Standing
06/06/2023	Licensing Study	Good Standing
02/01/2023	Monitoring Visit	Good Standing

**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.

**Comments**

The Incident Investigation was not completed on this date. A final copy will be sent to the facility.  
 June 22, 2023 The Incident Investigation was completed on this date. A final copy was sent to the facility.

**Advisement of Potential for Repeated Rule Violations during Pending Investigations**

This report shall serve as official notice of potential rule violations. These potential rule violations have been detailed in this report and discussed with you by the consultant. The department shall conduct a thorough investigation to determine if in fact the alleged rule violation(s) should or should not be substantiated. Please be aware that the investigation may take some time to be finalized to ensure fairness and accuracy. During this investigation period, any violations of an identical rule or rules will require the department to treat any and all substantiated rule violations identified in the investigation as repeated rule violation(s).

Further, from time to time the department discovers additional rule violations during the course of an investigation. If there are new rule violation(s), your consultant shall inform you of the violation(s) as soon as possible. However, as stated above, any violations of identical rule(s) will require the department to treat any and all additional rule violations identified in the investigation as repeated rule violations.

All rule violations found in relation to a complaint or incident investigation will be associated with the date the investigation was closed.



Please refer to the website, <http://www.decal.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), e-mail the following information to [CCSRefutations@decal.ga.gov](mailto:CCSRefutations@decal.ga.gov).

- 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://decal.ga.gov/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)

I have read and understand the Rules and Regulations for Child Care Learning Centers, 591-1-1. I acknowledge that the items noted in this report have been discussed with me and I have agreed to a Plan of Improvement (POI) as indicated in this report. I understand that correction of these deficiencies, while required, will not necessarily prevent DECAL from taking adverse action against this facility. I understand that if I disagree with any of the deficiencies cited, I have the right to refute them on this report or any other form that I choose to send to Child Care Services.

Charanjeev Singh, Program Official	Date	Beverly Pollard ,Special Investigations Unit Sr. Specialist	Date
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### Summary Report

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The following information is associated with a Incident Investigation Closure:

### Activities and Equipment

**591-1-1-.03 Activities**

**Not Met**

#### Finding Associated with Complaint

591-1-1-.03(8) requires a center to provide individual attention to each child by responding promptly to the child's distress signals and need for comfort.

It was determined that on August 15, 2022, a staff person did not respond promptly to a five-year-old child's distress signals and need for comfort. At approximately 4:30 p.m., the child fell from a climbing structure on the playground and injured their arm. An ice pack was provided. The child continued to cry and did not return to normal play. The child was still crying when the class went inside and was instructed to sit on the rug. The child received professional medical treatment on August 17, 2022, and was diagnosed with a serious arm injury.

#### POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will provide staff training in when and how to respond appropriately to children's distress signals and need for comfort.

**Correction Deadline: 6/22/2023**

### Health and Hygiene

**Finding Associated with Complaint**

591-1-1-.07(2) requires Center Staff to immediately notify Parents and obtain specific instructions until the child can be picked up or returned to the group when professional medical attention is required, or when the child experiences symptoms of moderate discomfort such as elevated temperature, vomiting or diarrhea and to notify Parents by the end of the day when professional medical attention is not required, when the child experiences symptoms of less than moderate discomfort or when the child experiences an adverse reaction to prescribed medication which does not constitute moderate discomfort.

It was determined that on August 15, 2022, the parent of a five-year-old child was not notified by the end of the day of an arm injury. The child received professional medical treatment on August 17, 2022, and was diagnosed with a serious arm injury.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

The Center will provide notification and obtain instructions as required and will train Staff to familiarize them with the notification requirements and the Center's procedures for following them.

**Correction Deadline: 6/22/2023**