



**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:** 7/31/2023    **VisitType:** Licensing Study    **Arrival:** 10:45 AM    **Departure:** 1:40 PM

**CCLC-55055**

**Brilliant Minds Academy of Georgia**

2408 Bemiss Road Valdosta, GA 31602 Lowndes County  
CCLC-55055 brilliantminds1984@gmail.com

**CCS Coordinator**

Lisa Pitts

Phone: (678) 747-6859  
Fax: (706) 314-7903  
lisa.prather@decal.ga.gov

**Mailing Address**  
Same

**Quality Rated:** ★

| <b>Compliance Zone Designation</b> |                  |               |
|------------------------------------|------------------|---------------|
| 07/31/2023                         | Licensing Study  | Good Standing |
| 02/07/2023                         | Monitoring Visit | Good Standing |
| 08/15/2022                         | Licensing Study  | 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.

**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                           | Room A - front left                 | Infants and Two Year Olds and Three Year Olds | 1                           | 7        | C    | 7          | C                           | NA         | NA           | Free Play  |
| Main                           | Room B - back left                  | Infants                                       | 1                           | 2        | C    | 6          | C                           | NA         | NA           | Floor Play |
| Main                           | Room C - across from lobby area     | Four Year Olds                                | 1                           | 1        | C    | 6          | C                           | NA         | NA           | Centers    |
| Main                           | Room D - Right side right classroom |   | 0                           | 0        | C    | 6          | C                           | NA         | NA           | Not In Use |
| Main                           | Room E - Rt side mid                |   | 0                           | 0        | C    | 4          | C                           | NA         | NA           | Not In Use |
| Main                           | Room F - Rt side left classroom     |   | 0                           | 0        | C    | 5          | C                           | NA         | NA           | Not In Use |
| Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.:    |                                     |   |                             |          |      | 34         | Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: |            | 0            |            |
| Total # Children this Date: 10 |                                     |   | Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: |          |      | 34         | Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: |            |              | 0          |

| Building | Playground   | Playground Occupancy | Playground Compliance |
|----------|--------------|----------------------|-----------------------|
| Main     | Playground A | 31                   | C                     |

**Comments**

The purpose of today's visit is a licensing study.

Plan of Improvement: Developed This Date 07/31/2023

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.decals.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](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)



#### 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@decals.ga.gov](mailto:qualityrated@decals.ga.gov) for more information. Free technical assistance is available!**

Danielle Chappell, Program Official

Date

Lisa Pitts, CCS Coordinator

Date



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**(Findings Report)**

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The following information is associated with a Licensing Study:

**Activities and Equipment**

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

**Technical Assistance**

**Technical Assistance**

591-1-1-.03(2) - The consultant and the director discussed updating lesson plans with accurate dates.

**Correction Deadline: 7/31/2023**

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

**Met**

**Comment**

Discussed adding equipment and toys to enhance variety.

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

**Met**

**Comment**

Center does not provide swimming activities.

**Facility**

**591-1-1-.06 Bathrooms**

**Not Met**

**Finding**

591-1-1-.06(4) requires a Center first licensed after March 1, 1991, and Centers that remodel or add to existing plumbing facilities, to have the bathroom area fully enclosed and ventilated to the outside of the building with either an open screened window or functioning exhaust fan and duct system and requires Centers without fully enclosed bathrooms to ensure there is adequate ventilation to control odors and adequate sanitation measures to prevent the spread of contagious diseases. It was determined based on observation that the main bathroom located in the main hallway and the bathroom inside classroom F did not have proper ventilation.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

The Center will fully enclose and ventilate bathroom areas, as required, and will provide adequate ventilation and sanitation in bathrooms that are not fully enclosed.

**Correction Deadline: 8/30/2023**

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

**Comment**

Licensed capacity observed to be routinely met by center.

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**591-1-1-.25 Physical Plant - Safe Environment(CR)** **Not Met**

**Comment**

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

**Finding**

591-1-1-.25(3) requires the Center and surrounding premises to be kept clean, free of debris and in good repair. Hygienic measures such as, but not limited to, screened windows and proper waste disposal procedures shall be utilized to minimize the presence of rodents, flies, roaches and other vermin at the Center. It was determined based on observation that the metal handrail at the back steps of the playground was not secured to the steps posing a fall hazard.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

The Center will have the Center and surrounding areas cleaned, make repairs where needed, and remove all debris is removed. The Center will implement a plan to keep areas clean and in good repair that includes regular monitoring.

**Correction Deadline: 7/31/2023**

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

**Comment**

Playground observed to be clean and in good repair.

|                           |
|---------------------------|
| <b>Health and Hygiene</b> |
|---------------------------|

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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)** **Technical Assistance**

**Technical Assistance**

591-1-1-.17(8) - The consultant and staff member discussed proper hand washing procedures on this day.

**Correction Deadline: 7/31/2023**

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**591-1-1-.20 Medications(CR)** **Met**

**Comment**

The Provider currently does not dispense/administer medication.

|                                |
|--------------------------------|
| <b>Policies and Procedures</b> |
|--------------------------------|

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

**Comment**

Observed all required posted notices.

|               |
|---------------|
| <b>Safety</b> |
|---------------|

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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-.36 Transportation(CR)****Met****Comment**

Center does not provide routine transportation.

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**Sleeping & Resting Equipment**

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

591-1-1-.30(2) requires the Center to provide a safe sleep environment in accordance with American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) and American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) recommendations as listed in these rules for all infants. Center Staff shall place an infant to sleep on the infant's back in a crib unless the Center has been provided a physician's written statement authorizing another sleep position for that particular infant that includes how the infant shall be placed to sleep and a time frame that the instructions are to be followed. When an infant can easily turn over from back to front and back again, Staff shall continue to put the infant to sleep initially on the infant's back but allow the infant to roll over into his or her preferred position and not re-position the infant. Sleepers, sleep sacks and wearable blankets that fit according to the commercial manufacturer's guidelines and will not slide up around the infant's face may be used when necessary for the comfort of the sleeping infant. Swaddling shall not be used unless the Center has been provided a physician's written statement authorizing its use for a particular infant that includes instructions and a time frame for swaddling the infant. Center Staff shall not place objects or allow objects to be placed in or on the crib with an infant such as but not limited to toys, pillows, quilts, comforters, bumper pads, sheepskins, stuffed toys, or other soft items and shall not attach objects or allow objects to be attached to a crib with a sleeping infant, such as, but not limited to, crib gyms, toys, mirrors and mobiles. It was determined by asking the staff questions that infants were placed to sleep on their stomachs.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

The Center will take all steps necessary to provide a safe sleep environment for infants as listed in these rules; will train Staff to follow these rules; and will monitor for compliance.

**Correction Deadline: 8/31/2023**

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**Staff Records**

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

Criminal record checks were observed to be complete.

**591-1-1-.31 Staff(CR)****Met****Comment**

Staff observed to be compliant with applicable laws and regulations.

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**Staffing and Supervision**

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

591-1-1-.32 - The consultant and director discussed combining children of mixed ages.

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

Adequate supervision observed on this date.

