



**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:** 8/22/2023    **VisitType:** Licensing Study    **Arrival:** 9:10 AM    **Departure:** 5:15 PM

**CCLC-2289**

**Bessie's Child Care**

1842 Wrightsboro Road Augusta, GA 30904 Richmond County  
(706) 481-9968 bessiesinfo@gmail.com

**Regional Consultant**

Ashley Richards

Phone: ()

Fax:

ashley.richards@decal.ga.gov

Joint with: Kaycee Purvis

**Mailing Address**  
Same

**Quality Rated:** No

<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.
08/22/2023	Licensing Study	Good Standing	
03/30/2023	MV POI Follow Up	Good Standing	
11/16/2022	Incident Investigation Closure	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
I	A - 1st Right	Infants and One Year Olds	2	11	C	15	C	NA	NA	Circle Time,Feeding,O outside,Floor Play
I	B - 2nd Right		0	0	C	5	C	NA	NA	Circle Time,Feeding,Fl oor Play,Free Play
I	C - 1st Left	GA PreK	2	13	C	32	C	NA	NA	Centers,Outside ,Clean Up,Outside
I	D- 2nd Left	Three Year Olds	1	5	C	12	C	NA	NA	Outside
I	E - 3rd Left		0	0	C	44	C	NA	NA	Clean Up,Clean Up,Centers
			Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 108			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0				
II	F - Left Side	One Year Olds and Two Year Olds	1	5	C	12	C	NA	NA	Free Play,Centers
II	G - Right Side	Two Year Olds	1	6	C	14	C	NA	NA	Outside
			Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 26			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0				
Total # Children this Date: 40			Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 134			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0				

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
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## Comments

The purpose of this visit was to conduct a Licensing Study.

Plan of Improvement: To Be Submitted 09/06/2023

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.dec.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 855-800-7747 or [qualityrated@dec.ga.gov](mailto:qualityrated@dec.ga.gov) for more information. Free technical assistance is available!**

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Cheray Tucker, Program Official

Date

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Ashley Richards, Regional Consultant

Date

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Kaycee Purvis, Lead Consultant

Date



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**(Findings Report)**

**Date:** 8/22/2023 **VisitType:** Licensing Study

**Arrival:** 9:10 AM

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The following information is associated with a Licensing Study:

**Activities and Equipment**

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

**Technical Assistance**

**Comment**

A variety of equipment and toys were observed throughout the center.

**Comment**

591-1-1-.12(1) - Please ensure that all activity materials are in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions, recommendations, and intended use.

**Correction Deadline: 8/22/2023**

**Technical Assistance**

591-1-1-.12(2) - Please ensure that toys that are no longer able to be properly cleaned are removed from classrooms.

**Correction Deadline: 8/22/2023**

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

**N/A**

**Comment**

Center does not provide swimming activities.

**Children's Records**

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

**Met**

**Comment**

Records were observed to be complete and well organized.

**Facility**

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

**Met**

**Comment**

Bathrooms observed to be clean and well maintained.

**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**

**Technical Assistance**

591-1-1-.25(11) Please ensure that all floor coverings be tight and smooth.

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**Correction Deadline: 9/21/2023**

**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 upon observation that the following hazards were accessible to children on this date:

Room A

- One Staff purse was located on the top edge of a child’s desk behind the diaper changing table which was open and accessible to children.
- A vacuum, a mop, and a bucket of water were in the bathroom.

Room D

- One plunger was located in the girls bathroom.
- One liquid hand soap located on the sink in the classroom was labeled “Keep Out of Reach of Children”.

Room F

- One liquid hand soap located on the sink in the main classroom was labeled “Keep Out of Reach of Children”.
- A toilet brush was in an unlocked drawer in the children’s bathroom.
- One mop and empty mop bucket were located in the children’s bathroom.

Room G

- A pack of Huggies Natural Care Sensitive wipes were in a child's book bag.
- One mop and empty mop bucket were located in the children’s bathroom.
- A mop, broom, dust pan, and vacuum were located inside an unlocked closet.

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**Correction Deadline: 8/22/2023**

**Technical Assistance**

591-1-1-.25(3) - Please ensure that the Center is kept clean, free of debris and in good repair.

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**Correction Deadline: 8/22/2023**

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

**Not Met**

**Finding**

591-1-1-.26(4) requires that playgrounds be protected from traffic or other hazards by a (4) four foot high fence or other barrier approved by this Department. Fencing material shall not present a hazard to children and shall be maintained so as to prevent children from leaving the playground area by any means other than through an approved access route. Fence gates shall be kept closed except when persons are entering or exiting the area. It was determined based upon observation that the fourth section of the wooden fence had a hole at the bottom right of the fencing that measured two inches by two and a half inches and posed a potential entrapment hazard. It was further determined based upon observation that there were more than five bolts exposing more than two threads on the Back Playground. It was also determined based upon observation that there were 21 exposed bolts exposing more than two threads on the gate and back right chain length fence on the Front Playground.

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**Correction Deadline: 9/27/2023**

**Finding**

591-1-1-.26(6) requires that playground equipment provide an opportunity for the children to engage in a variety of experiences and shall be age-appropriate. For example, toddlers shall not be permitted to swing in swings designed for School-age Children. The outdoor equipment shall be free of lead-based paint, sharp corners and shall be regularly maintained in such a way as to be free of rust and splinters that could pose significant safety hazard to the children. All equipment shall be arranged so as not to obstruct supervision of children. It was determined based upon observation that the following hazards were accessible to children on this date:

**Front Playground**

- The blue tractor was missing one steering wheel and had a broken steering wheel.
- The PVC piping surrounding the large play equipment was disconnect on the right back side of the playground.
- The funnel ball equipment had sharp and chipped edges along the exit points.

**Back Playground**

- There was one metal blue truck with three exposed bolts on the left hand side, six splintered wood slats located on the back of the truck, and rusted metal on the truck frame.
  - There were three loose concrete bricks, three large rectangular pieces of wood, and one five gallon grey bucket underneath the stairs.
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**Correction Deadline: 9/27/2023**

**Technical Assistance**

591-1-1-.26(8) - Please ensure that areas with rotating devices and equipment measuring more than three inches in height have adequate resilient surfacing as required.

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**Correction Deadline: 9/1/2023**

**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 upon observation that on the left playground near the back section there was an exposed concrete brick not flushed in the ground causing a potential tripping hazard. It was further determined based upon observation that the following hazards were accessible to children on this date:

**Back Playground**

- Four exposed metal hooks were protruding from the ground located on the left and right hand sides of the far left playground area.
- There was one exposed concrete brick used as a part of the stairs on the right hand side that was not flush with the ground causing a potential tripping hazard.

**Front Playground**

- There was a large piece of exposed concrete located at the bottom of the pole on the chain link fence on the front right hand side of the playground.
- There were two protruding and exposed roots to the right of the slide.
- A bag of Miracle Gro potting soil was located on the front left side of the playground.

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**Correction Deadline: 9/27/2023**

**Recited on 8/22/2023**

**Food Service**

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

**Technical Assistance**

**Technical Assistance**

591-1-1-.15(2)(c) - Please ensure that all Infant Feeding Plans have parent signatures.

**Correction Deadline: 8/22/2023**

**591-1-1-.18 Kitchen Operations**

**Met**

**Comment**

Kitchen appears clean and well organized.

**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 pacifiers or other hazardous items. It was determined based upon observation that three children in Room A had pacifier straps attached to the front of their clothing.

**Correction Deadline: 8/22/2023**

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

**Not Met**

**Technical Assistance**

591-1-1-.10 - Please ensure that Staff are able to complete diapering procedures as required.

**Finding**

591-1-1-.10(9) requires Center Staff to not use the area used for diapering for food preparation and to keep the diapering area clear of formulas, food, food utensils and food preparation items. It was determined based upon observation that one infant bottle was sitting on the diaper changing table on this date.

**Correction Deadline: 8/22/2023**



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

591-1-1-.17(7) - Please ensure that children's hands are washed immediately after diapering.

**Correction Deadline: 8/22/2023**

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**591-1-1-.20 Medications(CR)****N/A****Comment**

The Provider currently does not dispense/administer medication.

<b>Policies and Procedures</b>
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**591-1-1-.27 Posted Notices****Technical Assistance****Technical Assistance**

591-1-1-.27 - Please ensure that all Posted Notices are hanging as required.

**Correction Deadline: 8/22/2023**

<b>Safety</b>
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**591-1-1-.05 Animals****N/A****Comment**

Center does not keep animals on premises.

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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-.13 Field Trips(CR)****N/A****Comment**

Center does not participate in field trips at this time.

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**591-1-1-.36 Transportation(CR)****Met****Comment**

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

**Comment**

Complete documentation of transportation observed.

**Comment**

The vehicle had an approved fire extinguisher and first aid kit on this date.

<b>Sleeping &amp; Resting Equipment</b>
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**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 upon observation that three out of three infant crib sheets were loose fitting on this date. It was further determined based upon observation that two out of the three cribs were in use by infants.

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**Correction Deadline: 8/22/2023**  
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**Correction Deadline: 3/30/2023**  
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**Corrected on 8/22/2023**  
**.30(2) - Correction of previous citation in that infants were placed in their cribs as required by a safe sleep environment on this date.**

<b>Staff Records</b>
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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.

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**591-1-1-.33 Staff Training** **Not Met**

**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 upon a review of records that two staff members did not have their Health and Safety Orientation training complete.

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**Correction Deadline: 9/27/2023**  
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**591-1-1-.31 Staff(CR)** **Met**

**Comment**  
Staff observed to be compliant with applicable laws and regulations.

**Staffing and Supervision**

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

**Not Met**

**Finding**

591-1-1-.32(1) requires the Center to maintain the required Staff:child ratios as follows: under 1 year or under 18 months if not walking = 1:6; 1 year and walking = 1:8; 2 years = 1:10; 3 years = 1:15; 4 years = 1:18; 5 years = 1:20;and 6 years and older = 1:25. A Center must establish groupings of children for care with maximum group sizes as follows: under 1 year = 12; under 18 months/not walking = 12; 1 year and walking = 16; 2 years = 20; 3 years = 30; 4 years = 36; 5 years = 40; and 6 years and older = 50. It was determined based upon observation that there was a staff:child ratio of 1:11 in Classroom A when one staff member briefly stepped into another room. A staff:child ratio for 2:11 was required.

**Correction Deadline: 8/22/2023**

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

**Met**

**Comment**

Adequate supervision observed on this date.