



**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:** 4/13/2023    **VisitType:** Licensing Study    **Arrival:** 9:45 AM    **Departure:** 1:20 PM

**CCLC-14762**

**Bright Beginnings Learning Center**

2327 Second Avenue Decatur, GA 30032 DeKalb County  
(404) 941-7194 erikasherece2012@gmail.com

**Process & QI Unit Consultant**

Melyn Smith

Phone: (706) 855-3455  
Fax: (706) 434-7640  
melyn.smith@decal.ga.gov

Joint with: Shannon Curtis

**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.
04/13/2023	Licensing Study	Good Standing	
12/22/2022	Monitoring Visit	Good Standing	
09/20/2022	Complaint Investigation Follow Up	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	
Main	A	Two Year Olds and Three Year Olds	1	14	C	12	NC	NA	NA	Art	
Main	B infant room	One Year Olds	1	1	C	7	C	NA	NA	Transitioning	
Main	C		0	0	C	15	C	21	C		
Main	D		0	0	C	17	C	24	C		
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.:			51			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.:			51		
Total # Children this Date: 15			Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 51			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.:			51		

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	Playground	88	C

**Comments**

The purpose of this visit was to conduct a Licensing Study. This visit was completed as part of the Child Care Services Quality Assurance Initiative.

Plan of Improvement: Developed This Date 04/13/2023

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Latrawne Ellis, Program Official

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Melyn Smith, Consultant

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Shannon Curtis, 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:** 4/13/2023 **VisitType:** Licensing Study

**Arrival:** 9:45 AM

**Departure:** 1:20 PM

**CCLC-14762**

**Bright Beginnings Learning Center**

2327 Second Avenue Decatur, GA 30032 DeKalb County  
(404) 941-7194 erikasherece2012@gmail.com

**Process & QI Unit Consultant**

Melyn Smith

Phone: (706) 855-3455

Fax: (706) 434-7640

melyn.smith@dec.al.ga.gov

Joint with: Shannon Curtis

**Mailing Address**

Same

The following information is associated with a Licensing Study:

**Activities and Equipment**

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

**Met**

**Comment**

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

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

**N/A**

**Comment**

Center does not provide swimming activities.

**Children's Records**

**Records Reviewed: 5**

**Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 4**

Child # 1

Not Met

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.08(3)-Address of Release Person Missing

Child # 2

Not Met

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.08(3)-Address of Release Person Missing

Child # 3

Not Met

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.08(3)-Address of Release Person Missing

Child # 5

Not Met

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.08(3)-Name of Release Person Missing,.08(3)-Address of Release Person Missing,.08(1)-Emergency Contact information Missing

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

**Not Met**

**Finding**

591-1-1-.08(1) requires the Center Staff to maintain a file for each child while such child is in care and for one year after that child is no longer enrolled. In order for the file to be complete, the file shall contain the following: child's name, birth date, sex, address, living arrangement, name of school if applicable; names of both Parents, home and work addresses, and home and work telephone numbers; name(s) and addresses of the person(s) to whom the child may be released including address, telephone numbers, relationship to child and to Parent(s), and other identifying information; name(s) and telephone number(s) of person(s) to contact in emergencies when the Parent cannot be reached; name and telephone number of the child's primary source of health care; and a statement regarding known allergies, physical problems, mental health disorders, intellectual disabilities or developmental disabilities which limit the child's participation in the program. It was determined based on review of records that the Center was lacking the addresses for release persons for Child # 1, 2, and 3. It was further determined that the center was lacking the information for release persons and emergency contacts for Child # 5.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

Center staff will develop a plan that includes how to obtain all required information for currently enrolled children and how to ensure this is done for future enrollees as well. The plan will also include how and where to maintain files for the required amount of time. The plan will be implemented and followed.

**Correction Deadline: 4/21/2023**

**Facility**

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

**Not Met**

**Finding**

591-1-1-.19(1) requires a Center to provide 35 square feet of usable space per child, which will determine the Center's License capacity. It was determined based on observation that 14 children were observed present in Room A which was licensed for 12 children on this date.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

The Center will limit the number of children in this space to the licensed capacity.

**Correction Deadline: 4/14/2023**

**591-1-1-.25 Physical Plant - Safe Environment(CR)**

**Not Met**

**Comment**

Please secure cleaning tools (i.e., broom, plunger) out of reach of children.

**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 an unsecured cabinet accessible to children under the handwashing sink in Room A was observed to contain three toilet brushes, spray bottles containing bleach water solution and soapy water solution, and an aerosol can of disinfectant on this date.

**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: 4/14/2023**

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

**Met**

**Comment**

Discussed maintenance of resilient surface. Please fluff and redistribute.

**Food Service**

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

**Technical Assistance**

**Technical Assistance**

591-1-1-.15(7) - The Consultant discussed with the Director that foods associated with young children’s choking incidents, such as, but not limited to, peanuts, hot dogs, raw carrots, popcorn, fish with bones, cheese cubes, grapes and any other food that is of similar shape and size of the trachea/windpipe shall not be served to the children less than four (4) years of age. Children older than four (4) years of age may be served these foods provided that the foods are cut in such a way as to minimize choking. The Center notated that string cheese was served to enrolled children for snack. The Director stated that string cheese was served only to the school-aged children.

**Correction Deadline: 4/13/2023**

**Health and Hygiene**

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

**Met**

**Comment**

Staff state proper knowledge of diapering procedures.

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

**Met**

**Comment**

Staff were observed to remind children to wash hands.

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

**N/A**

**Comment**

The Provider currently does not dispense/administer medication.

**Policies and Procedures**

**591-1-1-.21 Operational Policies & Procedures**

**Met**

**Comment**

Program observed complete emergency drills

**Safety**

**591-1-1-.11 Discipline(CR)**

**Met**

**Comment**

Staff were observed to maintain a positive learning environment on this date.

**591-1-1-.13 Field Trips(CR)**

**N/A**

**Comment**

Center does not participate in field trips at this time.

**Finding**

591-1-1-.36(3)(a-b) requires any Center that provides any type of transportation to obtain two (2) hours of state-approved or state-accepted transportation training, biannually, for the Director and for each person responsible for or who participates in the transportation of children. The training shall include, but is not limited to, a review of the transportation rules, a review of approved transportation forms and procedures, and instruction on the usage and completion of the forms and procedures. This training may be counted as part of the annual training requirements for Staff. It was determined based on review of records that the director and two staff who participate in transportation were lacking current completion of the two-hour transportation training on this date.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

The Center will ensure that the Director, Center Staff, and any person responsible for the transportation of children has completed the required transportation training.

**Correction Deadline: 4/23/2023**

---

**Sleeping & Resting Equipment**

---

**Comment**

Pleasant naptime environment observed.

**Technical Assistance**

591-1-1-.30(4) - The Consultant discussed with the Director to please ensure that the cots stored in the children's activity room or area were stored covered to prevent children's access to them and to allow maximum use of play space.

**Correction Deadline: 4/13/2023**

---

**Staff Records**

---

**Finding**

591-1-1-.09(1)(c) requires the Center to ensure that every Employee has a valid and current satisfactory Comprehensive Records Check Determination on file prior to being present at the Center while any child is present for care or before an individual age 17 or older resides in the Center. The Comprehensive Records Check Determination must have a Records Check Clearance Date that is no older than the preceding 12 months of the hire date; provided, however, if the Employee has had a lapse of employment from the child care industry that lasted for 180 days (6 months) or longer, a new satisfactory Comprehensive Records Check Determination is required. It was determined based on review of records that Staff #2 was present performing clerical and kitchen duties without a valid and current satisfactory Comprehensive Records Check Determination on file on this date. Staff #2 had an Criminal Records Check on file which expired on April 11, 2023.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

IMMEDIATE CORRECTION - The Center will ensure that every Employee has a valid and current satisfactory Comprehensive Records Check Determination on file prior to being present at the Center while any child is present for care or before an individual age 17 or older resides in the Center. The Comprehensive Records Check Determination must have a Records Check Clearance Date that is no older than the preceding 12 months of the hire date; provided, however, if the Employee has had a lapse of employment from the child care industry that lasted for 180 days (6 months) or longer, a new satisfactory Comprehensive Records Check Determination is required. The program's owner or an officer/member of the corporation must view the A to Z Background Check video units pertaining to this records check rule and return the signed affidavit within one week from this visit date. The center will ensure the CRC rules are maintained.

**Correction Deadline: 4/14/2023**

**Finding**

591-1-1-.09(1)(l)3. requires the Center to immediately require a new Comprehensive Records Check Determination for a Director, Employee or Provisional Employee at least once every five years. It was determined based on review of records that Staff #2 did not obtain a new Comprehensive Records Check Determination upon expiration of the satisfactory Comprehensive Records Check Determination dated April 11, 2018.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

IMMEDIATE CORRECTION - The Center will ensure that each Director, Employee and Provisional Employee has a Comprehensive Records Check Determination on file that has been issued within the past five years. The program's owner or an officer/member of the corporation must view the A to Z Background Check video units pertaining to this records check rule and return the signed affidavit within one week from this visit date. The Center will ensure CRC rules are maintained.

**Correction Deadline: 4/14/2023**

---

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

**Comment**

Evidence observed of 100% of center staff certified in First Aid and CPR.

**Comment**

Please replace expired ointments in the vehicle's first aid kit.

---

**591-1-1-.33 Staff Training** **Met**

**Comment**

Documentation observed of required staff training.

---

**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.

**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)** **Met**

**Comment**

Center observed to maintain appropriate staff:child ratios.

---

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

**Comment**

Staff observed to provide direct supervision and be attentive to children's needs.

**Correction Deadline: 12/22/2022**

**Corrected on 4/13/2023**

**.32(7) - Previous citation corrected based on observation in that staff provided direct supervision and watchful oversight to children in care on this date.**