



**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:** 1/5/2022    **VisitType:** Monitoring Visit    **Arrival:** 11:00 AM    **Departure:** 12:00 PM

**CCLC-25652**

**Joyful Journeys CEC**

8358 Fortson Court Fortson, GA 31808 Muscogee County  
(706) 507-7890 kelsey@joyfuljourneys2008.com

**Regional Consultant**

Penny Svenson

Phone: (470) 346-1037

Fax: (678) 891-5613

penny.svenson@decals.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.  <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.
01/05/2022	Monitoring Visit	Good Standing	
12/29/2021	Incident Investigation & Follow Up	Good Standing	
11/18/2021	Complaint Investigation by Phone	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	Rm A (BR2)	Infants	1	6	C	12	C	NA	NA	Feeding, Floor Play	
Main	Rm B (BR1)		2	0	C	12	C	NA	NA	Feeding, Floor Play	
Main	Rm C (K4)	Four Year Olds	1	12	C	14	C	NA	NA	Transitioning, Lunch	
Main	Rm F (K2A)	Two Year Olds	2	18	C	20	C	NA	NA	Lunch	
Main	Rm G (K1B)	One Year Olds	2	12	C	16	C	NA	NA	Lunch	
Main	Rm H (K1A)	One Year Olds	2	11	C	16	C	NA	NA	Lunch, Diapering	
Main	Rm I (K2B)		0	0	C	20	C	NA	NA		
Main	Room D (K3)	Three Year Olds	2	25	C	30	C	NA	NA	Transitioning, Lunch	
Main	Room E ASP	Five Year Olds and Six Year Olds and Over	1	8	C	14	C	NA	NA	Free Play	
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 154						Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0					
Total # Children this Date: 92						Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 154				Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0	

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	Playground-2 yrs	24	C
Main	Playground3-12	32	C

**Comments**



Plan of Improvement: Developed This Date 01/05/2022

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 New Deadlines:**

Due to the ongoing COVID restrictions, the deadline to become Quality Rated for programs who want to continue to receive Childcare and Parent Services (CAPS), has been extended to at least December 31, 2021.

Get started today! Sign up by completing a short online application: <https://qualityrated.dec.state.ga.us/>  
 Request free technical assistance to help you earn your star rating by contacting the Quality Rated help desk at 855-800-7747 or [qualityrated@dec.state.ga.us](mailto:qualityrated@dec.state.ga.us)

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@dec.state.ga.us](mailto:CCSRefutations@dec.state.ga.us).

- 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://dec.state.ga.us/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)

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Kelsey MacMinn, Program Official

Date

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Penny Svenson, Consultant

Date



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### Findings Report

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The following information is associated with a Monitoring Visit:

### 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)** **Met**

**Comment**

Center does not provide swimming activities.

### 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)** **Met**

**Comment**

No hazards observed accessible to children on this date.

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

**Comment**

Discussed maintenance of resilient surface. Please fluff and redistribute.

**Technical Assistance**

The Consultant discussed with the Director to ensure any holes that were washed out due to the heavy rains be filled in and repaired before children were present on the playground.

**Correction Deadline: 1/5/2022**

### Food Service

**Finding**

591-1-1-.15(7) requires that food be served according to manufacturer’s instructions and recommendations. Foods that are 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. Food shall not be accessible or served to children until it has been chopped, diced, cut or mashed and is appropriate for each child’s age and individual eating, chewing and swallowing ability. It was determined based on observation that mini corn dogs were served for lunch on the date of the visit.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

The Center will train Staff and monitor food served and accessible to children to ensure that the food does not present a choking hazard. The Consultant sent the FAQ for the rule change that occurred in October 2020 to the Director on January 5, 2022. The Director made immediate changes to the menu.

**Correction Deadline: 1/5/2022**

**Health and Hygiene**

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

Met

**Comment**

Proper diapering procedures observed.

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

Met

**Comment**

Proper hand washing observed throughout the center.

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

Met

**Comment**

Please document N/A or none if no adverse reaction is observed.

**Safety**

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

Met

**Comment**

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

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

Met

**Comment**

This rule will be evaluated on the following regulatory visit.

**Sleeping & Resting Equipment**

**591-1-1-.30 Safe Sleeping and Resting Requirements(CR)**

Met

**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: 21**

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

Staff # 1

Met

Date of Hire: 12/11/2017

Staff # 2 Date of Hire: 04/19/2008	Met
Staff # 3 Date of Hire: 07/27/2021	Met
Staff # 4 Date of Hire: 01/04/2021	Met
Staff # 5 Date of Hire: 09/23/2010	Met
Staff # 6 Date of Hire: 03/25/2019	Met
Staff # 7 Date of Hire: 11/04/2019	Met
Staff # 8 Date of Hire: 01/13/2021	Met
Staff # 9 Date of Hire: 10/03/2011	Met
Staff # 10 Date of Hire: 01/21/2019	Met
Staff # 11 Date of Hire: 02/24/2020	Met
Staff # 12 Date of Hire: 12/03/2010	Met
Staff # 13 Date of Hire: 09/08/2020	Met
Staff # 14 Date of Hire: 06/02/2021	Met
Staff # 15 Date of Hire: 01/21/2021	Met
Staff # 16 Date of Hire: 10/20/2021	Met

**Records Reviewed: 21**

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

Staff # 17 Met  
Date of Hire: 03/31/2019

Staff # 18 Met  
Date of Hire: 06/16/2008

Staff # 19 Met  
Date of Hire: 04/19/2008

Staff # 20 Met

Staff # 21 Met

**Staff Credentials Reviewed: 8**

**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.

**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.