



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: 5/10/2021 **VisitType:** Monitoring Visit

Arrival: 1:00 PM

Departure: 2:00 PM

CCLC-39313

Circle of Friends

103 Merritts Circle Toccoa, GA 30577 Stephens County
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Regional Consultant

Stacy Whitten

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Mailing Address

Same

Quality Rated: No

Compliance Zone Designation			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.
05/10/2021	Monitoring Visit	Good Standing	
12/23/2020	Licensing Study	Good Standing	
11/19/2019	Licensing Study	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	Classroom	Two Year Olds and Three Year Olds	2	18	C	18	C	NA	NA	Nap
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 18			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0							
Total # Children this Date: 18			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0							

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	Playground	24	C

Comments

Background checks were all reviewed on May 10, 2021. A virtual inspection was conducted on May 10, 2021 with the Director. An in-person visit was not conducted due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Compliance with the Executive Order issued on May 1, 2021 was reviewed during the virtual inspection.

Plan of Improvement: No Plan Developed

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



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.decal.ga.gov/>
Request free technical assistance to help you earn your star rating by contacting the Quality Rated help desk at 855-800-7747 or qualityrated@decal.ga.gov

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.

- 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)

Teresa Pritchett, Program Official

Date

Stacy Whitten, Consultant

Date



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Compliance and Enforcement Determination Worksheet

Date: 5/10/2021 **VisitType:** Monitoring Visit **Arrival:** 1:00 PM **Departure:** 2:00 PM

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Repeat Rule Violations					
Repeat Rule	Severity on Current Visit	#Times of Rule Cited	Points for # of Times Cited (Points Calculation #1)	Highest Severity Level (12 mos)	Points for Highest Severity Level (Points Calculation #2)
		Total Points for Times Cited:	0	Total Points for Severity Level:	

Points for Prior Class C/D Rule Violations			
Date	VisitType	CDRepeat Rule	Points For Highest Severity Level (Points Calculation #3)
		Total Points for Severity Level:	0

Points Total	
#1 - Repeat Violation Points:	0
#2 - Repeat Violation - Highest Severity:	0
#3 - Prior Visit - Class C or Class D Violations:	0
Total:	0

REPEAT VIOLATION POINTS CALCULATION	
(1) Repeat Violation Points assigned for any core and non-core rule(s) cited on the current visit AND cited on visit(s) during prior 12 months:	(2) For each Repeat Violation, assign points based on the highest severity level assigned for that rule during prior 12 months:
1st Violation of a Rule within 12 Months = 0	Non-Core Rule Violation = 0
2nd Violation of Same Rule within 12 Months = 1	Level A Low Core Rule Violation = 1
3rd Violation of Same Rule within 12 Months = 2	Level B Medium Core Rule Violation = 2
4th Violation of Same Rule within 12 Months = 3	Level C High Core Rule Violation = 3
For each subsequent Violation of Same Rule within 12 Months, one additional point is accrued	Level D Extreme Core Rule Violation = 4
ADDITIONAL POINTS FOR SERIOUS INCIDENT/INJURY VIOLATION	

(3) Assign points for each PRIOR visit when there are any Class C (High) or Class D (Extreme) violations on the current visit AND any Class C (High) or Class D (Extreme) violations cited on visit(s) during prior 12 months regardless of whether or not there are any repeat violations during the current visit:

Each Prior Visit with Class C/Class D Rule Violation = 2

Violation Class Determination

(1) Are there any violations on the current visit? No

Because there are no rule violations on this date, the visit does not enter the chart and is in Good Standing.

(2) Are there any repeat violations on the current visit? No

(3) Is there a High or Extreme on the current visit? No

(4) Is there a High or Extreme citation within repeat rules? No

As of this visit:

Violation Class:	N/A	Enforcement Box:	N/A	Total Points:	0
Violation Level:	N/A	Compliance Zone:	N/A		

How to select violation class:

- *Select Class A (Low)* if there is at least one rule violation on the current visit, but there are NO Repeat Rule violations, OR there are only NON-CORE Repeat Rule violations, AND there are NO Class C (High) or Class D (Extreme) violations on the current visit
- *Select Class A (Low) or Class B (Medium)* based on the highest severity on the current visit within any REPEAT rule violation(s) if there are NO Class C (High) or Class D (Extreme) violations on the current visit, OR within the REPEAT rule violation(s) during prior 12 months
- *Select Class C (High) or Class D (Extreme)* if there is a Class C (High) or Class D (Extreme) violation on the current visit, AND/OR within any REPEAT rule violation(s) during the prior 12 months

V I O L A T I O N C L A S S	VIOLATION HISTORY LEVEL				
	Incident results in or could result in:	I 0 Points	II 1-3 Points	III 4-9 Points	IV 10 + Points
	D <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Extreme Harm Imminent Danger 	D I3 - C (D)			
	C <ul style="list-style-type: none"> High Harm 	CI I1 - I2 (GS)	CII I1 - I3 (S)	CIII I2 - C (D)	CIV I3 - C (D)
	B <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Medium Harm 	BI N/A ** (GS)	BII P2 - P3 (GS)	BIII I1 - I2 (S)	BIV I2 - C (D)
	A <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Low Harm 	AI P1 - P2 (GS)	AII P1 - P3 (GS)	AIII P2-P3 (GS)	AIV I1 - I2 (S)

****Based on Rules for assigning Violation Class, it is not possible to have zero points and be at Violation Class B**

Compliance Zones:

Good Standing (GS) - Program is demonstrating an acceptable level of performance in meeting the rules. (AI, AII, AIII, BI, BII, CI)

Support (S) - Program performance is demonstrating a need for improvement in meeting the rules. (AIV, BIII, CII)

Deficient (D) - Program is not demonstrating an acceptable level of performance in meeting the rules. (BIV, CIII, CIV, D)

ENFORCEMENT CATEGORIES, LEVELS, AND ACTIONS		
<i>PREVENTION CATEGORY (P)</i>	<i>INTERMEDIATE CATEGORY (I) (Includes Prevention Actions)</i>	<i>CLOSURE CATEGORY (C)</i>
Prevention Level 1 (P1)	Intermediate Level 1 (I1)	Suspension of License (More than 1 week)
Technical Assistance	Fine	Revocation of License
Prevention Level 2 (P2)	Intermediate Level 2 (I2)	Emergency Closure (Imminent Harm)
Citation	Per Rule Fine	
Prevention Level 3 (P3)	Per Day Fine	
Formal Notice Letter	Intermediate Level 3 (I3)	
Office Conference	Fine and Restriction	
	Restricted License	
	Restricted License & Per Rule/Per Day Fine	
	Emergency Monitor & Per Rule/Per Day Fine	
	Short-term Suspension (Less than 1 week)	

Teresa Pritchett, Program Official

Date

Stacy Whitten , Consultant

Date



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History Grid for Time Period Starting 5/10/2020 through 5/10/2021

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	Visit Type:	Licensing Study	Monitoring Visit
	Date:	12/23/2020	5/10/2021
	License Number:	CCLC-39313	CCLC-39313
	Compliance Zone:	GS	GS
	Points:	0	0
	Enforcement Box:		
Compliance Group	Rule		



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Findings Report

Date: 5/10/2021 **VisitType:** Monitoring Visit

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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)

Technical Assistance

Comment

Center appears clean and well maintained.

Comment

No hazards observed accessible to children on this date.

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.25(3) - Consultant discussed with provider to monitor and repair or repaint the half wall to ensure chipping paint does not become present.

Correction Deadline: 5/10/2021

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

Playground observed to be clean and in good repair.

Please ensure to monitor the playground areas for the following hazards: - Normal wear and tear of playground equipment and toys. Potential entrapment hazards in the fence surrounding the playground area. Biting and/or stinging insects (i.e. ants, bees, etc.). Loose and/or weak tree branches surrounding the playground area. Standing water in and around playground equipment after inclement weather. Fall zones and resilient surface.

Food Service

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

Discussed new revision to restricted food rule which states: 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.

Please ensure the new updated infant feeding form is used. Discussed revision to the written feeding plans for children under the age of 1 years old. Age-appropriate solid foods (including cereal) shall not be given to infants or children less than one (1) year of age until recommended as developmentally appropriate by the child's primary care physician and indicated in writing by the Parent(s). As soon as the feeding plan indicates that a child is ready for solid foods, the child shall be fed from individual spoons and individual containers or dishes. A child shall not be fed directly from the original baby food container if the contents are to be fed to the child at more than one (1) meal or to more than one (1) child.

Health and Hygiene

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

Staff state proper knowledge of diapering procedures.

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.10(4) - Consultant discussed with provider to monitor and repair or repaint the diaper station and rails to ensure chipping paint does not become present.

Correction Deadline: 5/10/2021

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

Staff stated appropriate hand washing procedures are followed. Hand washing was not observed due to the visit being completed during nap time.

Additional cleaning and sanitizing requirements due to the COVID-19 pandemic were also discussed and observed during a virtual walk through on this date.

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

The Provider currently does not dispense/administer medication.

Policies and Procedures

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

591-1-1-.21(1)(p) - , Consultant discussed Emergency Preparedness plans and updating them on a regular basis with the provider.

Safety**591-1-1-.11 Discipline(CR)****Met****Comment**

A Virtual Visit was conducted due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Discipline was not directly observed during the virtual walk through. The provider stated age-appropriate discussion and/or redirection is used for discipline.

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

Center does not provide routine transportation.

Sleeping & Resting Equipment**591-1-1-.30 Safe Sleeping and Resting Requirements(CR)****Met****Comment**

Discussed SIDS and infant sleeping position. No infants are currently enrolled in the program.

Comment

Pleasant naptime environment observed.

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

Staff # 1

Met

Date of Hire: 02/26/2013

Staff # 2

Met

Date of Hire: 02/10/2020

Staff # 3

Met

Date of Hire: 04/07/2021

Reminder - Health & Safety training is required within 90 calendar days of hired

Staff Credentials Reviewed: 0**591-1-1-.09 Criminal Records and Comprehensive Background Checks(CR)****Met****Comment**

Criminal record checks were observed to be complete. All staff were observed to have evidence of satisfactory comprehensive background checks on this date.

Comment

Director provided one file for employees hired since last visit.

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

Staff observed to be compliant with applicable laws and regulations.

Additional cleaning and sanitizing requirements due to the COVID-19 pandemic were discussed and observed during a virtual walk through on this date. The program was in compliance with the Executive Order issued on March 31, 2021

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.

Discussed new revision to the supervision rule which states: Staff shall be attentive and participating with all children during mealtimes and shall be seated within an arm's length away from children thirty-six (36) months of age and younger.