



**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:** 8/21/2019    **VisitType:** Licensing Study    **Arrival:** 9:20 AM    **Departure:** 1:15 PM

**CCLC-35957**

**Abby's Learning Center**

443 Airport Road Dublin, GA 31021 Laurens County  
 (478) 272-7603 abbyslearningcenter@gmail.com

**Regional Consultant**

Laura Johnson  
 Phone: (470) 891-3520  
 Fax: (678) 913-0577  
 laura.johnson@dec.al.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.
08/21/2019	Licensing Study	Good Standing	
03/14/2019	Complaint Closure	Good Standing	
03/14/2019	Complaint Investigation Follow Up	Good Standing	

**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	A	Two Year Olds and Three Year Olds	2	13	C	34	C	NA	NA	Centers
Main	B	Two Year Olds	1	10	C	12	C	NA	NA	Free Play
Main	C	Infants and One Year Olds	3	11	C	22	C	NA	NA	Diapering, Feeding, Floor Play
Main	Lunch Room		0	0	C	21	C	NA	NA	
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 89					Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0					
Total # Children this Date: 34			Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 89			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0				

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
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**Comments**

The purpose of today's visit is to conduct a licensing study. This is the first visit of the fiscal year.

The director stated that they do not provide routine transportation, field trips, or swimming activities.

All criminal record checks are observed. The consultant assisted the director with porting one new employee in Decal Koala.

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

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](mailto: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)



**Important New Deadlines:**

Your program must be Quality Rated by December 31, 2020 in order to continue to receive Childcare and Parent Services (CAPS).

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](mailto:qualityrated@decal.ga.gov)

Amy Self, Program Official

Date

Laura Johnson, Consultant

Date



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### Findings Report

**Date:** 8/21/2019 **VisitType:** Licensing Study **Arrival:** 9:20 AM **Departure:** 1:15 PM

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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**

**Technical Assistance**

591-1-1-.12(4) - The consultant spoke with the center staff and the director about not stacking more than three chairs to prevent a possible tipping hazard. Chairs were placed back at the table to allow children to play at the table during center time.

**Correction Deadline: 8/21/2019**

**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: 1**

Child # 3

Not Met

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.08(3)-Address of Release Person Missing,.08(1)-Allergies and Disabilities

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

**Technical Assistance**

**Technical Assistance**

591-1-1-.08(1) - The consultant spoke with the director about ensuring that all files include the address of the release person and all allergy and disability information.

**Correction Deadline: 8/21/2019**

### Facility

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

**Comment**

Bathrooms observed to be clean and well maintained.

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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)** **Met**

**Correction Deadline: 3/14/2019**

**Corrected on 8/21/2019**

**.25(3) - This citation was corrected on this date. No mold was observed in the center.**

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**591-1-1-.25 Physical Plant-Structural/Mechanical** **Technical Assistance**

**Technical Assistance**

591-1-1-.25(14) - The consultant spoke with the director about replacing the lights in the girls bathroom in classroom A.

**Correction Deadline: 9/20/2019**

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

**Comment**

Discussed maintenance of resilient surface. Please fluff and redistribute.

**Technical Assistance**

591-1-1-.26(4) - The consultant spoke with the director about cutting the bolts on the fence gates between the two playgrounds that measured longer than two threads in length.

**Correction Deadline: 8/21/2019**

**Technical Assistance**

591-1-1-.26(6) - The consultant spoke with the director about replacing, repairing, or removing the two red tricycle bouncers on the toddler playground that were chipping paint.

**Correction Deadline: 8/31/2019**

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**Food Service**

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

**Comment**

Center menu meets USDA guidelines.

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

**Comment**

Kitchen appears clean and well organized.

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**Health and Hygiene**

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

**Comment**

Proper diapering procedures observed.

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

**Comment**

Staff were observed to remind children to wash hands.

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

Documentation for medication dispensing observed complete.

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**Policies and Procedures**

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**591-1-1-.21 Operational Policies & Procedures****Not Met****Finding**

591-1-1-.21(3) requires that the Center conduct drills for fire, tornado and other emergency situations. The fire drills will be conducted monthly and tornado and other emergency situation drills will be conducted every six months. The Center shall maintain documentation of the dates and times of these drills for two years. It was determined based on a review of records that the center did not conduct an emergency drill for the months of May and July 2019.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

The Center will hold the drills as required and keep the documentation of the drills on file for two years. An updated copy of the emergency drill log was left at the center on this date.

**Correction Deadline: 8/31/2019****Recited on 8/21/2019**

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**Safety**

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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**

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

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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)****N/A****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****Comment**

Discussed SIDS and infant sleeping position.

**Finding**

591-1-1-.30(1)(a)2 requires that a crib mattress is firm, tight-fitting without gaps, at least 2 inches thick and covered with a waterproof, washable material. Before a change of occupant, each mattress shall be cleaned with a disinfectant. It was determined based on observation that six out of nine mattresses were one and a half inches thick and not two-inches thick as required.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

The center will ensure that all crib mattresses are firm, tight-fitting without gaps, at least two-inches thick as required. The director will order new mattresses to replace all mattresses that are out of compliance.

**Correction Deadline: 8/21/2019**

**591-1-1-.09 Criminal Records and Comprehensive Background Checks(CR)****Not Met****Finding**

591-1-1-.09(1)(j) requires that for portability for Directors, Employees and Provisional Employees, excluding Students-in-Training, only the most recently issued determination letter is eligible for portability and must be ported electronically. A Center may accept a satisfactory Fingerprint Records Check Determination letter or a satisfactory Comprehensive Records Check Determination letter issued by the Department if the Records Check Clearance Date is within the preceding 12 months from the hire date, the individual has not had a lapse of employment from the child care industry that lasted for 180 days (6 months) or longer, and the Center does not know or reasonably should not know that the individual's satisfactory status has changed. It was determined based on a review of records that one employee was hired on May 06, 2019, and the center director did not electronically port the fingerprints in center's Decal Koala. The most recently issued determination letter was eligible for portability.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

IMMEDIATE CORRECTION - The Center will port all eligible employees before they are hired to ensure that only the most recently issued determination letter is electronically ported for Directors, Employees and Provisional Employees, excluding Students-in-Training. A Center may accept a satisfactory Fingerprint Records Check Determination letter or a satisfactory Comprehensive Records Check Determination letter issued by the Department if the Records Check Clearance Date is within the preceding 12 months from the hire date, the individual has not had a lapse of employment from the child care industry that lasted for 180 days (6 months) or longer, and the Center does not know or reasonably should not know that the individual's satisfactory status has changed. 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 review all fingerprint rules to ensure CRC rules are maintained.

**Correction Deadline: 8/21/2019****591-1-1-.14 First Aid & CPR****Met****Comment**

Complete first aid kits observed in center.

**Comment**

Evidence observed of 50% of center staff certified in First Aid and CPR.

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

Documentation observed of required staff training.

**591-1-1-.31 Staff(CR)****Not Met****Comment**

Staff observed to be compliant with applicable laws and regulations.

**Finding**

591-1-1-.31(2)(b)2. requires teachers and lead caregivers to meet minimum academic requirements and qualifying experience at the time of employment. It was determined based on a review of records that one lead teacher hired December 12, 2018 was not enrolled in school to obtain a credential and did not meet the minimum education requirements.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

A teacher/lead caregiver will be hired that meets the minimum academic requirements and qualifying work experience. The director is working to ensure qualified lead teachers are hired.

**Correction Deadline: 8/21/2019**

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

Center observed to maintain appropriate staff:child ratios.

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

Center observed to maintain appropriate staff:child ratios.