



**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:** 2/28/2019 **VisitType:** Monitoring Visit

**Arrival:** 9:15 AM

**Departure:** 2:30 PM

**CCLC-2636**

**Oma's Learning Center and Daycare**

1345 West Hill Ave. Valdosta, GA 31601 Lowndes County  
 (229) 247-2313 omaslearningctr@yahoo.com

**Regional Consultant**

Beth Houtz

Phone: (229) 238-2130

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beth.houtz@decal.ga.gov

**Mailing Address**

Same

**Quality Rated:** ★ ★

<b>Compliance Zone Designation</b>		
02/28/2019	Monitoring Visit	Good Standing
11/05/2018	Licensing Study	Good Standing
04/26/2018	Monitoring Visit	Good Standing

**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.

**Ratios/License Capacity**

Building	Room	Age Group	Staff	Children	NC/C	Max 35 SF.	35 SF. Comp.	Max 25 SF.	25 SF. Comp.	Notes
bld2-rm H	Pre-K/ school age	PreK	2	18	C	40	C	56	C	Circle Time
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 40			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 168							
Main	Cafeteria		0	0	C	16	C	23	C	
Main	Room A -2 1/2 yrs (right side of Bldg.)	Two Year Olds	2	12	C	18	C	NA	NA	Art
Main	Room B - 3 yrs (right side Bldg.)	Three Year Olds	2	24	C	30	C	42	C	Centers
Main	Room C - 1 yrs (left side of building)		0	0	C	13	C	NA	NA	
Main	Room D - Infants (left side of Bldg.)	Infants	2	11	C	12	C	NA	NA	Diapering, Feeding, Floor Play, Nap
Main	Room E - 18 mth - 2 yrs (left side bldg)	One Year Olds	1	8	C	13	C	NA	NA	Centers
Main	Room F - 2 year olds (left side of building)	Two Year Olds	1	10	C	13	C	NA	NA	Story
Main	Room G - 1 yrs (left side end of hallway)	One Year Olds	2	12	C	13	C	NA	NA	Snack
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 128			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 168							
Total # Children this Date: 95			Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 168			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 168				


<b>Building</b>	<b>Playground</b>	<b>Playground Occupancy</b>	<b>Playground Compliance</b>
Main	playground	67	C

**Comments**

The purpose of today's visit is a monitoring visit. The center provided files for three new employees. The center provides transportation for Pre-K students and school age students.

Plan of Improvement: Developed This Date 02/28/2019

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.al.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@dec.al.ga.gov](mailto:CCSRefutations@dec.al.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://dec.al.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.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)

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Jazmine Newsome, Program Official

Date

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Beth Houtz, Consultant

Date



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### Findings Report

**Date:** 2/28/2019    **VisitType:** Monitoring Visit    **Arrival:** 9:15 AM    **Departure:** 2:30 PM

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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)****Not Met****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 in the Pre-K classroom an employee's purse, a stapler, and contact solution labeled "Keep out of Reach of Children" were accessible to children in care.

**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: 2/28/2019**

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

591-1-1-.26(4) - The consultant observed a small hole at the bottom of the fence on the back part of the fence next to the shed on the older playground. The Director stated that they would repair the fence before children were on the playground.

**Correction Deadline: 2/28/2019**

**Technical Assistance**

591-1-1-.26(6) - The consultant observed one rubber swing to be missing a part of the swing. The director stated that they would replace the swing.

**Correction Deadline: 3/10/2019**

<b>Health and Hygiene</b>
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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**

Proper hand washing observed throughout the center.

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

**Comment**

The Provider currently does not dispense/administer medication.

<b>Safety</b>
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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-.36 Transportation(CR)** **Not Met**

**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 staff statements and a review of staff training records that the four drivers did not have the required transportation training.

**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.

The consultant left a copy of the training schedule with the director during the visit.

**Correction Deadline: 3/4/2019**

**Recited on 2/28/2019**

**Finding**

591-1-1-.36(4)(f)1. requires that all transported children be secured in a child passenger restraining system or seat safety belt in accordance with current state and federal laws and regulations and according to manufacturer's directions. It was determined based on observation that on the Ford Van, tag number PBY4799, the first and third row bench seat was missing a seat belt buckle for the middle seat on both rows and the front row passenger side seat could not be properly buckled due to the seat belt catching and not working properly. Additionally on the older bus, tag number PB1255, the first seat on the passenger side was missing a seat belt buckle on the black strap seat belt. Based on a review of transportation records on February 20 and February 22, 2019 fourteen (14) children were transported on a thirteen passenger vehicle, tag number PBY4799, exceeding the seating and seat belt capacity.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

The Center will ensure that manufacturer directions and state and federal laws are met when using child passenger restraining systems and seat safety belts. The center will order new buckles and will not allow children to use the seats missing seat belt buckles until they are repaired.

**Correction Deadline: 3/1/2019**

**Finding**

591-1-1-.36(4)(f)2. requires that no vehicle shall exceed the manufacturer's rated seating capacity and that proof of the seating capacity is maintained on file. It was determined based on a review of transportation records that on February 20, 2019 and on February 22, 2019 fourteen (14) children were transported from S.L. Mason Elementary School to the center in a vehicle, tag number PBY4799, with a maximum seating capacity of thirteen.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

The manufacturer's rated seating capacity will not be exceeded and a copy of the manufacturer's seating capacity will be maintained on file at all times.

**Correction Deadline: 3/1/2019**

**Finding**

591-1-1-.36(7)(c)2. requires that the driver or other designated person shall immediately document in writing, with a check or other mark/symbol to account for each child listed on the passenger transportation checklist each time a child enters and exits the vehicle. The driver or other designated staff person shall document in writing with a different mark/symbol to account for each child listed on the passenger transportation checklist who was not present on the vehicle for any reason. An explanation shall be documented in writing whenever a child is transported to a field trip site but is not present on the return trip to the Center. It was determined based on a review of transportation records that the following documentation was missing:

- On the S.L. Mason transportation checklist for the week of February 18-22, 2019 there was no mark indicating that children had unloaded for the entire week.
- On the Pineville transportation checklist for the week of January 7-11, 2019 there was no mark indicating that children had unloaded on January 10, 2019 and January 11, 2019.
- On the J.L. Lomax transportation checklist for the week of January 7 -11, 2019 there was no mark indicating that children had unloaded on January 9, 2019, January 10, 2019 and January 11, 2019.
- On the S.L. Mason transportation checklist for the week of January 28, 2019 - February 1, 2019 there was no mark indicating that children had unloaded on January 31, 2019 and February 1, 2019.
- On the J.L. Lomax transportation checklist for the week of January 28 - February 1, 2019 there was no mark indicating that children had unloaded for the entire week.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

The driver/other designated person will immediately document in writing with a check/mark/symbol each time a child gets on and off the vehicle.

**Correction Deadline: 3/1/2019**

**Finding**

591-1-1-.36(7)(c)3. requires that the driver or other designated person document in writing the time of arrival and departure each time the vehicle departs from the Center, is loaded or unloaded at each school and when the vehicle returns to the Center; each time the vehicle departs from the Center, arrives at the location where any child is picked up or dropped off and when the vehicle returns to the Center; each time the vehicle leaves the Center, arrives at a field trip destination, leaves a field trip destination, and returns to the Center. It was determined based on a review of records that on the following transportation checklists the depart time and/or return time was not documented on the transportation checklist as follows:

-S.L. Mason transportation checklist week of February 18-22, 2019 the return time was not documented on February 19, 20, 21, 2019.

-Pineville transportation checklist for the week of January 7 -11, 2019 no departure or return time was documented for January 8, 2019 and on January 10, 2019 no departure or arrival time was documented.

-J.L. Lomax transportation checklist for the week of January 7-11, 2019 no departure or return time was documented for January 8, 2019 and on January 10, 2019 no return time was documented.

-S.L. Mason checklist for the week of January 28, 2019 - February 1, 2019 no departure or return time was documented for January 28, 2019, on January 29, 2019 no departure time was documented, and on February 1, 2019 no return time was documented.

-J.L.Lomax transportation checklist for the week of January 28, 2019 - February 1, 2019 no return time was documented on January 28, 2019, no return time was documented on January 30, 2019, on January 31, 2019 and February 1, 2019 no departure or return time was documented.

-Pineville transportation checklist January 28, 2019 - February 1, 2019 no return time was documented for January 28, 2019, No depart time was documented for January 30, 2019, and no depart or return time was documented for January 31, 2019 and February 1, 2019.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

The Center will ensure that each time of arrival and departure is documented by the driver or designated person with training, review and monitoring.

**Correction Deadline: 3/1/2019****Finding**

591-1-1-.36(7)(d)1. requires that the first check be conducted immediately upon unloading the last child at any location including, but not limited to, a field trip destination, arrival at the Center, and the last stop during transportation to home or school. The responsible person on the vehicle shall physically walk through the entire vehicle; visually inspect all seat surfaces, under all seats and in all compartments or recesses in the vehicle's interior; sign the passenger transportation checklist (s), indicating all of the children have exited the vehicle; and give the passenger transportation checklist(s) to the second designated Staff person. It was determined based on a review of transportation records that the first check was not documented with a signature as required on the transportation checklist for the following dates: January 7-11, 2019, January 28 - February 1, 2019, and February 18 - 22, 2019.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

The Center will train Staff who are or may be involved in transporting children in how to thoroughly inspect a vehicle and properly complete transportation documentation. The Center will review and monitor.

**Correction Deadline: 3/1/2019****Finding**

591-1-1-.36(7)(d)2. requires that the second designated Staff person conduct a check of the vehicle immediately upon the completion of the first check of the vehicle. The responsible person shall physically walk through the entire vehicle; visually inspect all seat surfaces, under all seats and in all compartments or recesses in the vehicle's interior; and sign the passenger transportation checklist(s), indicating all of the children have exited the vehicle. There shall be continuous watchful oversight of the vehicle between the first check and second check. It was determined based on a review of transportation records that the second check was not documented with a signature as required on the transportation checklist for the following dates: September 24-28, 2018, October 1-5, 2018, October 8-12, 2018, January 7-11, 2019, January 28 - February 1, 2019, and February 18 - 22, 2019.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

The Center will train Staff who are or may be involved in transporting children in how to thoroughly inspect a vehicle and properly complete transportation documentation. The Center will review and monitor.

**Correction Deadline: 2/28/2019**

**Sleeping & Resting Equipment**

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

**Correction Deadline: 11/5/2018**

**Corrected on 2/28/2019**

**.30(2) - This citation was observed to be corrected on this date. there were no infants wearing bibs in the cribs and nothing attached to the cribs.**

**Staff Records**

**Records Reviewed: 17**

**Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 2**

Staff # 1 Met  
Date of Hire: 01/08/2016

Staff # 2 Not Met  
Date of Hire: 04/20/2018

"Missing/Incomplete Components"  
.33(3)-Health & Safety Certificate

Staff # 3 Met  
Date of Hire: 10/16/2017

Staff # 4 Met  
Date of Hire: 02/13/2012

Staff # 5 Not Met  
Date of Hire: 10/08/2018

"Missing/Incomplete Components"  
.33(3)-Health & Safety Certificate

Staff # 6 Met  
Date of Hire: 01/02/2019

Staff # 7 Met  
Date of Hire: 01/24/2018

Staff # 8 Met  
Date of Hire: 10/15/1988

Staff # 9 Met  
Date of Hire: 05/10/2002

**Records Reviewed: 17****Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 2**

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Staff # 10 Date of Hire: 12/28/2017	Met
Staff # 11 Date of Hire: 08/03/2016	Met
Staff # 12 Date of Hire: 07/21/2018	Met
Staff # 13 Date of Hire: 11/22/1987	Met
Staff # 14 Date of Hire: 01/17/2019	Met
Staff # 15 Date of Hire: 01/10/2019	Met
Staff # 16 Date of Hire: 04/21/2017	Met
Staff # 17 Date of Hire: 09/12/2016	Met

**Staff Credentials Reviewed: 17**

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

Director provided three file(s) for employees hired since last visit.

**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 two employees hired on January 19, 2019 and July 21, 2018 had a comprehensive background check letter that was outside of portability. The portability for the employee hired on January 19, 2019 expired on October 19, 2018 and portability for the employee hired on July 21, 2018 expired on May 26, 2018.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

The Center will 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 center had completed the Gemalto application and requested the employee hired on January 10, 2019 go be fingerprinted. The center had completed the DECAL application. The center called the employee during the visit and requested that the employee go as soon as possible to be fingerprinted. The employee hired on July 21, 2018 was sent home and DECAL and Gemalto applications would be completed before the end of the day.

**Correction Deadline: 2/28/2019**

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

**Not Met**

**Finding**

591-1-1-.33(3) requires each staff member with direct care responsibilities to complete health and safety training at the time of employment that will count toward required annual training: Staff employed prior to September 30, 2016 will complete the training by December 29, 2016 and Staff employed after September 30, 2016 will complete the health and safety training within the first 90 days of employment. It was determined based on a review of records that two employees hired on April 20, 2018 and October 8, 2018 had not completed the required health and safety training within the first 90 days of employment.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

The Center will develop and implement a plan to schedule and track this training for all employees based on their hire dates.

**Correction Deadline: 2/28/2019**

**Recited on 2/28/2019**

**Correction Deadline: 12/5/2018**

**Corrected on 2/28/2019**

**.33(4) - This citation was observed to be corrected on this date. Staff have completed the first year training.**

**Defer**

591-1-1-.33(6)- this citation is deferred until the next licensing study. The annual training for the 2018 calendar year has already been reviewed.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

The Center will plan and schedule the required 10 hours of annual training each year and follow up to ensure the training is completed.

**Correction Deadline: 12/5/2018**

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

**Met**

**Correction Deadline: 11/5/2018**

**Corrected on 2/28/2019**

**.31(2)(b)2. - This citation was observed to be corrected on this date. New lead teachers have been hired and other lead teachers are awaiting their CDA observation visit.**

**Staffing and Supervision**

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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.

**Comment**

Center observed to maintain appropriate staff:child ratios.