



**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:** 6/7/2023    **VisitType:** Complaint Investigation & Monitoring Visit    **Arrival:** 10:45 AM    **Departure:** 4:15 PM

**CCLC-36048**

**Ms. Niecy's Home Away From Home Learning Center**

2520 Old Hapeville Rd., SW Atlanta, GA 30315 Fulton County  
(404) 767-4177 msniecyschildcare@yahoo.com

**Region Consultant**

Earlene Huston

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earlene.huston@dec.al.gov

**Mailing Address**  
Same

**Quality Rated:** ★

<b>Compliance Zone Designation</b>		
06/07/2023	Complaint Investigation & Monitoring Visit	Good Standing
05/08/2023	TA Follow Up	Good Standing
11/17/2022	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
Bldg II	A 1L		0	0	C	17	C	23	C	Not In Use
Bldg II	B 1R		0	0	C	15	C	21	C	Not In Use
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 32						Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 144				
Building III	Computer		0	0	C	0	C	NA	NA	
Building III	Main	Six Year Olds and Over	1	14	C	17	C	NA	NA	Lunch
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 19						Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 144			Building @35 capacity limited by Zoning	
Main	A-Front Rm.	Two Year Olds	1	10	C	15	C	NA	NA	Music
Main	B- PreK Left Room	Three Year Olds	1	15	C	23	C	NA	NA	Music
Main	C- Right Room	One Year Olds	2	14	C	7	NC	NA	NA	Lunch
Main	D- 3	Four Year Olds	2	14	C	20	C	NA	NA	Lunch
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 65						Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 144				
Main-Downstairs	Rm. E- 1's-2's	Infants and One Year Olds	2	8	C	12	C	NA	NA	Feeding
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 12						Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 144				
Total # Children this Date: 75		Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 128			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 144					

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	Playground	178	C

**Comments**

The purpose of the visit was to complete the monitoring visit/complaint investigation.

Plan of Improvement: Developed This Date 06/07/2023

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

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Jeanne Beals, Program Official

Date

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Earlene Huston, Region 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**

Discussed rotating toys to support the procedures of daily disinfecting.

**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**

**Correction Deadline: 1/17/2023**

**Corrected on 6/7/2023**

**.25(11) - Consultant observed the floors to have been repaired.**

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

**Correction Deadline: 11/17/2022**

**Corrected on 6/7/2023**

**.26(9) - Consultant observed the active ant beds had been removed.**

**Technical Assistance**

591-1-1-.26(9) requires the playground to be kept clean, free from litter and free of hazards, such as but not limited to rocks, exposed tree roots and exposed sharp edges of concrete. Consultant discussed with the director the hazard equipment to be removed from the playground.

Correction Deadline: 6/7/2023

## 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

The Provider currently does not dispense/administer medication.

## Safety

### 591-1-1-.05 Animals

Not Met

#### Finding

591-1-1-.05(1) requires Center Staff to control animals to assure proper sanitation of the premises is maintained and animals are not a hazard to the children, Personnel or visitors.No animals, such as but not limited to, pit bull dogs, ferrets, and poisonous snakes, which may have a vicious propensity, shall be permitted on the Center premises at any time there are children on the premises. Horses or other farm animals shall not be quartered on any property over which Center Staff exercises any control that is located within five hundred (500) feet of the building in which the Center is located. It was determined that consultant observed goats and a pig on the playground. According to staff, the animals are on the playground when the children are not inside not using the playground.

#### POI (Plan of Improvement)

Center Staff will control animals to maintain proper sanitation of the premises and will not allow this type of animal on the premises when children are present. The Center will house farm animals more than 500 feet from the Center's building.

Correction Deadline: 6/7/2023

#### Finding

591-1-1-.05(3) requires Center Staff to ensure animals are properly vaccinated and to maintain documentation of the vaccinations at the Center. It was determined that a dog was observed caged in building III. The director lacked evidence that the dog had received appropriate vaccinations.

#### POI (Plan of Improvement)

The center will obtain all necessary vaccinations for animals on the premises and will file and store the records on site.

Correction Deadline: 7/7/2023

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

Not Met

#### Finding

591-1-1-.11(1) requires that disciplinary actions used to correct a child's behavior, guidance techniques and any activities in which the children participate or observe at the Center shall not be detrimental to the physical or mental health of any child. It was determined based on consultant observation that a child was sitting in a chair facing the wall as a form of discipline.. Consultant questioned the staff about why the child was sitting separate from the in the children in a chair facing the wall. Staff person denied placing the chair facing the wall. Staff stated the child turned the chair to face the wall.

#### POI (Plan of Improvement)

Center staff will cease use of this disciplinary method; the director will provide staff training on appropriate child guidance techniques and have a system in place to monitor and identify/prevent inappropriate actions.

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

**Comment**

Center does not participate in field trips at this time.

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

**Comment**

Paperwork, checklist, permission forms, annual inspection form and proper check of the vehicle after transportation were discussed with the director.

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**Sleeping & Resting Equipment**

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

**Comment**

Pleasant naptime environment observed.

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**Staff Records**

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**591-1-1-.09 Criminal Records and Comprehensive Background Checks(CR)** **Met**

**Comment**

Criminal record checks were observed to be complete.

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**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.

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**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.

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

**Comment**

Adequate supervision observed on this date.