



**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:** 6/14/2023    **VisitType:** Monitoring Visit    **Arrival:** 1:00 PM    **Departure:** 3:30 PM

**CCLC-56441**

**Watch Me Grow Learning Place**

500 E. Martin Luther King Jr Drive Valdosta, GA 31601 Lowndes County  
(229) 262-2967 watchmegrow4@yahoo.com

**CCS Coordinator**

Lisa Pitts

Phone: (678) 747-6859  
Fax: (706) 314-7903  
lisa.prather@dec.al.ga.gov

**Mailing Address**  
Same

**Quality Rated:** ★

<b>Compliance Zone Designation</b>		
06/14/2023	Monitoring Visit	Good Standing
02/08/2023	Complaint Closure	Good Standing
01/26/2023	Complaint Investigation Follow Up	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 the 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	Room A	Infants	1	6	C	17	C	NA	NA	Nap, Floor Play
Main	Room B	Infants	1	5	C	10	C	NA	NA	Floor Play
Main	Room C	Two Year Olds	2	11	C	11	C	NA	NA	Nap
Main	Room D	Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds	1	15	C	28	C	NA	NA	Transitioning
Main	Room E	Six Year Olds and Over	2	23	C	26	C	NA	NA	Free Play
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 92					Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0					
Total # Children this Date: 60			Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 92			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0				

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	Playground A	72	C

**Comments**

The purpose of this visit is to conduct a MV and train new hire.

Plan of Improvement: Developed This Date 06/14/2023

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.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), do the following:

- 1) Log into DECAL KOALA [www.decalkoala.com](http://www.decalkoala.com) with the user id 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@decal.ga.gov](mailto:qualityrated@decal.ga.gov) for more information. Free technical assistance is available!**

Gabriella Jackson, Program Official

Date

Lisa Pitts, CCS Coordinator

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)**

**Not Met**

**Finding**

591-1-1-.12(2) requires that all equipment and furniture be free from hazardous conditions such as, but not limited to, sharp rough edges or toxic paint; and be kept clean. It was determined based on observation that the following hazardous items were observed accessible to the children in care on this date.

- Classroom C: Bleach, first aid kit, and clorox spray.
- Classroom D: Adult scissors, stapler, torn paper blocks, and a piece of the cubby torn off.
- Classroom E: Plastic storage bin broken, blue chair torn in multiple places.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

The Center will ensure that equipment and furniture are used by the age-appropriate group of children.

**Correction Deadline: 6/14/2023**

**Finding**

591-1-1-.12(4) requires that equipment and furniture is secured if it is of a weight or mass that could cause injury from tipping, falling, or being pulled or pushed over. It was determined based on observation that in classrooms D and E the TV's were not anchored.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

The Center will ensure that the identified equipment or furniture and any other such existing or future items are secured adequately and will have a system for checking these for stability.

**Correction Deadline: 6/14/2023**

**591-1-1-.35 Swimming Pools & Water-related Activities(CR)**

**Met**

**Comment**

Center does not provide swimming activities.

**Evening Care**

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

No evening care hours provided

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**Facility**

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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)****Technical Assistance****Technical Assistance**

591-1-1-.25(8) - The provider and consultant discussed that the department requires protective caps on all unused electrical outlets within children's reach and requires that electrical outlets in use be made inaccessible to children.

**Correction Deadline: 6/14/2023**

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**591-1-1-.26 Playgrounds(CR)****Not Met****Finding**

591-1-1-.26(4) requires that playgrounds be protected from traffic or other hazards by a (4) four foot high fence or other barrier approved by this Department. Fencing material shall not present a hazard to children and shall be maintained so as to prevent children from leaving the playground area by any means other than through an approved access route. Fence gates shall be kept closed except when persons are entering or exiting the area. It was determined based on observation that the fencing on both playgrounds had protruding screws measuring over the threads.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

The Center will routinely check the fence to determine if it is in good repair and remains at least 4 feet high, and will repair any hazards. The Center will train Staff to identify and report any fence hazards and to keep the fence gates closed when not in use.

**Correction Deadline: 6/14/2023**

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**Food Service**

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

Center menu meets USDA guidelines.

**Correction Deadline: 2/15/2023****Corrected on 6/14/2023****.15(2) Previous citations corrected.**

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**591-1-1-.18 Kitchen Operations****Met****Correction Deadline: 11/27/2022****Corrected on 6/14/2023****.18(4) - Previous citations corrected.**

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**Health and Hygiene**

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**591-1-1-.07 Children's Health****Not Met**

**Finding**

591-1-1-.07(5) requires Center Staff to not permit children to wear around their necks or attach to their clothing pacifier or other hazardous items. It was determined based on observation that there was a sleeping infant observed in the crib with a pacifier holder attached to her clothing.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

The Center will instruct Staff regarding this safety requirement.

**Correction Deadline: 6/14/2023**

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

**Met**

**Comment**

Staff state proper knowledge of diapering procedures.

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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**

The Provider currently does not dispense/administer medication.

**Safety**

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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)**

**Not Met**

**Technical Assistance**

591-1-1-.13 - Please denote the full address of field trip destination.

**Finding**

591-1-1-.13(7) requires Center Staff to ensure each child on a field trip has on their person their name, and the Center's name, address and telephone number. It was determined based on observation that the children in care had attended a field trip the date of the visit. When center staff was asked about the children's name tags, it was stated that the center did not have any at that time.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

Center staff will provide name tags for each child to wear on field trips that include all of the required information and will check that each child has the name tag on their person.

**Correction Deadline: 6/14/2023**

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

**Not Met**

**Finding**

591-1-1-.36(4)(b) requires that the interior of a transportation vehicle be clean, in safe repair and free of hazardous items, objects and/or other non-essential items which could cause injury. It was determined based on observation that both vans had seats with multiple tears in them, exposing foam to the children in care.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

The center will maintain that all transportation vehicles are clean, in safe repair, and free from hazards.

**Correction Deadline: 6/15/2023**

**Sleeping & Resting Equipment**

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

**Met**

**Comment**

Discussed SIDS and infant sleeping position.

**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.

**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.