



BRIGHT FROM THE START
Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning
10 Park Place, Suite 200, Atlanta, Georgia 30303
(404) 656-5957

Sonny Perdue
GOVERNOR

Holly A. Robinson, Ed.D.
COMMISSIONER

Notice of Public Hearings for Proposed Rulemaking
Bright from the Start: Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning

Child Care Services, Rule Chapter 591-1-1
Proposed Amendments to Rule 591-1-1-.03, Rule 591-1-1-.14, Rule 591-1-1-.21, and Rule 591-1-1-.33

Child Care Services, Rule Chapter 290-2-2
Proposed Amendments to Rule 290-2-2-.05

Notice Date: June 16, 2008

Dear Sir or Madam:

Bright from the Start: Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning (Bright from the Start) is proposing to make a number of changes to Rules 591-1-1-.03, 591-1-1-.14, 591-1-1-.21, and 591-1-1-.33 in its *Rules for Child Care Learning Centers*. Substantive changes to these rules include the following.

Rule 591-1-1-.03 (Activities) The planned program of activities for children would be more defined to include six specific developmental domains. Also, lesson plans that include activities in all domain areas would be required.

Rule 591-1-1-.14 (First Aid and CPR) Syrup of ipecac would no longer be a requirement for the first aid kit. Protective eye wear and protective face mask requirements would be added.

Rule 591-1-1-.21 (Operational Policies and Procedures) Policies and procedures would be expanded to encourage parental involvement and notification to parents of child's progress and other issues relating to the child. Also, regular fire drills and emergency drills would be required, and documentation of these drills would be required for Bright from the Start's review.

Rule 591-1-1-.33 (Staff Training) New staff orientation would be expanded to include topics such as administration of medication, reducing the risk of Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS), hand washing, fire safety, water safety, and the prevention of HIV/AIDS and blood borne pathogens.

Bright from the Start is also proposing to make changes to Rule 290-2-2-.05 in its *Rules and Regulations for Day Care Centers*. Changes proposed in this rule include an exemption from licensure for faith based child care learning centers that are accredited or certified by a state, regional or national accrediting agency for religious educational instruction.

Attached is a copy of the proposed amendments to these rules. Since the proposed amendments are being considered for adoption on a permanent basis, Bright from the Start invites interested parties to comment on them. Interested parties may submit written comments to my attention by mail at the address on this letterhead or by FAX at 404-651-7184. **To be considered, Bright from the Start must receive written comments on or before July 17, 2008.**

Interested parties who prefer to make verbal comments on the proposed rule changes may do so at two public hearings before a hearing officer. The first public hearing will be held from **11 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Macon Centreplex, 200 Coliseum Drive, Room 306, Macon, Georgia 31217 on Tuesday July 15, 2008.** The second public hearing will be held from **4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. at the Capitol Education Center Auditorium, 180 Central Avenue, Atlanta, Georgia 30303 on Thursday July 17, 2008.**

All interested parties are invited to attend regardless of whether they choose to make verbal comments regarding the rule amendments. Comments made in writing will be given the same consideration as those that are made verbally.

All comments (written and verbal) will be summarized in a written report for the Commissioner of Bright from the Start. The decision to adopt or reject the proposed rule amendments to Chapter 591-1-1 and Chapter 290-2-2 will be made by the Commissioner after receipt and review of the report summarizing the public comments. After the decision to adopt or reject the proposed amendments to Rule Chapter 591-1-1 and Rule Chapter 290-2-2 is made by the Commissioner, the order adopting or rejecting proposed rule amendments will be posted on the department's website at www.decal.state.ga.us.

This notice of proposed rulemaking is being issued pursuant to O.C.G.A §§ 20-1A-1 et seq. and 50-13-4. If you have any questions about the notice or the proposed amendments to these rules, contact Kay Hellwig, Director of Child Care Services, at (404) 657-5562.

If, due to a disability, you need this notice in an alternate format or if you plan to make verbal comments and will require special accommodations, call Kay Hellwig at the number referenced above. Please do this as soon as possible but no later than ten (10) days before the above referenced public hearing dates.

