



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: 6/15/2026 **VisitType:** Licensing Study

Arrival: 11:00 AM **Departure:** 6:00 PM

CCLC-22085
Child Development Lab at the McPhaul Center
 202 Carlton Street Athens, GA 30602 Clarke County
 (706) 542-4929

Lead Consultant
 Dianne Clarke
 Phone: (770) 357-4923
 Fax: (770) 357-4922
 dianne.clarke@decal.ga.gov

Mailing Address
 Same

Quality Rated: ★ ★ ★

Compliance Zone Designation			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.
06/15/2026	Licensing Study	Good Standing	
01/14/2026	Monitoring Visit	Good Standing	
04/22/2025	Licensing Study	Good Standing	

Ratios/License Capacity

Building	Room	Age Group	Staff	Children	NC/C	Max 35 SF.	35 SF. Comp.	Max 25 SF.	25 SF. Comp.	Notes
I	123	Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds and Five Year Olds	4	22	C	20	NC	NA	NA	Lunch, Transitioning
I	133	Two Year Olds and Three Year Olds	3	14	C	20	C	NA	NA	Lunch
I	226	Infants and One Year Olds	4	15	C	12	NC	NA	NA	Outside
I	228		0	0	C	9	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
I	242	One Year Olds and Two Year Olds	4	15	C	20	C	NA	NA	Outside
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 81					Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0					
II	024	Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds and Five Year Olds	3	15	C	20	C	NA	NA	Nap
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 20					Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0					
Total # Children this Date: 81			Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 101			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0				

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
I	A	25	C
I	B	43	C

Enrolled Children						
Under 1 years	1 years	2 years	3 years	4 years	5 years (Prekonly)	5 years and older
4	17	16	21	24	0	11

Comments

Be sure to enter all temporary closures by 7 a.m. (vacation, emergencies, school closures, inclement weather, holidays etc...) in DECAL KOALA under the Required Report tab whenever your facility is temporarily closed when you are not caring for children for one or more days. Be sure to SAVE the report before exiting.

All amendments are required to be electronically submitted in DECAL KOALA.

Please be sure to hide staff who are no longer employed in your DECAL KOALA account. Please reach out for help with this, if needed.

All programs Please ensure that the director and staff responsible for food preparation completes the four (4) hours of nutrition training as soon as possible but within the first year of employment. (if applicable)

Please remember that the transportation training certificates must be completed prior to participating in transportation and renewed every two years for anyone checking the vehicle, chaperoning on a trip, and signing the checklist, including the director. Please ensure that directors complete the transportation training upon being hired at the center. Please ensure to contact your consultant for guidance if you have not been conducting transportation before you plan to conduct transportation in the future. (if applicable)

**There is a free Transportation Training available on OLLI in Georgia PDS (GaPDS). Health and Safety Orientation Training 15-hour course is available free online in OLLI (staff must successfully complete all three trainings to meet licensing requirements). PLEASE NOTE: If the Health & Safety Orientation Training date is outside of the previous 12 months, the training was not approved for 10 credit hours, or the training certificate is not documented in the employee's GaPDS account, the Staff person will be required to take this training again, within their first 90 days of employment at a new facility. Reminder: Health and Safety Orientation Training can only be taken once every five years.

Talk about updated orientation checklist.

Discussed indicator manual and utilizing it.

Discuss updated Transportation forms including sample as of October 1, 2023, use immediately (if applicable).

Discussed regarding ensuring to complete rechecks for Criminal Records checks at least 90 days before the five-year expiration. Suggestion:

Check monthly or sooner to ensure that staff's criminal records checks are not expiring.

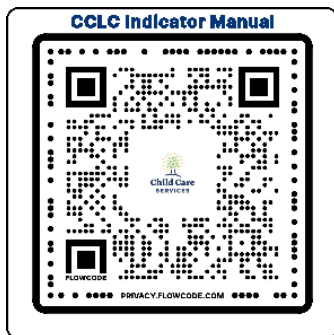
Don't forget to post a new license annually.

Discussed regarding nap/crib mats regarding not using tape to repair; must replace (if applicable).

Recent Changes/Updates: Core Rule: CPR and First Aid will be due within 45 days. 2 hours of Language and Literacy/2 hours of Health and Safety training annually beginning July 1, 2025, a required for all staff. Also, SUID (Sudden Unexpected Infant Death Syndrome formerly SIDS) must be included on the orientation checklist along with abusive head trauma. **Please don't forget to add to your childcare policies and procedures concerning expulsion, suspension, and practices followed to prevent shaken baby syndrome and abusive head trauma.

Provided Chop, Look, Listen Information

Plan of Improvement: Developed This Date



For additional information regarding any licensing topics discussed during this visit, please consult the Rules and Regulations Indicator Manual. This manual provides comprehensive clarification of each rule, including evaluation indicators, related best practices, and relevant considerations to support your program's continued and sustained compliance.

To access the Indicator Manual, please scan the QR code below or visit our website at <https://www.decal.ga.gov/CCS/RulesAndRegulations.aspx>.

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 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 for more information. Free technical assistance is available!



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Summary Report

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The following information is associated with a Licensing Study:

Activities and Equipment

591-1-1-.12 Equipment & Toys(CR)

Met

Comment

A variety of equipment and toys were observed throughout the center on this date.

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)

Not Met

Finding

591-1-1-.19(1) requires a Center to provide 35 square feet of usable space per child, which will determine the Center's License capacity. It was determined based on observation that there was 15 children in a space for 12 in the 226 classroom.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will limit the number of children in this space to the licensed capacity.

Correction Deadline: 6/15/2026

591-1-1-.25 Physical Plant - Safe Environment(CR)

Technical Assistance

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.25(13) - Please ensure that hazards are inaccessible to the children at all times including Ziplock bags and diaper wipes packages in 024 and 242.

Correction Deadline: 6/15/2026

591-1-1-.26 Playgrounds(CR)

Not Met

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.26(6) - Please ensure that the steering wheel on the playground equipment at River's Crossing is secured and not loose.

Correction Deadline: 6/25/2026

Finding

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. It was determined based on observation that the following hazards were observed on the following playground:

-Building I- Playground B: The concrete was observed to be exposed on two poles near the sand area on the right. Also, there was a black unraveled hose accessible on the playground near the planter.

-Rivers Crossing: There was a black unraveled hose to the right upon exiting the classroom.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will remove any litter and fix or remove hazards from the playground and will routinely monitor the playground and remove litter and hazards. Staff removed the hose during the visit at Rivers Crossing.

Correction Deadline: 6/15/2026

Health and Hygiene

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

Proper diapering procedures observed.

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

Proper hand washing observed throughout the center on this date.

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

Documentation for medication dispensing observed completed on this date.

Policies and Procedures

591-1-1-.21 Operational Policies & Procedures	Technical Assistance
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Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.21(1)(a-o) - Discussed updating the Center's policies and procedures to include the program's practices regarding the expulsion and suspension of children enrolled for care within the description of behavior management and discipline actions used by the Center.

Discussed to ensure a description of the practices followed by the Center to prevent shaken baby syndrome and abusive head trauma in children up to five years of age that includes the following information: how to recognize, respond to, and report the signs and symptoms of shaken baby syndrome and abusive head trauma; strategies to assist staff members in understanding how to care for infants and how to cope with a crying, fussing, or distraught child; strategies to ensure staff members understand the brain development of children up to five years of age; and a list of prohibited behaviors when dealing with children.

Additional information can be found in the CCLC Indicator Manual found on DECAL's website at:

<https://www.dec.state.ga.us/CCS/Regulations.aspx> or through the Center on Shaken Baby Syndrome found at: <https://dontshake.org/>.

Correction Deadline: 6/20/2026

Safety

591-1-1-.11 Discipline(CR)	Met
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Comment

Age-appropriate discussion and/or redirection observed.

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

Center does not provide routine transportation.

Sleeping & Resting Equipment

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

Pleasant naptime environment observed.

Staff Records

Staff # 10

Not Met

Date of Hire: 06/07/2026

Reminder - Health & Safety training is required within 90 calendar days of hired"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.24(1)-Evidence of Orientation Missing

Staff # 16

Not Met

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.09-Criminal Records Check Missing

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 observation that that staff #15, a substitute, did not have evidence of being electronically ported.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

IMMEDIATE CORRECTION - The Center will be sure to complete portability request for all staff prior to them being present at the center 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 director and/or staff responsible for staffing will review the CRC modules regarding criminal records to ensure the CRC rules are maintained. The director electronically ported the staff during the visit.

Correction Deadline: 6/15/2026**591-1-1-.14 First Aid & CPR(CR)****Met****Comment**

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

591-1-1-.24 Personnel Records**Technical Assistance****Technical Assistance**

591-1-1-.24(1) - Discussed that all Employees, including volunteers, independent contractors, students-in-training, etc. should have a completed initial program orientation form on file.

Correction Deadline: 6/20/2026**Technical Assistance**

591-1-1-.24(1) - Please ensure that all staff has completed an orientation checklist.

Correction Deadline: 6/20/2026**591-1-1-.33 Staff Training****Technical Assistance****Technical Assistance**

591-1-1-.33(4) - Please ensure that staff responsible for food preparation completes the required four hours of nutrition training.

Correction Deadline: 7/15/2026

Comment

Staff observed to be compliant with applicable laws and regulations.

Staffing and Supervision

Comment

Center observed to maintain appropriate staff:child ratios.

Comment

Adequate supervision observed on this date. Discussed the supervision rule during mealtimes which states: Staff shall be attentive and participating with all children during mealtimes and shall be seated within an arm's length away from children thirty-six (36) months of age and younger.