



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: 4/1/2025 VisitType: Complaint Investigation Follow Up Arrival: 8:50 AM Departure: 12:40 PM

CCLC-949

Early Start Learning Center

2186 Snapfinger Road Decatur, GA 30035 DeKalb County
(404) 284-4112 EarlyStartLC@yahoo.com

Regional Consultant

Jessica Johnson

Phone: (770) 357-5090

Fax:

jessica.johnson@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.
04/01/2025	Complaint Investigation Follow Up	Support	
03/10/2025	Complaint Closure	Good Standing	
03/06/2025	Complaint Investigation & 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
Building II	C1-A	Three Year Olds	1	8	C	24	C	34	C	Free Play
Building II	C1-B	GA PreK	2	15	C	20	C	28	C	Transitioning, Circle Time
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 44			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 165							
Main	B2-1st L	Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds	1	12	C	20	C	27	C	Centers
Main	Bck end 3L		0	0	C	17	C	23	C	
Main	Front entry 1r		0	0	C	13	C	NA	NA	
Main	Middle back	Infants and One Year Olds	1	6	C	10	C	NA	NA	Floor Play, Diapering, TV
Main	Rear entry 2L	One Year Olds and Two Year Olds	2	9	NC	22	C	30	C	Free Play
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 82			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 165							
Total # Children this Date: 50			Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 126			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 165				

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	Left Playground	50	C

Comments

An on-site incident investigation was conducted on April 1, 2025. Investigative findings were not concluded on April 1, 2025. Background checks were all reviewed on April 1, 2025.

Plan of Improvement: To Be Submitted 04/15/2025

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 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:

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 CAPS/ QR Provisional Status, allowing for scholarships while working toward an initial star rating. Provisional Status eligibility will be determined at the time of CAPS enrollment as part of the CAPS application process.

Contact the Quality Rated help desk at 855-800-7747 or qualityrated@decal.ga.gov for more information. Free technical assistance is available!



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(Findings Report)

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The following information is associated with a Complaint Investigation Follow Up:

		Facility
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Records Reviewed: 17

Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 2

Staff # 16

Not Met

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(3)-Health & Safety Certificate

Staff # 17

Not Met

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(3)-Health & Safety Certificate

591-1-1-.06 Bathrooms

Technical Assistance

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.06(4) - The Consultant discussed with the Director adding a screen to the restroom window in classroom B2-1st L. Per the Director, the screen had been ordered.

Correction Deadline: 5/1/2025

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

Not Met

Correction Deadline: 3/20/2025

Corrected on 4/1/2025

.25(12) - The Previous citation was corrected. The Consultant did not observed a heating or cooling unit in classroom Front entry 1R.

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 vaseline, diaper wipes, and cleaning solution was observed in an unlocked cabinet beneath the diapering table.

Correction Deadline: 4/1/2025

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.25(3) - The Consultant discussed with the Director replacing the broken wood panel on the right side of the sink in the restroom in classroom Building II CI-A.

Correction Deadline: 4/1/2025

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 a nine inch gap was observed at the top right fence near the road. It was further determined that a five inch gap was observed in the corner of the back right fence.

Correction Deadline: 4/15/2025

Recited on 4/1/2025

Finding

591-1-1-.26(6) requires that playground equipment provide an opportunity for the children to engage in a variety of experiences and shall be age-appropriate. For example, toddlers shall not be permitted to swing in swings designed for School-age Children. The outdoor equipment shall be free of lead-based paint, sharp corners and shall be regularly maintained in such a way as to be free of rust and splinters that could pose significant safety hazard to the children. All equipment shall be arranged so as not to obstruct supervision of children. It was determined based on observation that chipping paint was observed on the red truck on this date. It was further determined that the swing chains were twisted and had rust throughout. It was also determined that the red truck had a broken tire and a protruding nail on the left side on this date.

Correction Deadline: 4/15/2025

Recited on 4/1/2025

Correction Deadline: 3/20/2025

Corrected on 4/1/2025

.26(9) - The previous citation was corrected. The Consultant did not observed any hazards on this date.

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.26(9) - The Consultant discussed with the Director covering the exposed concrete on the left side of the red fire engine.

Correction Deadline: 4/1/2025

Safety

Records Reviewed: 17

Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 2

Staff # 16

Not Met

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(3)-Health & Safety Certificate

Staff # 17

Not Met

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(3)-Health & Safety Certificate

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

Met

Correction Deadline: 3/10/2025

Corrected on 4/1/2025

.11(2) - The previous citation was corrected. The Consultant observed the appropriate redirection techniques on this date. The Consultant discussed with the Director that Personnel shall not: physically or sexually abuse a child or engage or permit others to engage in sexually overt conduct in the presence of any child enrolled in the Center; inflict corporal/physical punishment upon a child; shake, jerk, pinch or handle a child roughly; verbally abuse or humiliate a child which includes, but is not limited to, the use of threats, profanity or belittling remarks about a child or his family; isolate a child in a dark room, closet or unsupervised area; use mechanical or physical restraints or devices to discipline children; use medication to discipline or control children's behavior without written medical authorization issued by a licensed professional and given with the parent's written consent; restrict unreasonably a child from going to the bathroom; punish toileting accidents; force-feed a child or withhold feeding a child regularly scheduled meals and/or snacks; force or withhold naps; allow children to discipline or humiliate other children; or confine a child for disciplinary purposes to a swing, highchair, infant carrier, walker or jump seat.

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 there were broken and missing seat belts in the vehicle with tag # AFJ8814.

Correction Deadline: 4/15/2025

Recited on 4/1/2025

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 the center did not have any car seats in the vehicle with tag # DAJ1604, when children under eight-years-old were transported.

Correction Deadline: 4/1/2025

Recited on 4/1/2025

Staff Records

Records Reviewed: 17

Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 2

Staff # 16

Not Met

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(3)-Health & Safety Certificate

Staff # 17

Not Met

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(3)-Health & Safety Certificate

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

Met

Correction Deadline: 3/6/2025

Corrected on 4/1/2025

.09(1)(a) - The previous citation was corrected. The Consultant observed the programs criminal records checks complete.

Correction Deadline: 3/6/2025

Corrected on 4/1/2025

.09(1)(c) - The previous citation was corrected. The Consultant observed the programs criminal records checks complete.

591-1-1-.24 Personnel Records

Technical Assistance

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.24(1) - The Consultant discussed with the Director adding the initial hire orientation form to staff files.

Correction Deadline: 4/6/2025

591-1-1-.33 Staff Training

Defer

Defer

591-1-1-.33(3)- The Consultant will review the health and safety orientation training after the previous citations correction deadline of April 5, 2025.

Correction Deadline: 4/5/2025