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: 11/6/2025 **VisitType:** Monitoring Visit **Arrival:** 11:50 AM **Departure:** 2:30 PM

CCLC-38853
Head of the Class Early Learning Center
7305 Covington Hwy. Lithonia, GA 30058 DeKalb County
(770) 482-7744

Regional Consultant
Evon Hewitt
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Mailing Address
Same

Quality Rated:

Compliance Zone Designation		
11/06/2025	Monitoring Visit	Good Standing
06/12/2025	Complaint Closure	Good Standing
06/05/2025	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
Building 2	E/Left		0	0	C	15	C	21	C	Not In Use
Building 2	F/Right		0	0	C	24	C	33	C	Not In Use
		Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 39			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 87					
Main	A/R side/1R	One Year Olds and Two Year Olds	1	4	C	6	C	NA	NA	Nap
Main	B/R side/2R	Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds	1	4	C	11	C	NA	NA	Nap
Main	C/L Side/1R		0	0	C	7	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
Main	D/L side/1L		0	0	C	9	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
		Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 33			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 87					
Total # Children this Date: 8		Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 72			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 87					

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	PG/A/Upper	40	C
Main	PG/B/Concrete	9	C
Main	PG/C/Lower	22	C

Enrolled Children						
Under 1 years	**1 years**	**2 years**	**3 years**	**4 years**	**5 years (Prekonly)**	**5 years and older**
0	1	3	7	2	0	0

Comments
The findings of this report were reviewed with the Provider on this date. Previous rule violations were observed/discussed.

Plan of Improvement: Developed This Date

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:

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 **for more information. Free technical assistance is available!**

Summary Report

Date: 11/6/2025 **VisitType:** Monitoring Visit **Arrival:** 11:50 AM **Departure:** 2:30 PM

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The following information is associated with a Monitoring Visit:

Activities and Equipment

591-1-1-.12 Equipment & Toys(CR) **Technical Assistance**

Technical Assistance
591-1-1-.12(6) - requires that a variety of age-appropriate toys and play materials be available, stored on low, open shelves accessible to children in each room or assigned area. The Consultant and Provider discussed ensuring that a variety of age-appropriate toys and play materials be available, stored on low, open shelves accessible to children in each room or assigned area.

Correction Deadline: 12/6/2025

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

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 on this date.

591-1-1-.25 Physical Plant - Safe Environment(CR) **Not Met**

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 the following potential hazards were accessible to children on this date:

Children's Bathroom
-There was a pack of Huggies baby wipes and a plastic grocery bag inside a bin on top of the changing table.

Hallway leading to PG
-There were two plastic trash bags on the right side of the hallway.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
The Center will identify all hazardous items and keep them in a locked area inaccessible to children. The Center will inform all Staff about hazardous items and the safe storage of those items.

Correction Deadline: 11/6/2025

Finding
591-1-1-.25(3) requires the Center and surrounding premises to be kept clean, free of debris and in good repair. Hygienic measures such as, but not limited to, screened windows and proper waste disposal procedures shall be utilized to minimize the presence of rodents, flies, roaches and other vermin at the Center. It was determined based on observation that the floor vent at the front right of classroom A / R side /1R was rusty with chipped paint and a protruding screw on this date. It was further determined that the end of the wooden ramp leading from the building to the playgrounds had missing slats on the right side with gaps measuring 1 foot, 2 inches and 7.5 inches on this date.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
The Center will have the Center and surrounding areas cleaned, make repairs where needed, and remove all debris is removed. The Center will implement a plan to keep areas clean and in good repair that includes regular monitoring.

Correction Deadline: 12/5/2025

Finding
591-1-1-.25(8) requires protective caps on all unused electrical outlets within children's reach and requires that electrical outlets in use be made inaccessible to children. It was determined based on observation that the following potential electrical hazards were accessible to children on this date:

Classroom A /R side / 1R
-There was a hanging cord at the front left.

Classroom B/R side /2R
-There were hanging cords at the left middle below the mounted television.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
The Center will train Staff to check outlets and replace protective caps when needed and identify and monitor how outlets in use are inaccessible to children.

Correction Deadline: 11/6/2025

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 the following fencing hazards were accessible to children on this date:

PG/A/Upper
-The chain link fence gate located at the front right had a 5 inch bottom gap causing an entrapment hazard.

PG/B/Concrete
-The chain link entrance gate to the basketball court located at the back middle had 6 inch upper left gap causing an entrapment hazard.

PG/C/Lower
-The chain link fence located at the front middle had a 7 inch bottom gap and a 9 inch top gap causing an entrapment hazard.
-The chain link fence to the left of the gate located at the front left had a 12 inch by 11 inch bottom gap causing an entrapment hazard.
-The chain link fence located at the front left had a 5 inch gap between the left and right gates causing an entrapment hazard.
-The wooden perimeter fencing located at the back left had a 6 inch by 1 foot, 9 inch upper gap with a broken/dangling slat and splintered wood causing an entrapment hazard.

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: 12/5/2025

Technical Assistance
591-1-1-.26(8) - requires climbing and swinging equipment to have a resilient surface beneath the equipment and the fall zone from such equipment must be adequately maintained by the Center to assure continuing resiliency. The Consultant and Director discussed ensuring that the resilient surfacing under the swings on PG/A/Upper measures 3 inches. The Consultant and Director further discussed ensuring that the resilient surfacing beneath the fall zone of the swings on PG/C/Concrete should be extended to measure at least 12 feet.

Correction Deadline: 11/16/2025

Finding
591-1-1-.26(8) requires climbing and swinging equipment to have a resilient surface beneath the equipment and the fall zone from such equipment must be adequately maintained by the Center to assure continuing resiliency. It was determined based on observation that the resilient surfacing beneath the swings on PG/C/Concrete measured 2.5 inches when 6 inches were required.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
The Center will add additional resilient surfacing to the fall zones where needed and check daily, adding resilient surfacing as needed to maintain adequate resiliency.

Correction Deadline: 11/28/2025

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 playground hazards were accessible to children on this date:

PG/A/Upper
-There was a broken basketball goal separated from the base with sharp plastic corners on the right side prior to entering the playground gate.

PG/B/Concrete
-There was a fallen wooden barrier located at the back middle near the basketball goal with a 5 inch protruding nail pointing upward.

PG/C/Lower
-There was an unsecured water hose on the left side of the path to the playground entrance gate.
-There were five large rocks and one cracked cinder block with sharp corners located at the back right along the chain link fence.
-There was an outdoor electrical outlet under the shaded area at the front middle without protective caps.
-There was a discarded chair without the seat cushion and arms and a single metal table leg located under the shaded area at the front middle.
-There was a broken piece of two-by-four wood, a single brick, and a large rock located at the front left near the left side of the chain link fence gate.
-There was a large limb located at the back left alongside the wooden fencing.
-There were three sinkholes located at the back middle and back right with one hole measuring 1 foot, 10 inches deep.

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.

Correction Deadline: 11/20/2025

Health and Hygiene

591-1-1-.10 Diapering Areas & Practices(CR) **Not Met**

Finding
591-1-1-.10(4) requires that if diapers are changed on a diaper changing surface, the surface shall be smooth, nonporous, and equipped with a guard or rails to prevent falls. Between each diaper change, the diaper changing surface shall be cleaned with a disinfectant and dried with a single-use disposable towel. It was determined based on observation that the diaper changing surface in the children's bathroom near classroom B/.R side/ 2R had dirt/food debris on this date. It was further determined that the diaper changing surface had two plastic storage containers with diapers and clothes on this date.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
The Center will ensure there is a smooth, nonporous changing surface that has a guard or rails for safety in each classroom that houses children wearing diapers. Center Staff will be trained and have adequate supplies to properly clean the diaper changing surface between each diaper change.

Correction Deadline: 11/7/2025

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

Comment
Staff were observed to remind children to wash hands on this date.

591-1-1-.20 Medications(CR) **N/A**

Comment
The Provider currently does not dispense/administer medication.

Safety

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

Comment
Age-appropriate discussion and/or redirection observed.

591-1-1-.36 Transportation(CR) **Not Met**

Correction Deadline: 6/13/2025

Corrected on 11/6/2025
.36(4)(a) - Previous citation corrected in that the Consultant observed the vehicle used for the transportation of children (Tag# SLF9040) to have documentation of a current annual safety check on this date.

Finding
591-1-1-.36(4)(c) requires that each vehicle be equipped with a fire extinguisher maintained in working order and kept inaccessible to children. It was determined based on observation that the vehicle used for the transportation of children (Tag#SLF9040) did not have a fire extinguisher on the vehicle as required on this date.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
The center will ensure that each vehicle has a working fire extinguisher and that the fire extinguisher is kept out of reach of children.

Correction Deadline: 11/10/2025

Correction Deadline: 6/5/2025

Corrected on 11/6/2025
.36(8) - Previous citation corrected in that the Consultant observed the Center to have documentation of the appropriate travel times for all children on this date.

Sleeping & Resting Equipment

591-1-1-.30 Safe Sleeping and Resting Requirements(CR) **Not Met**

Finding
591-1-1-.30(1)(b)3 requires that sheets or similar coverings for cots or mats shall either be marked for individual use or laundered daily. If marked for individual use, they must be laundered weekly or more frequently if needed. It was determined based on observation that 1 of 4 cots did not have a cot sheet in classroom A/R side/1R on this date.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
The Center will ensure that sheets are marked for individual use or washed daily and that marked sheets are washed at least weekly.

Correction Deadline: 11/6/2025

Staff Records

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

Comment
Criminal record checks were observed to be complete.

591-1-1-.14 First Aid & CPR(CR) **Met**

Comment
Please be mindful of training expiration dates.

591-1-1-.31 Staff(CR) **Met**

Comment
Staff observed to be compliant with applicable laws and regulations.

Staffing and Supervision

591-1-1-.32 Staff:Child Ratios and Group Size(CR) **Met**

Comment
Center observed to maintain appropriate staff:child ratios.

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

Comment
Adequate supervision observed on this date.