



**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:** 3/16/2021    **VisitType:** Monitoring Visit    **Arrival:** 10:00 AM    **Departure:** 11:30 AM

**CCLC-39560**

**Stepping Stones Early Development Center**

125 Galan Drive Byron, GA 31008 Peach County  
 (478) 956-1438 stepstones956@hotmail.com

**Regional Consultant**

Yolanda Marable  
 Phone: (770) 357-9953  
 Fax: (678) 302-2432  
 yolanda.marable@decal.ga.gov

**Mailing Address**  
 Same

**Quality Rated:** ★ ★

<b>Compliance Zone Designation</b>		
03/16/2021	Monitoring Visit	Good Standing
12/15/2020	Licensing Study	Good Standing
10/29/2019	Licensing Study	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
Main	A	One Year Olds and Two Year Olds	2	10	C	16	C	NA	NA	Free Play
Main	B	Infants	1	6	C	9	C	NA	NA	Floor Play
Main	C	Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds	2	21	C	25	C	35	C	Circle Time
Main	D	Infants	1	5	C	9	C	NA	NA	Free Play
Main	E	Two Year Olds and Three Year Olds	1	5	C	10	C	NA	NA	Free Play
Main	F	Two Year Olds and Three Year Olds	1	9	C	11	C	NA	NA	Floor Play
Main	G		0	0	C	17	C	NA	NA	
Main	H	One Year Olds and Two Year Olds	1	8	C	11	C	NA	NA	Free Play

Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 108

Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 118

Total # Children this Date: 64

Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 108

Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 118

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	Playground A	40	C
Main	Playground B	17	C
Main	Playground C	61	C
Main	Playground D	5	C
Main	Playground E	9	C

### Comments

No Plan Developed.

Staff files, training, and background checks were all reviewed. A virtual inspection was conducted on March 16, 2021 with the director. An in-person visit was not conducted due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Compliance with the Executive Order issued on February 15, 2021 was reviewed during the virtual inspection.

Plan of Improvement: No Plan Developed

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.state.ga.us/CCS/Regulations.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.

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#### 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), e-mail the following information to [CCSRefutations@dec.state.ga.us](mailto:CCSRefutations@dec.state.ga.us).

- 1) Facility name, license number and visit date
- 2) Your name, title/relationship to the facility, e-mail address & up to two phone number(s) where you can be reached
- 3) Specific rule number(s) that you are refuting, along with your concerns or questions regarding the rule citation

Refutations must be submitted to Child Care Services (CCS) within 10 business days of the completion date.

A sample form for submitting a refutation can be found at: <http://dec.state.ga.us/ChildCareServices/RefutationInformation.aspx>

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.

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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 New Deadlines:**

Your program must be Quality Rated by December 31, 2020 in order to continue to receive Childcare and Parent Services (CAPS).

Get started today! Sign up by completing a short online application: <https://qualityrated.decal.ga.gov/>  
Request free technical assistance to help you earn your star rating by contacting the Quality Rated help desk at 855-800-7747 or [qualityrated@decal.ga.gov](mailto:qualityrated@decal.ga.gov)

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SHEILA RUCKER, Program Official

Date

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Yolanda Marable, Consultant

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)**

**Met**

**Comment**

Discussed adding equipment and toys to enhance variety.

**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)**

**Met**

**Comment**

Licensed capacity observed to be routinely met by center.

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

**Met**

**Comment**

Please be mindful to keep items that pose a hazard inaccessible to children.

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

**Met**

**Comment**

Playground observed to be clean and in good repair.

#### Health and Hygiene

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

**Met**

**Comment**

Staff state proper knowledge of diapering procedures.

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

**Comment**

Proper hand washing observed throughout the center.

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

**Comment**

Documentation for medication dispensing observed complete.

**Safety**

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

**Comment**

Age-appropriate discussion and/or redirection observed.

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

**Comment**

Center does not provide routine transportation.

**Sleeping & Resting Equipment**

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

**Comment**

Discussed SIDS and infant sleeping position.

**Staff Records**

**Records Reviewed: 20**

**Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 0**

Staff # 1 Met

Date of Hire: 05/14/2018

Staff # 2 Met

Date of Hire: 03/15/2019

Staff # 3 Met

Date of Hire: 05/25/2017

Staff # 4 Met

Date of Hire: 04/25/2016

Staff # 5 Met

Date of Hire: 02/18/2020

Staff # 6 Met

Date of Hire: 02/01/2021

Reminder - Health & Safety training is required within 90 calendar days of hired

Staff # 7 Met

Date of Hire: 09/26/2016

**Records Reviewed: 20**

**Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 0**

Staff # 8	Met
Date of Hire: 11/06/2017	
Staff # 9	Met
Date of Hire: 12/21/2020	
Staff # 10	Met
Staff # 11	Met
Date of Hire: 10/07/2020	
Staff # 12	Met
Staff # 13	Met
Date of Hire: 01/18/2021	<u>Reminder - Health &amp; Safety training is required within 90 calendar days of hired</u>
Staff # 14	Met
Date of Hire: 01/11/2021	
Staff # 15	Met
Date of Hire: 09/21/2020	
Staff # 16	Met
Date of Hire: 09/04/2019	
Staff # 17	Met
Date of Hire: 04/14/2016	
Staff # 18	Met
Date of Hire: 05/09/2016	
Staff # 19	Met
Date of Hire: 06/07/2019	
Staff # 20	Met
Date of Hire: 01/09/2018	

**Staff Credentials Reviewed: 5**

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<b>591-1-1-.09 Criminal Records and Comprehensive Background Checks(CR)</b>	<b>Met</b>
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**Comment**

Director provided eight file(s) for employees hired since last visit.

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<b>591-1-1-.31 Staff(CR)</b>	<b>Met</b>
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**Comment**

Staff observed to be compliant with applicable laws and regulations.

## 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.

Consultant discussed new revision to the supervision rule 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. A Virtual Visit was conducted due to the COVID-19 pandemic.