



**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

**Cover Sheet**

**Date:** 9/26/2022 **VisitType:** Monitoring Visit

**Arrival:** 10:35 AM **Departure:** 2:20 PM

**CCLC-3329**

**The Preschool Academy**

2800 Atlanta Highway Athens, GA 30606 Clarke County  
 (706) 353-8183 the.preschool.acad@gmail.com

**Regional Consultant**

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

**Mailing Address**  
 Same

**Quality Rated:** ★

<b>Compliance Zone Designation</b>			<b>Compliance Zone Designation</b> - 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.
09/26/2022	Monitoring Visit	Good Standing	
07/06/2022	Complaint Investigation Follow Up	Good Standing	
07/06/2022	Complaint Closure	Good Standing	

  

<b>Good Standing</b>	- Program is demonstrating an acceptable level of performance in meeting the rules.
<b>Support</b>	- Program performance is demonstrating a need for improvement in meeting rules.
<b>Deficient</b>	- 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	1R	Infants	1	6	C	25	C	NA	NA	Nap,Free Play,Floor Play
Main	2R	One Year Olds	2	16	C	24	C	NA	NA	Circle Time
Main	3R Back	Two Year Olds	2	9	C	18	C	NA	NA	Circle Time
Main	3R front		0	0	C	32	C	NA	NA	
Main	4R Back	Two Year Olds	2	8	C	13	C	NA	NA	Outside
Main	4R Front	Three Year Olds	2	16	C	35	C	NA	NA	Art
Main	5R left side	Four Year Olds	1	10	C	23	C	NA	NA	Transitioning,Out side
Main	5R right side		0	0	C	18	C	NA	NA	
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 188						Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0				
Total # Children this Date: 65			Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 188			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0				

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	Playground - A	44	C
Main	Playground - B	152	C
Main	Playground - C	8	C

**Comments**

Reminders: Refer to the published communicable disease chart for guidance regarding communicable diseases. In most scenarios, only outbreaks/clusters should be reported to the local health districts.

Please be sure to contact the Clarke County Department of Health, if there are outbreaks/clusters of positive COVID-19 cases immediately, and get their guidance. Please be sure to also complete a Required Report in DECAL KOALA for all individual cases of communicable diseases within 24 hours. Be sure to select "Notifiable Communicable Diseases" to report closures for COVID cases.

Please be sure to enter all temporary closures in DECAL KOALA under the Required Report tab whenever your facility is closed temporarily for one day or more.

Incident Reports are to be submitted via DECAL KOALA with all signed staff statements for staff and the director.

All amendments are required to be electronically entered in DECAL KOALA effective August 2, 2021.

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.

Provided updated staff orientation checklist.

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.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



**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](mailto:qualityrated@dec.al.ga.gov) for more information. Free technical assistance is available!**

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), do the following:

- 1) Log into DECAL KOALA [www.decalkoala.com](http://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.'

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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)

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Catherine Corey, Program Official

Date

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Dianne Clarke, 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**

**Correction Deadline: 6/29/2022**

**Corrected on 9/26/2022**

**.12(2) - The previous citation was observed to be corrected in that the shelf was repaired. Please ensure that equipment are in good repair and maintained at all times.**

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

**Met**

**Comment**

Center does not provide swimming activities.

**Children's Records**

**591-1-1-.08 Children's Records**

**Met**

**Correction Deadline: 6/22/2022**

**Corrected on 9/26/2022**

**.08(1) - The previous citation was observed to be corrected in that the information was completed. Please ensure that all information on the children's enrollment application are completed prior to beginning at the center.**

**Facility**

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**591-1-1-.06 Bathrooms****Not Met****Finding**

591-1-1-.06(4) requires a Center first licensed after March 1, 1991, and Centers that remodel or add to existing plumbing facilities, to have the bathroom area fully enclosed and ventilated to the outside of the building with either an open screened window or functioning exhaust fan and duct system and requires Centers without fully enclosed bathrooms to ensure there is adequate ventilation to control odors and adequate sanitation measures to prevent the spread of contagious diseases. It was determined based on observation that the fan in the girls bathroom in the 4R Front classroom.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

The Center will fully enclose and ventilate bathroom areas, as required, and will provide adequate ventilation and sanitation in bathrooms that are not fully enclosed.

**Correction Deadline: 9/30/2022****Recited on 9/26/2022**

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**591-1-1-.19 License Capacity(CR)****Met****Comment**

Licensed capacity observed to be routinely met by center.

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**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 the following hazards were observed:

-4R Front: Pepto Bismol chewables were observed to be accessible in children's bags.

**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. The Pepto Bismol was removed during the visit.

**Correction Deadline: 9/26/2022****Recited on 9/26/2022****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 following items were in need of repair in the following classrooms:

-4R Front: In the boys bathroom and the storage room, the ceiling was observed to have water stains.

-5R right side: Peeling paint was observed below the window to the left. Also, a black substance was observed on the wall near the exit to the playground and on the shelf to the right.

Dusty vents were observed throughout the classrooms.

**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: 9/30/2022****Recited on 9/26/2022****Correction Deadline: 6/22/2022****Corrected on 9/26/2022**

**.25(8) - The previous citation was observed to be corrected in that the outlets were covered. Please ensure that all outlets are covered at all times when not in use.**

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

**Not Met**

**Correction Deadline: 7/13/2022**

**Corrected on 9/26/2022**

**.26(4) - The previous citation was observed to be corrected in that the units were observed to be fenced. Please ensure that the fencing material remains upright at all times.**

**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 playground:

- Playground A: Fallen branches were observed to the right and far left, from the entrance, near the wire fence.
- Playground B: Pinecones were observed throughout the playground. Also, fallen branches and leaves were observe to the left of the entrance from the classroom. Further, the S hooks on the swings were in need of tightening on the top and the bottom. At the left corner, rotting and chipping wood were observed near the blue and green xylophone.
- Playground C: Peeling wall to the right from the exit of the building on to the playground.

Also, the path from the classroom to Playground B from the 4R back classroom exit was observed to have a border leaning and in need of repair. There was a loose board with a hole in the border from the path to and from the classroom upon entrance at the gate. Exposed roots were observed from the path to the playground.

**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: 10/3/2022**

**Recited on 9/26/2022**

<b>Health and Hygiene</b>
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**591-1-1-.10 Diapering Areas & Practices(CR)**

**Met**

**Comment**

Staff state proper knowledge of diapering procedures.

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

**Met**

**Correction Deadline: 7/22/2022**

**Corrected on 9/26/2022**

**.17(7) - The previous citation was observed to be corrected in that the hot water was observed to be working. Please ensure that the staff are informing management when the water is not working.**

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

**Met**

**Correction Deadline: 6/22/2022**

**Corrected on 9/26/2022**

**.20(1) The previous citation was observed to be corrected in that the information was completed. Please ensure that parents are completing the forms properly and specifying the dates to start and end medication.**

<b>Safety</b>
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**591-1-1-.11 Discipline(CR)**

**Met**

**Comment**

Age-appropriate discussion and/or redirection observed.

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

Center does not provide routine transportation.

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**Sleeping & Resting Equipment**

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

Pleasant naptime environment observed.

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**Staff Records**

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**Records Reviewed: 16****Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 0**

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Staff # 1 Met

Date of Hire: 08/18/2021

Staff # 2 Met

Date of Hire: 12/01/1997

Staff # 3 Met

Date of Hire: 05/20/2017

Staff # 4 Met

Date of Hire: 01/15/1997

Staff # 5 Met

Date of Hire: 10/22/2018

Staff # 6 Met

Date of Hire: 04/18/2016

Staff # 7 Met

Date of Hire: 02/01/2002

Staff # 8 Met

Date of Hire: 08/11/2022

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

Staff # 9 Met

Date of Hire: 02/26/2003

Staff # 10 Met

Date of Hire: 03/21/2022

Staff # 11 Met

Date of Hire: 11/05/2019

Staff # 12 Met

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**Records Reviewed: 16****Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 0**

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Date of Hire: 05/11/2021

Staff # 13

Met

Date of Hire: 08/22/2022

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

Staff # 14

Met

Date of Hire: 09/09/2022

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

Staff # 15

Met

Date of Hire: 11/11/2021

Staff # 16

Met

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**Staff Credentials Reviewed: 7**

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

Criminal record checks were observed to be complete.

-Please ensure that applicants/staff are listing exact dates (including month/day/year) on 10 year work history form in order to determine any breaks in service from the child care industry.

-Please ensure that records checks are redone if there is a six-month break in service.

-Please also ensure that satisfactory records checks are updated before the expiration date.

-Ensure that all therapists and other independent contractors have an updated records check on file, before being present at the center.

-Please ensure that staff with a national background check is always present with a staff who has a comprehensive background check. Staff should never be by themselves.

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**591-1-1-.24 Personnel Records****Met****Correction Deadline: 6/27/2022****Corrected on 9/26/2022**

**.24(1) - The previous citation was observed to be corrected in that the orientation was completed for new staff. Please ensure that all information is completed for all new staff before they begin at the center.**

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**591-1-1-.33 Staff Training****Met****Correction Deadline: 7/22/2022****Corrected on 9/26/2022**

**.33(5) - The previous citation was observed to be corrected in that one staff is no longer employed and the other has completed training for 2022. Please ensure that staff completes annual training by December 31 each year.**

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

Staff observed to be compliant with applicable laws and regulations.

<b>Staffing and Supervision</b>
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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. Discussed 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.