



**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:** 5/23/2022 **VisitType:** Licensing Study

**Arrival:** 10:20 AM **Departure:** 12:15 PM

**CCLC-3035**

**First Steps Learning Center**

61 Grizzle Street Royston, GA 30662 Franklin County  
 (706) 245-7170 d\_Pulliam@bellsouth.net

**Regional Consultant**

Kelly Jones

Phone: (770) 357-7062

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kelly.jones@dec.al.ga.gov

**Mailing Address**

P.O. Box 615  
 Royston, GA 30662

**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.  <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.
05/23/2022	Licensing Study	Good Standing	
10/25/2021	Monitoring Visit	Good Standing	
05/13/2021	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
Main	A-1L	Infants and One Year Olds	1	6	C	18	C	NA	NA	Transitioning, Feeding, Nap
Main	B-1R	One Year Olds	1	9	C	20	C	NA	NA	Transitioning, Music
Main	C-back	Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds	1	11	C	24	C	34	C	Free Play
					Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 62		Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 72			
Total # Children this Date: 26			Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 62			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 72				

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	Playground-back	119	C
Main	Playground-right side	31	C

**Comments**

The Consultant conducted the exit conference via telephone and a copy of the licensing study was electronically emailed to the Program. Visit closed on June 7, 2022, due to technical issues. A revised copy of the report was emailed to the program on 7/18/2022.

Plan of Improvement: Developed This Date 05/23/2022

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



### 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](mailto:qualityrated@decal.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.

#### 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.'

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)

Patricia Pulliam, Program Official

Date

Kelly Jones, Consultant

Date



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**Findings Report**

**Date:** 5/23/2022 **VisitType:** Licensing Study

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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.

**Comment**

Equipment and furniture observed to be properly secured, as applicable.

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

**Met**

**Comment**

Center does not provide swimming activities.

**Children's Records**

**Records Reviewed: 5**

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

Child # 1	Met
Child # 2	Met
Child # 3	Met
Child # 4	Met
Child # 5	Met

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

**Met**

**Comment**

Parent agreements observed obtained/completed.

**Comment**

Parent authorizations obtained/completed.

**Comment**

Records were observed to be complete and well organized.

**Facility**

**591-1-1-.06 Bathrooms**

**Met**

**Comment**

Please monitor bathrooms for necessary supplies.

**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**

Center appears clean and well maintained.

**Comment**

No hazards observed accessible to children on this date.

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

**Technical Assistance**

**Technical Assistance**

591-1-1-.26 - Playground observed to be clean and in good repair. Monitor concrete for cracks that may cause a tripping hazard in the future. Monitor areas that tend to wash due to rain to ensure there are no holes or uneven surfaces that could cause a potential hazard in the future. Monitor fence and gates regularly to ensure that they remain in good repair.

**Food Service**

**591-1-1-.15 Food Service & Nutrition**

**Met**

**Comment**

Center menu meets USDA guidelines.

**591-1-1-.18 Kitchen Operations**

**Met**

**Comment**

Kitchen appears clean and well organized.

**Health and Hygiene**

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

**Met**

**Comment**

Proper diapering procedures observed.

**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.

**Policies and Procedures**

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**591-1-1-.21 Operational Policies & Procedures** **Met**

**Comment**

Program observed complete emergency drills

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**591-1-1-.27 Posted Notices** **Met**

**Comment**

Observed all required posted notices.

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**591-1-1-.29 Required Reporting** **Met**

**Comment**

Thank you for reporting as required.

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**Safety**

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**591-1-1-.05 Animals** **Met**

**Comment**

Center does not keep animals on premises.

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

**Comment**

Staff were observed to maintain a positive learning environment on this date.

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**591-1-1-.13 Field Trips(CR)** **Met**

**Comment**

Center does not participate in field trips at this time.

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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**

Discussed SIDS and infant sleeping position.

**Comment**

Pleasant naptime environment observed.

**Comment**

The correct number of mats, sheets and blankets were observed on this date. Cleaning and disinfecting of mats was discussed with the director on this date.

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**Staff Records**

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**Records Reviewed: 6**

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

Staff # 1 Met  
Date of Hire: 08/15/2016

Staff # 2 Met  
Date of Hire: 01/21/2022

Staff # 3 Met

**Records Reviewed: 6**

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

Date of Hire: 08/14/2000

Staff # 4 Met

Date of Hire: 06/08/2015

Staff # 5 Met

Date of Hire: 03/08/2022

Staff # 6 Met

Date of Hire: 11/14/2012

**Staff Credentials Reviewed: 10**

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

**Comment**

Director provided one file(s) for employees hired since last visit 10/25/2021.

**Comment**

Seven of seven criminal record checks were observed to be complete.

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**591-1-1-.14 First Aid & CPR Not Met**

**Finding**

591-1-1-.14(2) requires a Staff member who is trained in CPR and first aid to be on the premises and on any field trip whenever any child is present. In addition, Staff who provide direct care to children must satisfactorily obtain certification in first aid and CPR by December 29, 2016 if employed prior to September 30, 2016 and within 90 days of their hire date if employed after September 30, 2016. It was determined based on a review of documentation that staff member #2 , hire date 1/21/2022 completed a CPR/ first aid course online that is not approved by the Department.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

The Center will develop a schedule to ensure there is always a staff person with current first aid and CPR training present and will develop and implement a plan to ensure all staff members have satisfactorily completed first aid and CPR training by the specified date.

**Correction Deadline: 6/30/2022**

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**591-1-1-.33 Staff Training Met**

**Comment**

Documentation observed of required staff training.

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

**Comment**

Discussed that all lead staff must enroll in an approved education program within 6 months of hire and complete degree within 18 months.

**Comment**

Staff observed to be compliant with applicable laws and regulations.

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**Staffing and Supervision**

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**591-1-1-.32 Staff:Child Ratios and Group Size(CR) Not Met**

**Finding**

591-1-1-.32(1) requires the Center to maintain the required Staff:child ratios as follows: under 1 year or under 18 months if not walking = 1:6; 1 year and walking = 1:8; 2 years = 1:10; 3 years = 1:15; 4 years = 1:18; 5 years = 1:20; and 6 years and older = 1:25. A Center must establish groupings of children for care with maximum group sizes as follows: under 1 year = 12; under 18 months/not walking = 12; 1 year and walking = 16; 2 years = 20; 3 years = 30; 4 years = 36; 5 years = 40; and 6 years and older = 50. It was determined based on observation that classroom had a ratio of one staff member to nine one- year- olds at the time of the visit.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

The Center will hire additional Staff or reschedule current Staff to meet required Staff:child ratios and will organize children into groups that meet requirements.

**Correction Deadline: 5/23/2022**

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

**Not Met**

**Finding**

591-1-1-.32(7) requires that children be supervised at all times appropriate to the individual age, needs and capabilities of each child. Such supervision must include, but not be limited to, indoor and outdoor activities, mealtimes, naptime, transportation, field trips, and transitions between activities. "Supervision" means that the appropriate number of Staff members are physically present in the area where children are being cared for and are providing watchful oversight to the children, volunteers and Students-in-Training. The persons supervising in the child care area must be alert, positioned to maximize their ability to hear and see the children at all times, and able to respond promptly to the needs and actions of the children being supervised, as well as the actions of the volunteers and Students-in-Training, and provide timely attention to the children's actions and needs. 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. It was determined based on observation that the staff member for classroom C- Back was observed coming out of the kitchen to answer the door when the consultant arrived to conduct the licensing study. Children in classroom C Back were left un supervised for an undetermined amount of time. The ratio was 1:11 eight three- year- olds and three four- year- olds were present.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

The Center will train Staff and monitor to ensure they are providing supervision and watchful oversight to the children at all times.

**Correction Deadline: 5/23/2022**