



**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:** 4/4/2022    **VisitType:** Complaint Investigation & Monitoring Visit    **Arrival:** 10:15 AM    **Departure:** 12:15 PM

**CCLC-55384**

**Strong Roots Academy**

101 Generation Blvd. Loganville, GA 30052 Walton County  
 (770) 466-9660 childcare@strongrootsacademy.com

**Mailing Address**  
 Same

**Regional Consultant**

Rebekah Mullinax

Phone: (770) 357-7056

Fax: (770) 357-7055

rebekah.mullinax@decal.ga.gov

Joint with: Carrie Spangler

**Quality Rated:** No

<b>Compliance Zone Designation</b>		
04/04/2022	Complaint Investigation & Monitoring Visit	Good Standing
01/26/2022	Initial 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- 1L	Infants	2	7	C	18	C	NA	NA	Floor Play
Main	B- 2L	Infants and One Year Olds	2	8	C	17	C	NA	NA	Floor Play
Main	C- 3L	One Year Olds and Two Year Olds	2	8	C	18	C	NA	NA	Free Play
Main	D- 4L	Two Year Olds and Three Year Olds	2	11	C	24	C	NA	NA	Free Play
Main	E- Center 1		0	0	C	28	C	NA	NA	Free Play
Main	F- Center 2	Three Year Olds	1	8	C	27	C	NA	NA	Outside
Main	G- 3R		0	0	C	46	C	NA	NA	
Main	H- 2R	Two Year Olds and Three Year Olds	1	7	C	32	C	NA	NA	Outside
Main	I- 1R	Four Year Olds and Five Year Olds and Six Year Olds and Over	2	17	C	40	C	NA	NA	Free Play

Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 250

Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0

Total # Children this Date: 66

Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 250

Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	Back Playground	34	C
Main	Left Back Playground	155	C
Main	Left Front Playground	37	C
Main	Right Playground	89	C

### Comments

On April 4, 2022, the consultant followed up to previous visit and conducted an on-site Monitoring Visit. Consultant requested the provider submit required documents for the Administrative Review process.

An Administrative Review was conducted on April 7, 2022. Staff files and background checks were all reviewed. The Consultant completed the exit conference virtually and a copy of the monitoring visit report was electronically emailed to the Program on April 13, 2022.

Plan of Improvement: Developed This Date 04/04/2022

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.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.

### 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)

---

Kelly Dawkins, Program Official

Date

---

Rebekah Mullinax, Consultant

Date

---

Carrie Spangler, Consultant

Date



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

### Findings Report

**Date:** 4/4/2022    **VisitType:** Complaint Investigation & Monitoring Visit    **Arrival:** 10:15 AM    **Departure:** 12:15 PM

**CCLC-55384**

**Strong Roots Academy**

101 Generation Blvd. Loganville, GA 30052 Walton County  
(770) 466-9660 childcare@strongrootsacademy.com

**Mailing Address**  
Same

**Regional Consultant**

Rebekah Mullinax

Phone: (770) 357-7056

Fax: (770) 357-7055

rebekah.mullinax@dec.al.ga.gov

Joint with: Carrie Spangler

The following information is associated with a Monitoring Visit:

**Activities and Equipment**

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

**Met**

**Comment**

A variety of equipment and toys were observed throughout the center.

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

**N/A**

**Comment**

Center does not provide swimming activities.

**Facility**

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

**Met**

**Comment**

Bathrooms observed to be clean and well maintained.

**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)**

**Not Met**

**Comment**

Please secure cleaning tools (i.e., broom, plunger) out of reach of children.

**Technical Assistance**

591-1-1-.25(11) - requires that floor coverings be tight, smooth, free of odors and washable or cleanable. On this date the Consultant observed carpet fraying in Room 1R and Room 2R. The Director stated that carpet was being replaced.

**Correction Deadline: 5/4/2022**

**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 there were the following potential hazards:

- Diaper wipes were on a water fountain and accessible to children in Room 1R.
- A tube of petroleum jelly was in a child's backpack and accessible to children in Room 1R.
- Plastic bags were stored under an unlocked cabinet and accessible to children in Room 1R.
- Diaper wipes were on a water fountain and accessible to children in Room Center 2.
- Plastic bags were stored in an unlocked drawer and accessible to children in Room Center 2.

**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: 4/4/2022**

**Correction Deadline: 1/26/2022**

**Corrected on 4/4/2022**

**.25(3) - Previous citation corrected in that Center 1 classroom and bathroom is currently not in use.**

**Technical Assistance**

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. On this date the Consultant observed a roof leak and exposed plaster behind a toilet in Room Center 1. At this time, Room Center 1 is not in use. Please ensure that Room Center 1 is in good repair prior to children being allowed in that classroom.

**Correction Deadline: 4/4/2022**

**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 potential fencing hazards existed in that :

Left Back Playground:

- \* There was a nine inch gap in the gate at the left back corner.
- \* There were fencing wires protruding on the gate at the left back corner.
- \* There was exposed fencing wire between the front left and back left of the playground

Left Front Playground:

- \* There was a two inch gap at the bottom left of the fence next to the sidewalk front entrance of the center.

Right Playground:

- \* There was a protruding wire on the left side next to the sidewalk.

**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: 4/4/2022**

**Technical Assistance**

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. On this date the Consultant observed the swing chains had started to rust on the Right Playground. Please ensure that the swing chains are regularly maintained to be free of rust.

**Correction Deadline: 4/14/2022**

**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:

\*There was chipping paint on the covering of the steps of the large play structure on the Left Back Playground.

\*The Little Tikes climbing equipment had five blue posts that were broken at the top with exposed sharp edges on the Left Front Playground.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

The Center will provide a variety of age-appropriate equipment that is arranged so as not to obstruct supervision of children. Staff will check the equipment daily to ensure that the equipment is free of hazards, rust and splinters.

**Correction Deadline: 5/4/2022**

**Recited on 4/4/2022**

**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 on the Right Playground there was exposed concrete at the bottom of the gate post next to the porch.

**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: 4/18/2022**

**Recited on 4/4/2022**

**Food Service**

**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**

Staff state proper knowledge of diapering procedures.

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

**Comment**

Proper hand washing observed throughout the center.

**Comment**

Staff were observed to remind children to wash hands.

---

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

N/A

**Comment**

The Provider currently does not dispense/administer medication.

**Policies and Procedures**

---

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

Met

**Comment**

Observed all required posted notices.

**Safety**

---

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

Met

**Comment**

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

**Comment**

The center's discipline policy was reviewed on this date. Regulations regarding proper discipline were discussed with the director on this date.

---

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

Technical Assistance

**Comment**

A current/completed inspection was observed for all vehicles used in transporting children this date.

**Comment**

Complete documentation of transportation observed.

**Comment**

The vehicle had an approved fire extinguisher and first aid kit on this date.

**Technical Assistance**

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. On this date the Consultant observed a crack in the back right floor of vehicle TCH 4255. Please ensure that the vehicle flooring is in safe repair as required.

**Correction Deadline: 4/5/2022**

**Technical Assistance**

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. On this date the Consultant observed that two seat safety belts were missing buckles on a two row seat. The Director discussed with the Consultant that vehicle TCH4256 is not in use at this time.

**Correction Deadline: 4/5/2022**

**Sleeping & Resting Equipment**

---

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

Not Met

**Comment**

Discussed SIDS and infant sleeping position.

**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.

**Finding**

591-1-1-.30(1)(b)1 requires that cots and mats are of sound construction and of sufficient size to accommodate comfortably the size and weight of the child; and that mats are in good repair, washable, covered with a waterproof material and at least two inches (2") thick. It was determined based on observation that:

- Five mats were torn and foam was exposed in Room 2R.
- Two mats were torn and foam was exposed in Room Center 2.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

The Center will ensure that cots and mats are of sound construction and of sufficient size to accommodate the size and weight of the child and mats are in good repair, washable, covered with a waterproof material and is at least two inches thick.

**Correction Deadline: 4/4/2022**

<b>Staff Records</b>
----------------------

**Records Reviewed: 19**

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

Staff # 1	Met
Staff # 2	Met
Staff # 3	Met
Staff # 4	Met
Staff # 5	Met
Staff # 6	Met
Staff # 7	Met
Staff # 8	Met
Staff # 9	Met
Staff # 10	Met
Staff # 11	Met
Staff # 12	Met
Staff # 13	Met
Staff # 14	Met
Staff # 15	Met
Staff # 16	Met
Staff # 17	Met
Staff # 18	Met
Staff # 19	Met



**Staff Credentials Reviewed: 13**

---

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

**Comment**

Criminal record checks were observed to be complete.

**Comment**

Director provided seven files for employees hired since last visit.

---

**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.

<b>Staffing and Supervision</b>
---------------------------------

---

**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.