



**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:** 2/7/2019      **VisitType:** Technical Assistance      **Arrival:** 9:15 AM      **Departure:** 12:00 PM

**CCLC-36694**

**1st Step Learning Academy L.L.C**

3217 New MacLand Road Suite 120 & 130 Powder Springs, GA 30127  
 Cobb County  
 (678) 401-2379 1ststeplearningacademy1@gmail.com

**Regional Consultant**

Lisa Johnson  
 Phone: (770) 357-7058  
 Fax: (770) 357-7057  
 lisa.johnson@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.
01/14/2019	Complaint Closure	Good Standing	
12/11/2018	Complaint Investigation Follow Up	Deficient	
11/07/2018	Licensing Study	Support	

  

<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.

Building	Room	Age Group	Staff	Children	NC/C	Max 35 SF.	35 SF. Comp.	Max 25 SF.	25 SF. Comp.	Notes
Building 2	One room		0	0		12	C	NA	NA	
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 12					Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0					
Main	B- 2nd Right		0	0		10	C	NA	NA	
Main	C-1st Left		0	0		18	C	NA	NA	
Main	D- 2nd Left		0	0		9	C	NA	NA	
Main	Rm. A-1st Right		0	0		6	C	NA	NA	
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 43					Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0					
Total # Children this Date: 0		Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 191			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0					

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	Playground-Back of Center	29	C

**Comments**

The purpose of the visit was to conduct a TA visit. The consultant introduced herself to the new staff, the director, and teachers. A "mock" visit was conducted and goals were discussed with the staff on this day. The diaper changing pad, diapering, cracked containers, medication, supervision with potty training, and infant swaddling was discussed. Further follow up will be made during the next scheduled visit in two weeks. The TA consultant will follow up with Karyn P. regarding the question about mats being placed together to make them thick enough until they have them reupholstered together to ensure that the thickness requirement is met. The TA consultant discussed observations with the staff and great progress was observed. The required posted notices form was printed and discussed with the provider, along with the emergency response form on this day. All questions and concerns were discussed and addressed with the new director regarding staff files during the visit.

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.dec.state.ga.us/>  
Request free technical assistance to help you earn your star rating by contacting the Quality Rated help desk at 855-800-7747 or [qualityrated@dec.state.ga.us](mailto:qualityrated@dec.state.ga.us)

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Kai Kyser, Program Official

Date

Lisa Johnson, Consultant

Date



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**Health and Hygiene**

**Rule:** 591-1-1-.10

**Plan of Improvement:** All staff will ensure that appropriate diapering is implemented daily as required.

Step Number	Action Step	Person Responsible	Due Date	Status	Completion Date	Action Taken	Action Date
1	-The TA consultant discussed the diapering process with the toddler teacher on this day. -The director will print, post, and review the appropriate diapering steps with the teacher to ensure that it's being implemented daily.	Diaper staff	02/08/2019	Developed		Further follow up will be made during the next scheduled visit.	02/07/2019

**Rule:** 591-1-1-.10(4)Diaper Changing surface

**Plan of Improvement:** The owner will replace the diaper changing pads to ensure that they are non porous.

Step Number	Action Step	Person Responsible	Due Date	Status	Completion Date	Action Taken	Action Date
1	-The TA consultant discussed Plexiglas, and types of diaper pads that are required on this day with the provider. -The provider will research pads and look to purchase or order one by the end of this week.	Owner	02/08/2019	Developed		Further follow up will be made during the next scheduled visit.	02/07/2019