



**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: 8/24/2021 **VisitType:** Initial Licensing Study **Arrival:** 10:00 AM **Departure:** 12:45 PM

CCLC-54273

Stepping Stones Academy

8780 Macon Hwy Athens, GA 30606 Oconee County
(706) 338-7850 lisa@ncathens.com

Mailing Address
Same

Regional Consultant

Toni Williams

Phone: (770) 302-7628

Fax: (770) 302-8357

toni.williams@decal.ga.gov

Joint with: Margaret Pringle

Quality Rated: No

Compliance Zone Designation		
08/24/2021	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	Room A-Infants		0	0	C	11	C	NA	NA	
Main	Room B- One Year Olds		0	0	C	19	C	NA	NA	
Main	Room D-Three year olds		0	0	C	21	C	NA	NA	
Main	Room-C Two Year Olds		0	0	C	23	C	NA	NA	Supper,Outside

Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 74

Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0

Total # Children this Date: 0

Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 74

Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	Playground A	9	C
Main	Playground B	16	C

Comments

An Administrative Review was conducted on August 18, 2021 Staff files, children's files, training, and background checks were all reviewed. An in person Initial Licensing Study was conducted on August 24, 2021. The exit conference was conducted virtually on August 25, 2021 at 3:00 pm with the Director. Permission to Operate issued on this date. Facility does carry Liability Insurance. The total capacity is 75.

Plan of Improvement: Developed This Date 08/24/2021

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

You have received permission to operate and the form received with this report is intended to serve as a temporary license which is **valid for thirty(30) days**. Your actual license/ will be emailed to you upon receipt of the licensing fee. You may pay the licensing fee either online at <http://www.dec.al.ga.gov/> or by certified check or money order mailed to: Bright from the Start, 2 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive SE, Suite 670 East Tower, Atlanta, GA 30334

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), e-mail the following information to CCSRefutations@dec.al.ga.gov.

- 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.al.ga.gov/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.

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.al.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@dec.al.ga.gov

Kyle Semple, Program Official

Date

Toni Williams, Consultant

Date

Margaret Pringle, Consultant

Date



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Findings Report

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The following information is associated with a Initial Licensing Study:

Activities and Equipment

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

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. No pool observed on site.

Facility

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

Comment

Licensed capacity observed to be routinely met by center. The overall licensed capacity is 75 children.

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

Comment

No hazards observed accessible to children on this date.

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

Technical Assistance

The Consultant asked the Director to please ensure that the exposed screws are either cutback to 2 inches or capped. Also the Provider was asked to ensure that the chipped paint and rust on the fence be replaced or painted and all mushrooms removed from the playground.

Correction Deadline: 8/24/2021

Health and Hygiene

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

Staff state proper knowledge of diapering procedures. Sinks with warm running water observed adjacent to proper diapering surfaces in all classrooms approved for diapering.

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

There were no children enrolled on this date. Proper hand washing of children and staff was discussed with the director during the inspection visit.

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

Discussed proper medication documentation, administration and storage.

Safety

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

Consultant discussed appropriate discipline and guidance techniques with the Director.

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

Center does not provide routine transportation. Consultant discussed transportation requirements if/when the facility decides to incorporate transportation. The Center will contact their regional consultant and complete the required two (2) hours transportation training prior to transporting children.

Sleeping & Resting Equipment

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

Comment

Thirteen (13) of thirteen (13) cribs observed, cribs were present meeting safety compliance with Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) and American Society of Testing and Materials International (ASTM) safety standards as they were manufactured in 2019 (11) and 2012 (2). Consultant discussed safe sleeping requirements with the Director during the inspection visit.

Staff Records

Records Reviewed: 3**Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 0**

Staff # 1 Met

Date of Hire: 08/24/2021

Staff # 2 Met

Date of Hire: 08/24/2021

Staff # 3 Met

Date of Hire: 08/25/2021

Staff Credentials Reviewed: 1

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

Comment

Criminal record checks were observed to be complete. Three (3) of three (3) staff records were observed to have comprehensive satisfactory Criminal Background Check determination letters on file.

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

Comment

Staff observed to be compliant with applicable laws and regulations.

Staffing and Supervision

591-1-1-.32 Staff:Child Ratios and Group Size(CR) **Met**

Comment

There were no children enrolled on this date. Proper ratios and classroom capacities were discussed with the director on this date.

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

Comment

There were no children enrolled on this date. Proper supervision of children, including being prompt to children's needs, was discussed with the director on this date.