



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: 10/7/2025 **VisitType:** Licensing Study

Arrival: 9:05 AM **Departure:** 12:15 PM

CCLC-24470
Gateway Academy & Childcare Center
745 Six Flags Dr. Austell, GA 30168 Cobb County
(770) 948-7201

Regional Consultant
Kara Williams
Phone: ()
Fax:
kara.williams@decal.ga.gov

Mailing Address
Same

Quality Rated: ★ ★

Compliance Zone Designation			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.
10/07/2025	Licensing Study	Good Standing	
06/24/2025	Complaint Investigation by Phone	Good Standing	
11/14/2024	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-first left		0	0	C	12	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
Main	B Second Left	Infants	1	3	C	12	C	NA	NA	Floor Play
Main	C-3 year old (3rd left)		0	0	C	23	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
Main	E (first right)	One Year Olds	2	6	C	20	C	NA	NA	Outside
Main	Fdownstairs (3rd right)	GA PreK	2	10	C	14	C	NA	NA	Outside
Main	G downstairs second right		0	0	C	18	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
Main	H (dwnsrs first right)	GA PreK	2	12	C	19	C	NA	NA	Centers
Main	I dwnstrs first left		0	0	C	20	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
Main	J downstairs 2nd left	Three Year Olds	2	10	C	25	C	NA	NA	Outside
Main	Room D (second right)	Two Year Olds	2	12	C	20	C	NA	NA	Outside

Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 183

Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0

Total # Children this Date: 53

Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 183

Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	Infant Playground	7	C
Main	Middle Toddler Playground	15	C
Main	Right Older Playground	35	C

Enrolled Children						
Under 1 years	1 years	2 years	3 years	4 years	5 years (Prekonly)	5 years and older
3	10	13	14	20	2	13

Comments

Discussed rule changes and updates effective July 1, 2025.

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

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 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)

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 for more information. Free technical assistance is available!



Summary Report

Date: 10/7/2025 **VisitType:** Licensing Study

Arrival: 9:05 AM **Departure:** 12:15 PM

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The following information is associated with a Licensing Study:

Activities and Equipment

591-1-1-.03 Activities

Met

Comment

Lesson Plans were observed to be posted and reflected the current weeks activities in each classroom.

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

Met

Comment

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

Correction Deadline: 10/10/2025

Corrected on 10/7/2025

.12(4) - The previous citation was observed corrected on this date. The TV and copier in classroom H were secured with cables to prevent tipping. Additionally the TV in classroom J was removed.

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

N/A

Comment

Center does not provide swimming activities.

Children's Records

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

Met

Comment

Parent authorizations obtained/completed.

Correction Deadline: 7/4/2025

Corrected on 10/7/2025

.08(2) - The previous citation was observed corrected on this date. The Consultant observed up to date immunization records for children enrolled.

Evening Care

591-1-1-.32 Staffing/Supervision(CR)

N/A

Comment

No evening care hours provided

Facility

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

Licensed capacity observed to be routinely met by center on this date.

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

No hazards observed accessible to children on this date.

Comment

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

Correction Deadline: 11/14/2024

Corrected on 10/7/2025

.25(13) - The previous citation was observed corrected on this date. All classrooms had hazards locked away and out of reach of children.

Correction Deadline: 11/21/2024

Corrected on 10/7/2025

.25(3) - The previous citation was observed corrected on this date. The Consultant observed Classroom H (dwnsrs first righth) and J (dwnstairs 2nd left) were clean and well organized.

591-1-1-.26 Playgrounds(CR)	Met
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Comment

Playground observed to be clean and in good repair on this date.

Correction Deadline: 11/21/2024

Corrected on 10/7/2025

.26(4) - The previous citation was obserbed corrected on this date. The Provider replaced the third section of the fence on the left side of the playground.

Correction Deadline: 11/24/2024

Corrected on 10/7/2025

.26(6) - The previous citation was observed corrected on this date. Consultant observed clean and in good repair bucket swings. Additionally the provider replaced bucket swings on toddler playground.

Food Service

591-1-1-.15 Food Service & Nutrition	Met
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Comment

CACFP Meal Pattern Requirements effective October 1, 2017 will be implemented October 1, 2018: 3

Components for breakfast: Grains, Vegetables, Fruits or both, Milk

5 Components for lunch – Grains, Meat/Meat alternates, Fruits, Vegetable, and Milk OR Grains, Meat/Meat alternates, 2 different types of vegetables, and Milk

2 of 5 Components for snack

Provided Updated CACFP Infant Meal pattern and Child/Adult Meal pattern flyers.

The Crediting Handbook for the CACFP can be located on DECAL and USDA's website:

DECAL

<http://dec.al.ga.gov/CACFP/Handbook.aspx>

USDA

<http://www.fns.usda.gov/cacfp/cacfp-handbooks>

Health and Hygiene

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

Proper diapering procedures observed.

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

Please ensure lids remain on trash containing organic waste.

Comment

Proper hand washing observed throughout the center on this date.

591-1-1-.20 Medications(CR)**N/A****Comment**

The Provider currently does not dispense/administer medication.

Safety**591-1-1-.05 Animals****N/A****Comment**

Center does not keep animals on premises.

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

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

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

Complete documentation of transportation observed on this date.

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

Discussed SIDS and infant sleeping position.

Comment

Pleasant naptime environment observed.

Comment

Please ensure that cribs/cots are labeled for individual use.

Staff Records**Records Reviewed: 18****Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 4**

Staff # 2

Not Met

Date of Hire: 10/04/2024

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training

Staff # 4

Not Met

Date of Hire: 07/24/2017

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.14(2)-CPR missing,.14(2)-First Aid Missing

Staff # 9

Not Met

Date of Hire: 08/29/2024

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.14(2)-CPR missing,.14(2)-First Aid Missing

Staff # 11

Not Met

Date of Hire: 11/01/2024

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.14(2)-CPR missing,.14(2)-First Aid Missing

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

Director provided 1 file(s) for employees hired since last visit.

591-1-1-.14 First Aid & CPR(CR)**Technical Assistance****Technical Assistance**

591-1-1-.14(1)(a) - Discussed that effective July 1, 2025, new staff are required to obtain pediatric First Aid and pediatric CPR training within 45 days of employment. It was further discussed that programs must have at least one person with current pediatric First Aid and pediatric CPR training in each classroom at all times.

Correction Deadline: 11/6/2025

591-1-1-.33 Staff Training**Technical Assistance****Technical Assistance**

591-1-1-.33(2)(a)-(n) - Discussed that all Employees, including volunteers, independent contractors, students-in-training, etc. should have a completed initial program orientation form on file.

Correction Deadline: 10/8/2025

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.33(5)(a) - Discussed with the Director to ensure all staff have approved and completed 10-Hours of annual training on file and accessible.

Correction Deadline: 11/6/2025

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.33(5)(b)1. -Discussed that effective July 1, 2025, all staff are required to obtain at least two hours in evidence based, developmentally appropriate language and literacy practices and at least two hours in on-going child development and health and safety related topics as part of their 10 hours of annual training.

Correction Deadline: 11/6/2025

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**

Center observed to maintain appropriate staff:child ratios.

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

Staff observed to provide direct supervision and be attentive to children's needs.