



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: 6/18/2026 VisitType: Complaint Investigation Follow Up Arrival: 11:05 AM Departure: 1:40 PM

CCLC-56596

A Step Above Preparatory South

4195 Welcome All Rd SW Atlanta, GA 30349 Fulton County
(260) 760-4679

Regional Consultant

Shameka Dozier

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shameka.dozier@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.
06/18/2026	Complaint Investigation Follow Up	Good Standing	
04/24/2026	Complaint Closure	Good Standing	
04/22/2026	Complaint Investigation & Monitoring Visit	Support	
			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	AL-Infant	Infants	1	3	C	10	C	NA	NA	Free Play
Main	Back F-Private Pre-K	Six Year Olds and Over	2	1	C	16	C	NA	NA	Free Play
Main	BL-One and Two		0	0	C	21	C	NA	NA	
Main	CL-Three year old	Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds and Five Year Olds and Six Year Olds and Over	2	19	C	18	NC	NA	NA	Nap
Main	DL-Four year old		0	0	C	11	C	NA	NA	
Main	EL-Afterschool		0	0	C	63	C	NA	NA	
Main	HR-One year Old	One Year Olds	1	8	C	12	C	NA	NA	Floor Play
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 151					Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0					
Total # Children this Date: 31			Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 151			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0				

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	Afterschool	55	C
Main	Infant	13	C
Main	Toddler	7	C

Comments

Classroom hazards, playgrounds, and food menus were discussed with the director on this date.

Plan of Improvement: No Plan Developed



For additional information regarding any licensing topics discussed during this visit, please consult the Rules and Regulations Indicator Manual. This manual provides comprehensive clarification of each rule, including evaluation indicators, related best practices, and relevant considerations to support your program's continued and sustained compliance.

To access the Indicator Manual, please scan the QR code below or visit our website at <https://www.dec.al.ga.gov/CCS/RulesAndRegulations.aspx>.

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

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The following information is associated with a Complaint Investigation Follow Up:

Activities and Equipment

591-1-1-.03 Activities

Met

Correction Deadline: 4/22/2026

Corrected on 6/18/2026

.03(2) - Previous citation of classrooms BL and CL not having current lesson plans as required as the lesson plans were dated for the week of March 9, 2026 was corrected on this date. Current lesson plans were observed in each classroom.

Facility

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

Met

Correction Deadline: 4/22/2026

Corrected on 6/18/2026

.25(13) - Previous citation of hazards in the classroom was observed to be corrected on this date.

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

Defer

Defer

591-1-1-.26(4)- Previous citation of several picket fence bases having broken wood with sharp edges that were located on the back of the playground is deferred due to inclement weather and will be observed on the next regulatory visit.

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: 5/8/2026

Defer

591-1-1-.26(6)- Previous citation of the blue metal seesaw located on the playground had rust and missing caps at the base is deferred due to inclement weather and will be observed on the next regulatory visit.

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: 5/2/2026

Defer

591-1-1-.26(8)-Previous citation of the after school playground having less than 1 inch of resilient surface near the yellow slide when the required amount is 6 inches is deferred due to inclement weather and will be observed on the next regulatory visit.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will add additional resilient surfacing to the fall zones where needed and check daily, adding resilient surfacing as needed to maintain adequate resiliency.

Correction Deadline: 5/1/2026

Defer

591-1-1-.26(9)- Previous citation of the after school playground having a large deep hole measuring over 2 inches which created a potential tripping hazard located at the left side corner of the building is deferred due to inclement weather and will be observed on the next regulatory visit.

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: 5/8/2026

Food Service

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

Met

Correction Deadline: 4/22/2026

Corrected on 6/18/2026

.15(5) - Previous citation of the food menu posted and was dated for the month of March 2026 was corrected on this date as a current food menu was observed.

Staff Records

591-1-1-.33 Staff Training

Met

Correction Deadline: 4/24/2026

Corrected on 6/18/2026

.33(2)(a)-(n) - Previous citation of staff #4 and #5 not having evidence of initial orientation as the director was not able to show proof of the document when requested was observed to be corrected as orientation was observed for staff #5. Per the director, staff #4 is no longer employed at the center.