



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: 3/26/2026 VisitType: Monitoring Visit

Arrival: 9:30 AM Departure: 3:45 PM

CCLC-49725

Richmond Hill Montessori Preschool

2933 U/S. Highway 17 Richmond Hill, GA 31324 Bryan County
(912) 756-4554

Regional Consultant

Kristy Turner

Phone: (470) 373-3232

Fax:

kristy.turner@dec.al.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.
03/26/2026	Monitoring Visit	Good Standing	
07/23/2025	Complaint Closure	Good Standing	
07/23/2025	Complaint Investigation & Licensing Study	Good Standing	
			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	Infants	1	6	C	10	C	NA	NA	Free Play
Main	B	Infants	2	7	C	16	C	NA	NA	Free Play
Main	C	One Year Olds	2	8	C	16	C	NA	NA	Free Play
Main	Cafeteria		0	0	C	13	C	18	C	Not In Use
Main	D	One Year Olds	1	8	C	16	C	NA	NA	Free Play
Main	E	One Year Olds and Two Year Olds	3	7	C	21	C	NA	NA	Circle Time
Main	F	Two Year Olds	1	10	C	22	C	NA	NA	Circle Time
Main	G	Two Year Olds and Three Year Olds	1	7	C	28	C	NA	NA	Snack
Main	H	Three Year Olds	1	10	C	28	C	NA	NA	Outside
Main	I	Four Year Olds	1	12	C	28	C	NA	NA	Transitioning
Main	J	Four Year Olds	1	16	C	22	C	NA	NA	Transitioning
Main	K	Five Year Olds and GA PreK	1	19	C	22	C	NA	NA	Transitioning
Main	L	Five Year Olds and GA PreK	2	14	C	22	C	NA	NA	Transitioning
Main	M	Five Year Olds and GA PreK	1	16	C	19	C	NA	NA	Transitioning
Main	N		0	0	C	18	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 301					Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 306					
Total # Children this Date: 140		Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 301			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 306					

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	A (Right)	83	C

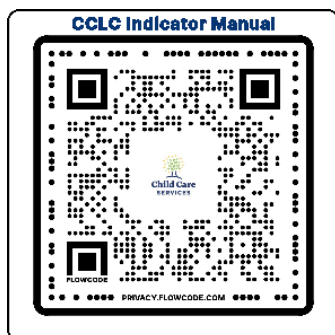
Main	B (Front L)	29	C
Main	C (Middle L)	43	C
Main	D (Back L)	67	C

Enrolled Children						
Under 1 years	1 years	2 years	3 years	4 years	5 years (Prekonly)	5 years and older
16	11	38	26	34	0	56

Comments

The visit report was completed on March 26, 2026. It was discussed and reviewed with the Director Emily Martinez. The Consultant emailed the language and literacy training information. The Consultant emailed the technical assistance resources.

Plan of Improvement: Developed This Date



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.decal.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

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), 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!



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Summary Report

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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 on this date.

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

N/A

Comment

Center does not provide swimming activities.

Facility

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

Met

Comment

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

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

Technical Assistance

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.25(13) - The Consultant discussed with the Provider to ensure that potentially hazardous materials were kept locked and inaccessible to the children in care as required.

Correction Deadline: 3/26/2026

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

Not Met

Comment

Discussed maintenance of resilient surface. Please fluff and redistribute.

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 on Main A Right playground the fence gate had a gap that measured 4 inches in which that it exceeded the 3 1/2 half inches as required.

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: 4/17/2026

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 on the playgrounds that the following potential hazardous equipment were accessible to children in care:

- Main B (Front) L- One brown tree house located on left side had one missing bolt and one broken knob
- Main C (Middle L) - One blue boat play structure located on left side middle had chipping paint
- Main D (Back L) - One blue and red play structure located on left side back had broken rubber steps

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: 4/30/2026

Health and Hygiene**591-1-1-.10 Diapering Areas & Practices(CR)****Not Met****Finding**

591-1-1-.10(4) requires that if diapers are changed on a diaper changing surface, the surface shall be smooth, nonporous, and equipped with a guard or rails to prevent falls. Between each diaper change, the diaper changing surface shall be cleaned with a disinfectant and dried with a single-use disposable towel. It was determined based on observation that in Main Infant A classroom the diaper changing pad had holes and was not smooth.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will ensure there is a smooth, nonporous changing surface that has a guard or rails for safety in each classroom that houses children wearing diapers. Center Staff will be trained and have adequate supplies to properly clean the diaper changing surface between each diaper change.

Correction Deadline: 3/26/2026

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

Proper hand washing observed throughout the center on this date.

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

Discussed proper medication documentation and procedures.

Safety**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)**Technical Assistance****Comment**

Paperwork, checklist, permission forms, annual inspection form and proper check of the vehicle after transportation were discussed with the director.

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.36(7)(d)1. - The Consultant discussed with the Provider to ensure that the first check be conducted immediately upon unloading the last child at any location as required.

Correction Deadline: 3/27/2026

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.

Staff Records

Records Reviewed: 34

Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 1

Staff # 16

Not Met

Date of Hire: 01/08/2018

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.09-Criminal Records Check Missing

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

Not Met

Finding

591-1-1-.09(1)(c) requires the Center to ensure that every Employee has a valid and current satisfactory Comprehensive Records Check Determination on file prior to being present at the Center while any child is present for care or before an individual age 17 or older resides in the Center. The Comprehensive Records Check Determination must have a Records Check Clearance Date that is no older than the preceding 12 months of the hire date; provided, however, if the Employee has had a lapse of employment from the child care industry that lasted for 180 days (6 months) or longer, a new satisfactory Comprehensive Records Check Determination is required. It was determined based on a review of records that Staff #16 hired on January 8, 2018, did not have a current Satisfactory Comprehensive Records Check Determination on file as required. The Staff #16 was present and caring for children on this date.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

IMMEDIATE CORRECTION - The Center will review rules and regulations to ensure that every Employee has a valid and current satisfactory Comprehensive Records Check Determination on file prior to being present at the Center while any child is present for care or before an individual age 17 or older resides in the Center. The Comprehensive Records Check Determination must have a Records Check Clearance Date that is no older than the preceding 12 months of the hire date; provided, however, if the Employee has had a lapse of employment from the child care industry that lasted for 180 days (6 months) or longer, a new satisfactory Comprehensive Records Check Determination is required. The program's owner or an officer/member of the corporation must view the A to Z Background Check video units pertaining to this records check rule and return the signed affidavit within one week from this visit date. The center will review all Staff files to ensure the CRC rules are maintained.

Correction Deadline: 3/26/2026

Finding

591-1-1-.09(1)(l)3. requires the Center to immediately require a new Comprehensive Records Check Determination for a Director, Employee or Provisional Employee at least once every five years. It was determined based on a review of records that Staff #16 hired on January 8, 2018, did not submit both a Records Check Application to the Department and Fingerprints to an authorized fingerprinting site as required. Staff #16 was present and caring for children on this date.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

IMMEDIATE CORRECTION - The Center will review the rules and regulations to ensure that each Director, Employee and Provisional Employee has a Comprehensive Records Check Determination on file that has been issued within the past five years. The program's owner or an officer/member of the corporation must view the A to Z Background Check video units pertaining to this records check rule and return the signed affidavit within one week from this visit date. The Center will review all Staff files to ensure CRC rules are maintained.

Correction Deadline: 3/26/2026

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

Met

Comment

Please be mindful of training expiration dates.

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**

Adequate supervision observed on this date.