



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: 8/21/2025 **VisitType:** Licensing Study

Arrival: 10:00 AM **Departure:** 3:00 PM

CCLC-46298

The Children's Courtyard #3215

4795 Windermere Pkwy Cumming, GA 30041 Forsyth County
 (678) 947-4416 3215@childrenscourtyard.com

Regional Consultant

Francine Arnone

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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.
08/21/2025	Licensing Study	Good Standing	
04/08/2025	Licensing Study	Good Standing	
03/07/2025	Incident Investigation Closure	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	1L	GA PreK	2	13	C	23	C	32	C	Centers, Transitioning
Main	1R	Infants and One Year Olds	2	6	C	25	C	NA	NA	Floor Play, Not In Use
Main	2L	GA PreK	2	14	C	22	C	NA	NA	Centers
Main	2R	Infants and One Year Olds	2	6	C	27	C	NA	NA	Floor Play
Main	3L		0	0	C	22	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
Main	3R	One Year Olds and Two Year Olds	1	6	C	18	C	NA	NA	Free Play
Main	4L Pre-K	Three Year Olds	1	13	C	19	C	NA	NA	Outside
Main	4R	Two Year Olds and Three Year Olds	1	10	C	17	C	NA	NA	Free Play
Main	5L		0	0	C	23	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
Main	BK End		0	0	C	24	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 220			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 220							
Total # Children this Date: 68			Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 220							
			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 220							

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	Infant PG	27	C
Main	Preschool PG	52	C
Main	School-Age PG	57	C

Enrolled Children						
Under 1 years	1 years	2 years	3 years	4 years	5 years (Prekonly)	5 years and older
1	7	9	24	30	1	11

Comments

A copy of this report was provided on this date.

The Consultant discussed the following:

- 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.
- Updating the Center's policies and procedures to include the program's practices regarding the expulsion and suspension of children enrolled for care within the description of behavior management and discipline actions used by the Center.
- Ensure a description of the practices followed by the Center to prevent shaken baby syndrome and abusive head trauma in children up to five years of age that includes the following information: how to recognize, respond to, and report the signs and symptoms of shaken baby syndrome and abusive head trauma; strategies to assist staff members in understanding how to care for infants and how to cope with a crying, fussing, or distraught child; strategies to ensure staff members understand the brain development of children up to five years of age; and a list of prohibited behaviors when dealing with children.
- Additional information can be found in the CCLC Indicator Manual found on DECAL's website at: <https://www.dec.state.ga.us/CCS/Regulations.aspx> or through the Center on Shaken Baby Syndrome found at: <https://dontshake.org/>.
- All Employees, including volunteers, independent contractors, students-in-training, etc. should have a completed initial program orientation form on file.
- 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.
- A new Child Care Weather Watch Chart is available on the KOALA website. Weather does not permit outdoor play when there is active precipitation or when weather advisories are in effect. Consult the Child Care Weather Watch Chart resource for further guidance, considering specific weather conditions.

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.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.

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!



(Findings Report)

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The following information is associated with a LS:

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.

Children's Records

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

Met

Correction Deadline: 4/8/2025

Prior Visits: 04/08/2025

Corrected on 8/21/2025

.08(1) - The previous citation has been corrected. The Consultant observed children's files to be complete with all the required information on this date.

Facility

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

Met

Comment

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

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

Technical Assistance

Correction Deadline: 4/8/2025

Prior Visits: 04/14/2023

Corrected on 8/21/2025

.25(13) - The previous citation has been corrected. The Consultant observed that all hazardous materials are locked and are inaccessible to children.

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.25(3) - Please ensure that all equipment, including furniture is in good repair at all times.

Correction Deadline: 8/21/2025

Prior Visits: 04/08/2025

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

Not Met

Finding

591-1-1-.26(9) requires the playground to be kept clean, free from litter and free of hazards, such as but not limited to rocks, exposed tree roots and exposed sharp edges of concrete. It was determined based on observation that on the School-Age PG, the step on the large play structure had an area on the front portion where the paint/plastic coating had peeled off exposing sharp edges which were a hazard to children.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will repair the step and will routinely monitor the playground and remove litter and hazards.

Correction Deadline: 8/28/2025

Prior Visits: 08/06/2024

Recited on 8/21/2025

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

Met

Comment

Center menu meets USDA guidelines.

Health and Hygiene**591-1-1-.10 Diapering Areas & Practices(CR)**

Met

Comment

Staff stated proper knowledge of diapering procedures.

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

Met

Comment

Staff were observed to remind children to wash hands on this date.

591-1-1-.20 Medications(CR)

Met

Comment

Documentation for medication dispensing observed completed on this date.

Policies and Procedures**591-1-1-.21 Operational Policies & Procedures**

Met

Comment

591-1-1-.21(1)(a-o) - Please ensure to updating the Center's policies and procedures to include the program's practices regarding the expulsion and suspension of children enrolled for care within the description of behavior management and discipline actions used by the Center.

Correction Deadline: 8/26/2025

Comment

591-1-1-.21(2)(r) - New - Ensure a description of the practices followed by the Center to prevent shaken baby syndrome and abusive head trauma in children up to five years of age that includes the following information: how to recognize, respond to, and report the signs and symptoms of shaken baby syndrome and abusive head trauma; strategies to assist staff members in understanding how to care for infants and how to cope with a crying, fussing, or distraught child; strategies to ensure staff members understand the brain development of children up to five years of age; and a list of prohibited behaviors when dealing with children.

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Correction Deadline: 8/26/2025

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

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

591-1-1-.13 Field Trips(CR)**Met****Comment**

Center does not participate in field trips at this time.

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

Correction Deadline: 4/9/2025

Prior Visits: 04/14/2023

Corrected on 8/21/2025

.36(7)(b) - The previous citation has been corrected. The Consultant observed complete transportation documentation including emergency contact and physician's information on this date.

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.

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

Criminal record checks were observed to be complete.

Comment

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

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

Evidence observed of 100% of center Staff certified in First Aid and CPR containing emergency care for infants and children on this date.

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: 4/18/2025

Prior Visits: 04/08/2025

Corrected on 8/21/2025

.14(3) - The previous citation has been corrected. The Consultant reviewed employees files and 100% are First Aid and CPR certified on this date.

591-1-1-.33 Staff Training

Met

Correction Deadline: 5/8/2025

Corrected on 8/21/2025

.33(5) - The previous citation has been corrected. The Consultant review records and 10 hours of Annual training has been completed.

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

Met

Comment

Discussed that all lead staff must enroll in an approved education program within 6 months of hire and complete degree within 18 months.

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.