



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: 6/4/2025 **VisitType:** Licensing Study

Arrival: 9:50 AM **Departure:** 3:00 PM

CCLC-26785

Southport Academy

314 Southport Parkway Brunswick, GA 31523 Glynn County
(912) 264-5554 lfsills@gmail.com

Regional Consultant

Jerica Davis

Phone: (478) 314-9452

Fax: (478) 314-9443

jerica.davis@dec.al.ga.gov

Joint with: Kesha McNeal

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.
06/04/2025	Licensing Study	Good Standing	
02/09/2024	Licensing Study	Good Standing	
09/26/2023	Monitoring Visit	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-infants	Infants	2	6	C	11	C	NA	NA	Nap,Floor Play
Main	B	One Year Olds	1	3	C	10	C	NA	NA	Floor Play,Circle Time
Main	C	One Year Olds and Two Year Olds	1	7	C	11	C	NA	NA	Centers,Story
Main	D	Two Year Olds	1	8	C	12	C	NA	NA	Diapering,Centers,Transitioning
Main	E	Two Year Olds and Three Year Olds	1	8	C	17	C	NA	NA	Music,Centers
Main	F	Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds and Five Year Olds	1	13	C	21	C	NA	NA	Centers
Main	G	Three Year Olds	1	11	C	18	C	NA	NA	Centers
Main	H		0	0	C	10	C	NA	NA	
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 110					Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0					
Total # Children this Date: 56					Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0					

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	A- toddler	34	C
Main	B-3 yrs	62	C

Enrolled Children						
Under 1 years	1 years	2 years	3 years	4 years	5 years (Prekonly)	5 years and older
6	5	13	22	13	0	3

Comments

The center does not provide routine transportation or field trips.

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.decga.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:

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 CAPS/ QR Provisional Status, allowing for scholarships while working toward an initial star rating. Provisional Status eligibility will be determined at the time of CAPS enrollment as part of the CAPS application process.

Contact the Quality Rated help desk at 855-800-7747 or qualityrated@decga.gov for more information. Free technical assistance is available!



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

(Findings Report)

Date: 6/4/2025 **VisitType:** Licensing Study

Arrival: 9:50 AM **Departure:** 3:00 PM

CCLC-26785

Southport Academy

314 Southport Parkway Brunswick, GA 31523 Glynn County
(912) 264-5554 lfsills@gmail.com

Regional Consultant

Jerica Davis

Phone: (478) 314-9452

Fax: (478) 314-9443

jerica.davis@decal.ga.gov

Joint with: Kesha McNeal

Mailing Address

Same

The following information is associated with a Licensing Study:

Activities and Equipment

Records Reviewed: 15

Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 4

Staff # 6

Not Met

Date of Hire: 09/08/2021

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.31(2)(b)2.-Staff Qualifications-Education Missing

Staff # 7

Not Met

Date of Hire: 06/20/2022

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.31(2)(b)2.-Staff Qualifications-Education Missing

Staff # 10

Not Met

Date of Hire: 08/21/2023

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.31(2)(b)2.-Staff Qualifications-Education Missing

Staff # 12

Not Met

Date of Hire: 06/08/2020

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.31(2)(b)2.-Staff Qualifications-Education Missing

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

Technical Assistance

Technical Assistance

Please ensure that all equipment and furniture be free from hazardous conditions such as, but not limited to, sharp rough edges or toxic paint; and be kept clean. Please ensure that the side shelf on the red kitchen sink in classroom G is secured.

Correction Deadline: 6/4/2025

Comment

Center does not provide swimming activities.

Children's Records**Records Reviewed: 15****Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 4**

Staff # 6

Not Met

Date of Hire: 09/08/2021

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.31(2)(b)2.-Staff Qualifications-Education Missing

Staff # 7

Not Met

Date of Hire: 06/20/2022

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.31(2)(b)2.-Staff Qualifications-Education Missing

Staff # 10

Not Met

Date of Hire: 08/21/2023

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.31(2)(b)2.-Staff Qualifications-Education Missing

Staff # 12

Not Met

Date of Hire: 06/08/2020

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.31(2)(b)2.-Staff Qualifications-Education Missing

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

Met

Comment

Records were observed to be complete and well organized.

Facility**Records Reviewed: 15****Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 4**

Staff # 6

Not Met

Date of Hire: 09/08/2021

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.31(2)(b)2.-Staff Qualifications-Education Missing

Staff # 7

Not Met

Date of Hire: 06/20/2022

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.31(2)(b)2.-Staff Qualifications-Education Missing

Staff # 10

Not Met

Date of Hire: 08/21/2023

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.31(2)(b)2.-Staff Qualifications-Education Missing

Staff # 12

Not Met

Date of Hire: 06/08/2020

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.31(2)(b)2.-Staff Qualifications-Education Missing

591-1-1-.06 Bathrooms**Met****Comment**

Bathrooms observed to be clean and well maintained.

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

Licensed capacity observed to be routinely met by center.

591-1-1-.25 Physical Plant - Safe Environment(CR)**Not Met****Finding**

591-1-1-.25(13) requires that potentially hazardous equipment, materials and supplies be stored in a locked area inaccessible to children. It was determined based on observation that the following hazards were observed:

-In classroom E, two plastic grocery bags were observed stored in cubbies accessible to children which posed a potential strangulation hazard.

-In classroom F, one container of cortisone cream was observed stored in a backpack in the cubbies accessible to children. Additionally, three plastic grocery bags were observed stored in cubbies accessible to children which posed a potential strangulation hazard.

-In classroom G, four plastic grocery bags were observed stored in cubbies accessible to children which posed a potential strangulation hazard.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will identify all hazardous items and keep them in a locked area inaccessible to children. The Center will inform all Staff about hazardous items and the safe storage of those items.

Correction Deadline: 6/4/2025**591-1-1-.26 Playgrounds(CR)****Met****Comment**

Discussed maintenance of resilient surface. Please fluff and redistribute.

Food Service

Staff # 6

Not Met

Date of Hire: 09/08/2021

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.31(2)(b)2.-Staff Qualifications-Education Missing

Staff # 7

Not Met

Date of Hire: 06/20/2022

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.31(2)(b)2.-Staff Qualifications-Education Missing

Staff # 10

Not Met

Date of Hire: 08/21/2023

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.31(2)(b)2.-Staff Qualifications-Education Missing

Staff # 12 Not Met

Date of Hire: 06/08/2020

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.31(2)(b)2.-Staff Qualifications-Education Missing

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

Center menu meets USDA guidelines.

591-1-1-.18 Kitchen Operations**Met****Comment**

Kitchen appears clean and well organized.

Health and Hygiene

Staff # 6 Not Met

Date of Hire: 09/08/2021

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.31(2)(b)2.-Staff Qualifications-Education Missing

Staff # 7 Not Met

Date of Hire: 06/20/2022

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.31(2)(b)2.-Staff Qualifications-Education Missing

Staff # 10 Not Met

Date of Hire: 08/21/2023

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.31(2)(b)2.-Staff Qualifications-Education Missing

Staff # 12 Not Met

Date of Hire: 06/08/2020

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.31(2)(b)2.-Staff Qualifications-Education Missing

591-1-1-.07 Children's Health**Technical Assistance****Technical Assistance**

Please ensure that Center Staff do not permit children to wear around their necks or attach to their clothing pacifiers or other hazardous items. Please ensure that necklaces and lanyards are not worn at the center.

Correction Deadline: 6/4/2025

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

Proper diapering procedures observed.

591-1-1-.17 Hygiene(CR)**Not Met**

Finding

591-1-1-17(7) requires that children wash their hands with liquid soap and warm running water upon arrival for care, when moving from one child care group to another, upon re-entering the child care area after outside play, before and after eating meals and snacks, handling or touching food, playing in water; after toileting and diapering, playing in sand, touching animals or pets, and contact with bodily fluids and after contamination by any other means. It was determined based on observation that in classroom B, a staff member was observed to clean a child's nose and did not wash the child's hands after cleaning their nose as required.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will train Staff on required handwashing for children and Staff will ensure children's hands are washed when required. The Director will monitor for compliance.

Correction Deadline: 6/4/2025

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

Documentation for medication dispensing observed complete.

Policies and Procedures**Records Reviewed: 15****Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 4**

Staff # 6

Not Met

Date of Hire: 09/08/2021

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.31(2)(b)2.-Staff Qualifications-Education Missing

Staff # 7

Not Met

Date of Hire: 06/20/2022

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.31(2)(b)2.-Staff Qualifications-Education Missing

Staff # 10

Not Met

Date of Hire: 08/21/2023

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.31(2)(b)2.-Staff Qualifications-Education Missing

Staff # 12

Not Met

Date of Hire: 06/08/2020

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.31(2)(b)2.-Staff Qualifications-Education Missing

591-1-1-.21 Operational Policies & Procedures**Met****Comment**

Program observed complete emergency drills

591-1-1-.27 Posted Notices**Met****Comment**

Observed all required posted notices.

Safety**Records Reviewed: 15****Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 4**

Staff # 6

Not Met

Date of Hire: 09/08/2021

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.31(2)(b)2.-Staff Qualifications-Education Missing

Staff # 7

Not Met

Date of Hire: 06/20/2022

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.31(2)(b)2.-Staff Qualifications-Education Missing

Staff # 10

Not Met

Date of Hire: 08/21/2023

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.31(2)(b)2.-Staff Qualifications-Education Missing

Staff # 12

Not Met

Date of Hire: 06/08/2020

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.31(2)(b)2.-Staff Qualifications-Education Missing

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**

Center does not provide routine transportation.

Sleeping & Resting Equipment

Staff # 6

Not Met

Date of Hire: 09/08/2021

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.31(2)(b)2.-Staff Qualifications-Education Missing

Staff # 7

Not Met

Date of Hire: 06/20/2022

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.31(2)(b)2.-Staff Qualifications-Education Missing

Staff # 10

Not Met

Date of Hire: 08/21/2023

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.31(2)(b)2.-Staff Qualifications-Education Missing

Staff # 12

Not Met

Date of Hire: 06/08/2020

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.31(2)(b)2.-Staff Qualifications-Education Missing

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

Discussed SIDS and infant sleeping position.

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**Records Reviewed: 15****Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 4**

Staff # 6

Not Met

Date of Hire: 09/08/2021

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.31(2)(b)2.-Staff Qualifications-Education Missing

Staff # 7

Not Met

Date of Hire: 06/20/2022

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.31(2)(b)2.-Staff Qualifications-Education Missing

Staff # 10

Not Met

Date of Hire: 08/21/2023

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.31(2)(b)2.-Staff Qualifications-Education Missing

Staff # 12

Not Met

Date of Hire: 06/08/2020

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.31(2)(b)2.-Staff Qualifications-Education Missing

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

Criminal record checks were observed to be complete.

Comment

Director provided four files for employees hired since the last visit.

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

Evidence observed of 100% of center staff certified in First Aid and CPR.

591-1-1-.33 Staff Training**Met****Comment**

Documentation observed of required staff training.

591-1-1-.31 Staff(CR)**Not Met****Comment**

Staff observed to be compliant with applicable laws and regulations.

Finding

591-1-1-.31(2)(b)2. requires teachers and lead caregivers to meet minimum academic requirements and qualifying experience at the time of employment. It was determined based on a review of records that lead staff members # 6, # 7, # 10, and # 12 did not meet minimum academic requirements for a lead staff member as required.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

A teacher/lead caregiver will be hired that meets the minimum academic requirements and qualifying work experience.

Correction Deadline: 9/4/2025

Staffing and Supervision

Records Reviewed: 15

Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 4

Staff # 6

Not Met

Date of Hire: 09/08/2021

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.31(2)(b)2.-Staff Qualifications-Education Missing

Staff # 7

Not Met

Date of Hire: 06/20/2022

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.31(2)(b)2.-Staff Qualifications-Education Missing

Staff # 10

Not Met

Date of Hire: 08/21/2023

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.31(2)(b)2.-Staff Qualifications-Education Missing

Staff # 12

Not Met

Date of Hire: 06/08/2020

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.31(2)(b)2.-Staff Qualifications-Education Missing

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)

Not Met

Finding

591-1-1-.32(7) requires that children be supervised at all times appropriate to the individual age, needs and capabilities of each child. Such supervision must include, but not be limited to, indoor and outdoor activities, mealtimes, naptime, transportation, field trips, and transitions between activities. "Supervision" means that the appropriate number of Staff members are physically present in the area where children are being cared for and are providing watchful oversight to the children, volunteers and Students-in-Training. The persons supervising in the child care area must be alert, positioned to maximize their ability to hear and see the children at all times, and able to respond promptly to the needs and actions of the children being supervised, as well as the actions of the volunteers and Students-in-Training, and provide timely attention to the children's actions and needs. Staff shall be attentive and participating with all children during mealtimes and shall be seated within an arm's length away from children thirty-six (36) months of age and younger. It was determined based on observation that the staff member in classroom D stepped out the classroom briefly to place dishes in the hallway leaving eight 2-year-old children unsupervised.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will train Staff and monitor to ensure they are providing supervision and watchful oversight to the children at all times.

Correction Deadline: 6/4/2025