



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: 4/1/2025 **VisitType:** POI Follow Up **Arrival:** 7:50 AM **Departure:** 11:30 AM

CCLC-56596

A Step Above Preparatory South

4195 Welcome All Rd SW Atlanta, GA 30349 Fulton County
 (260) 760-4679 astepaboverepsouth@gmail.com

Regional Consultant

Shameka Dozier

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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. 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.
04/01/2025	POI Follow Up	Support	
03/04/2025	Complaint Investigation & Monitoring Visit	Deficient	
01/06/2025	Complaint Investigation & Licensing Study	Support	

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	2	C	10	C	NA	NA	Diapering, Transitioning
Main	Back F-Private Pre-K		0	0	C	16	C	NA	NA	
Main	BL-One and Two	One Year Olds and Two Year Olds	1	10	NC	21	C	NA	NA	Breakfast, Free Play
Main	CL-Three year old	Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds and Six Year Olds and Over	1	14	C	18	C	NA	NA	Free Play
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		0	0	C	12	C	NA	NA	
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 151					Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0					
Total # Children this Date: 26					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

Supervision, ratios, and morning routine was discussed with the director in this date.

Plan of Improvement: To Be Submitted 04/15/2025

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.decal.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:

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@decal.ga.gov for more information. Free technical assistance is available!



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(Findings Report)

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The following information is associated with a POI Follow Up:

Activities and Equipment

591-1-1-.03 Activities

Not Met

Finding

591-1-1-.03(1) requires the Center to provide a daily planned program of varied and developmentally appropriate activities to promote social, emotional, physical, cognitive, language and literacy growth. Center Staff shall use a variety of teaching methods to accommodate the needs of the children's different learning styles. It was determined based on observation that a daily planned program of varied and developmentally appropriate activities was not provided as the children were observed climbing on furniture and running around the class in classroom CL. Consultant also observed children in classroom BL were walking around with no activities provided for over 30 minutes.

Correction Deadline: 4/1/2025

Recited on 4/1/2025

Finding

591-1-1-.03(2) requires the Center to keep current lesson plans on site that reflect appropriate instruction practices and activities to support children's development The Center shall have sufficient and varied play and learning equipment and materials to support the above program of activities in all developmental areas. It was determined based on observation that classrooms CL did not have an updated lesson plan posted. Consultant observed the lesson plan was dated as week four of March 2025.

Correction Deadline: 4/2/2025

Recited on 4/1/2025

Finding

591-1-1-.03(5)(a-k) requires the Center to provide a variety of activities that allow for: indoor and outdoor play; quiet and active periods; free choice and directed activities; individual and group activities; large and small muscle activities; language experiences; arts and crafts; dramatic play; music and movement; and nature and science. It was determined based on observation that a variety of activities such as arts and crafts; dramatic play materials; music and movement; nature/ science, and manipulates in classrooms CL were not present as the shelves were empty besides one shelf located at the back door that had a few blocks. Consultant also observed that there was not a variety of activities offered in classroom BL as only one shelf had blocks.

Correction Deadline: 4/4/2025

Recited on 4/1/2025

Food Service

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

Not Met

Finding

591-1-1-.15(5) requires that the Center provide a menu listing all meals and snacks to be served during the current week except for School-age Centers where the food may be provided by the Parent(s) by agreement between the School-age Center and the Parent(s). Substitutions shall be recorded on the posted menu and menus shall be retained at the Center for six (6) months. It was determined based on observation there was no current food menu posted for the current week as consultant observed a posted menu for January and March of 2025.

Correction Deadline: 4/1/2025

Recited on 4/1/2025

Policies and Procedures

591-1-1-.29 Required Reporting

Met

Correction Deadline: 3/4/2025

Corrected on 4/1/2025

.29(1) - Previous citation of the facility being closed on February 17, 2025 in observance of President's Day, and not reporting the closing within twenty-four (24) hours or the next work day was observed to be corrected.

Staff Records

Correction Deadline: 3/4/2025**Corrected on 4/1/2025**

.24(1) - Previous citation of no personnel file for staff #7 was observed to be corrected on this date. Per the director, the staff is no longer employed at the facility.

591-1-1-.33 Staff Training**Defer****Defer**

591-1-1-.33(5)-Previous citation of staff #7 having zero of ten annual hours for the year 2024 will be deferred until December 2025.

Correction Deadline: 2/5/2025

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

591-1-1-.31(11) requires the Center to have qualified and sufficient direct-care, clerical, housekeeping, maintenance and other employees to ensure full compliance with these rules without neglecting the supervision of children. It was determined based on observation that there was no sufficient direct-care to ensure full compliance as only two teachers were observed at the facility for over an hour.

Correction Deadline: 4/1/2025**Recited on 4/1/2025**

Staffing and Supervision

591-1-1-.32 Supervision(CR)**Met****Correction Deadline: 3/4/2025****Corrected on 4/1/2025**

.32(7) - Previous citation of a child running out of the classroom into the hallway for less than one minute and the teacher was unaware in classroom BL was observed to be corrected on this date.