



**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:** 4/8/2026

**VisitType:** Licensing Study

**Arrival:** 9:20 AM

**Departure:** 1:30 PM

**CCLC-37198**

**Head of the Class Learning Academy #1**

2294 Wellborn Rd. Lithonia, GA 30058 DeKalb County  
(770) 987-1311

Regional Consultant

Evon Hewitt

Phone: ()

Fax:

evon.hewitt@dec.al.ga.gov

**Mailing Address**

Same

**Quality Rated:** ★ ★

| Compliance Zone Designation |                  |               | <b>Compliance Zone Designation</b> - 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.<br><br><b>Good Standing</b> - Program is demonstrating an acceptable level of performance in meeting the rules.<br><b>Support</b> - Program performance is demonstrating a need for improvement in meeting rules.<br><b>Deficient</b> - Program is not demonstrating an acceptable level of performance in meeting the rules. |
|-----------------------------|------------------|---------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 04/08/2026                  | Licensing Study  | Good Standing |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| 12/08/2025                  | Initial-TA       | NA            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| 11/10/2025                  | Monitoring Visit | Deficient     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |

**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/1R             | Infants and One Year Olds                 | 1     | 5        | C    | 14         | C            | NA         | NA           | Free Play,Floor Play,Nap,Feeding |
| Main     | B/2R             |                                           | 0     | 0        | C    | 16         | C            | NA         | NA           | Not In Use                       |
| Main     | C/3R             | One Year Olds and Two Year Olds           | 2     | 10       | C    | 10         | C            | NA         | NA           | Music                            |
| Main     | D/R Rear         | Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds        | 1     | 8        | C    | 18         | C            | NA         | NA           | Story                            |
| Main     | E/L Rear         |                                           | 0     | 0        | C    | 20         | C            | NA         | NA           | Not In Use                       |
| Main     | F/Front Entrance | Five Year Olds and Six Year Olds and Over | 2     | 19       | C    | 26         | C            | NA         | NA           | Free Play,Outside                |

Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 104

Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0

Total # Children this Date: 42

Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 104

Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0

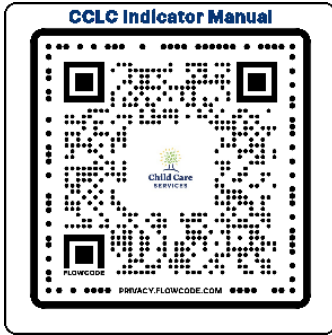
| Building | Playground | Playground Occupancy | Playground Compliance |
|----------|------------|----------------------|-----------------------|
| Main     | PG/Front   | 18                   | C                     |
| Main     | PG/Rear    | 51                   | C                     |

| Enrolled Children |         |         |         |         |                    |                   |
|-------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|--------------------|-------------------|
| Under 1 years     | 1 years | 2 years | 3 years | 4 years | 5 years (Prekonly) | 5 years and older |
| 3                 | 13      | 12      | 7       | 18      | 12                 | 16                |

## Comments

The findings of this report were reviewed with the Provider on this date. Previous rule violations were observed/discussed.

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.dec.state.ga.us/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.state.ga.us/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.state.ga.us/> 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(j)(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.

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### 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](http://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.

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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](mailto: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 Licensing Study:

**Activities and Equipment**

**591-1-1-.03 Activities**

**Technical Assistance**

**Technical Assistance**

591-1-1-.03(9) - requires center staff to refrain from engaging in, or allowing children or other adults to engage in, activities that could be detrimental to a child's health or well-being, such as but not limited to, horse play, rough play, wrestling, and picking up a child in a manner that could cause injury. The Consultant and Provider discussed ensuring that bounce houses are not utilized to prevent injury to children.

**Correction Deadline: 4/8/2026**

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

**Met**

**Correction Deadline: 11/11/2025**

**Corrected on 4/8/2026**

.12(4) - Previous citation corrected in that the Consultant did not observe any tipping hazards 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**

**Technical Assistance**

**Technical Assistance**

591-1-1-.08(1)(b)

- requires Center Staff to maintain a file for each child that includes parental authorizations, including, but not limited to, written authorization for the Center to obtain emergency medical care for the child when the Parent is not available. The Consultant and Provider discussed ensuring that each child's file contains written authorization for the Center to obtain emergency medical care for the child when the Parent is not available.

**Correction Deadline: 4/8/2026**

**Facility**

**591-1-1-.06 Bathrooms**

**Met**

**Comment**

Please monitor bathrooms for necessary supplies.

**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)****Not Met****Correction Deadline: 4/8/2026****Corrected on 4/8/2026**

**.25(13) - Previous citation corrected in that the Consultant did not observe any potential hazards to children on this date.**

**Finding**

591-1-1-.25(3) requires the Center and surrounding premises to be kept clean, free of debris and in good repair. Hygienic measures such as, but not limited to, screened windows and proper waste disposal procedures shall be utilized to minimize the presence of rodents, flies, roaches and other vermin at the Center. It was determined based on observation that the exhaust fan in the boys bathroom next to classroom D/R Rear did not have a working exhaust fan as required on this date.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

The Center will have the Center and surrounding areas cleaned, make repairs where needed, and remove all debris is removed. The Center will implement a plan to keep areas clean and in good repair that includes regular monitoring.

**Correction Deadline: 4/22/2026****Recited on 4/8/2026****Correction Deadline: 11/10/2025****Corrected on 4/8/2026**

**.25(8) - Previous citation corrected in that the Consultant did not observe the Center to have any electrical hazards on this date.**

**591-1-1-.26 Playgrounds(CR)****Met****Comment**

Playground observed to be clean and in good repair on this date.

**Food Service****591-1-1-.15 Food Service & Nutrition****Not Met****Finding**

591-1-1-.15(3) requires baby bottles and formula to be labeled with the individual child's name; supplied by the Parent daily in bottles; and refrigerated at a temperature of forty (40) degrees Fahrenheit or less. Only the current day's formula or breast milk shall be served. If formula must be provided by the Center, only commercially prepared, ready-to-feed formula shall be used. Refrigerated or frozen breast milk shall only be heated or thawed under warm running water or in a container of warm water. It was determined based on observation that the baby bottles in classroom A/1R were not labeled with the children's first and last names as required on this date.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

The Center will train Staff to follow the required procedures, ensure that parents are fully informed, and will review and monitor regularly.

**Correction Deadline: 4/9/2026****Health and Hygiene****591-1-1-.10 Diapering Areas & Practices(CR)****Met****Comment**

Proper diapering procedures observed.

**591-1-1-.17 Hygiene(CR)****Technical Assistance****Correction Deadline: 11/10/2025****Corrected on 4/8/2026**

**.17(2) - Previous citation corrected in that the Consultant observed children to be clean, dry, and comfortable as required on this date.**

**Technical Assistance**

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. The Consultant and Provider discussed ensuring that children wash their hands with liquid soap and warm running water after outside play.

**Correction Deadline: 4/8/2026**

**591-1-1-.20 Medications(CR)****N/A****Comment**

The Provider currently does not dispense/administer medication.

**Safety****591-1-1-.05 Animals****Met****Comment**

Center does not keep animals on premises.

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

Age-appropriate discussion and/or redirection observed.

**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)****Not Met****Finding**

591-1-1-.36(4)(b) requires that the interior of a transportation vehicle be clean, in safe repair and free of hazardous items, objects and/or other non-essential items which could cause injury. It was determined based on observation that the vehicle used for transportation (Tag #TFB0972) had four tears with exposed foam in the upholstered backrests on the first and second rows of seating on this date.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

The center will maintain that all transportation vehicles are clean, in safe repair, and free from hazards.

**Correction Deadline: 4/29/2026**

**Recited on 4/8/2026**

**Correction Deadline: 11/10/2025**

**Corrected on 4/8/2026**

.36(7)(d)2. - Previous citation corrected in that the Consultant observed the Center to have complete transportation documentation as required.

**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**

**Records Reviewed: 9**

**Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 5**

Staff # 2

Not Met

Date of Hire: 03/31/2025

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.14(2)-CPR missing,.14(2)-First Aid Missing,.33(3)-Health & Safety Certificate,.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training

Staff # 3 Not Met

Date of Hire: 10/27/2025

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(3)-Health & Safety Certificate,.14(2)-First Aid Missing,.14(2)-CPR missing

Staff # 5 Not Met

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.14(2)-First Aid Missing,.14(2)-CPR missing,.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training

Staff # 6 Not Met

Date of Hire: 12/22/2025

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.14(2)-First Aid Missing,.14(2)-CPR missing

Staff # 8 Not Met

Date of Hire: 10/25/2022

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.36(3)(a-b)-2 hrs. Transportation Training missing,.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training

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

**Met**

**Comment**

Criminal record checks were observed to be complete.

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

**Not Met**

**Finding**

591-1-1-.14(2)(a) requires that when any child is present on the premises, at least fifty percent (50%) of the caregiver staff present shall be trained in pediatric cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and pediatric first aid. It was determined based on a review of records that only two of ten staff members had documentation of a current and valid First Aid/CPR training on this date.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

A minimum of 50% of all caregiver Staff on the premises must successfully complete a biennial training program in cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and a triennial training program in first aid taught by certified or licensed health care professionals or trainers and must deal with the provision of emergency care to infants and children. The Director will send copies via email of verification of completed CPR/First Aid certification to the Consultant upon completion.

**Correction Deadline: 5/8/2026**

**Correction Deadline: 11/13/2025**

**Corrected on 4/8/2026**

.14(3) - Previous citation corrected in that the Consultant observed the first aid kit in the building and on the vehicle to have the required items on this date.

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

**Not Met**

**Correction Deadline: 12/31/2025**

**Corrected on 4/8/2026**

.33(4) - Previous citation corrected in that the Consultant observed the Center to have documentation of completing four hours of training in food nutrition planning, preparation, serving, proper dish washing and food storage as required on this date.

**Finding**

591-1-1-.33(5)(a) requires that every calendar year after the first year of employment, all supervisory and caregiver Personnel, except independent contractors, Students-in-Training and volunteers, shall attend ten (10) clock hours of diverse training which is offered by an accredited college, university or vocational program or other Department-approved source. It was determined based on a review of records that seven of seven staff did not have documentation of completing 10 hours of annual training for the 2025 calendar year as required on this date.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

The Center will plan and schedule the required 10 hours of annual training each year and follow up to ensure the training is completed.

**Correction Deadline: 5/8/2026**

**Technical Assistance**

591-1-1-.33(5)(b)1. - New - requires the annual ten (10) clock hours of training shall include at least two (2) hours in evidence based, developmentally appropriate language and literacy practices. The Consultant and Provider discussed ensuring that the annual ten (10) clock hours of training shall include at least two (2) hours in evidence based, developmentally appropriate language and literacy practices.

**Correction Deadline: 5/8/2026**

**Finding**

591-1-1-.33(5)(b)(2)(i)-(iv) requires the annual ten (10) clock hours of training shall include at least two (2) hours in on-going child development and health and safety related topics, which could include, but not be limited to:

(i) Child development (e.g., developmental domains (cognitive; social and emotional; physical development and motor skills; communication, language, and literacy; approaches to play and learning), discipline and guidance techniques, children with special needs); (ii) Health (e.g., nutrition and the support of breast feeding, physical activity, prevention and control of illnesses and infectious diseases, immunizations, prevention of and response to emergencies due to food and allergic reactions, cleanliness, sanitation, and the appropriate disposal of bio contaminants); (iii) Safety (e.g., prevention of Sudden Unexpected Infant Death (SUID) which includes Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) and the use of safe sleeping practices, medication administration, injury control and prevention, transportation, handling and storage of hazardous materials, identification of and protection from hazards that can cause bodily injury such as electrical hazards, bodies of water, and vehicular traffic, and emergency preparedness planning and response); (iv) Child abuse and neglect (e.g., identification and reporting, meeting the needs of abused and/or neglected children, prevention of shaken baby syndrome, abusive head trauma and child maltreatment). It was determined based on a review of records that only five of nine Staff members had documentation of completing health and safety training within the first 90 days of employment as required on this date.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

The Center will plan and schedule the required 10 hours of annual training each year to include a least two (2) hours of on-going child development and health and safety related topics and follow up to ensure the training is completed.

**Correction Deadline: 5/8/2026**

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

**Met**

**Comment**

Staff observed to be compliant with applicable laws and regulations.

|                                 |
|---------------------------------|
| <b>Staffing and Supervision</b> |
|---------------------------------|

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**591-1-1-.32 Staff:Child Ratios and Group Size(CR)**

**Met**

**Correction Deadline: 11/10/2025**

**Corrected on 4/8/2026**

**.32(4) - Previous citation corrected in that the Consultant observed the Center to maintain appropriate ratios on this date.**

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**591-1-1-.32 Supervision(CR)**

**Met**

**Correction Deadline: 11/10/2025**

**Corrected on 4/8/2026**

**.32(7) - Previous citation corrected in that the Consultant observed the Center to maintain appropriate supervision as required on this date.**



