



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: 9/22/2025 **VisitType:** Monitoring Visit

Arrival: 10:00 AM **Departure:** 1:55 PM

CCLC-38042

Beyond the Books Academy

2234 Benson Poole Rd Smyrna, GA 30082 Cobb County
 (770) 874-3733

Lead Consultant

Neli Todorova

Phone: (770) 359-5167

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Joint with: Tashana Cephas

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.
09/22/2025	Monitoring Visit	Good Standing	
05/28/2025	Complaint Closure	Good Standing	
05/28/2025	Complaint Investigation Follow Up	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 Far Left	Four Year Olds and Five Year Olds	1	7	C	12	C	NA	NA	Free Play, Transitioning, Centers
Main	B Middle Left		0	0	C	12	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
Main	Back Left		0	0	C	11	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
Main	C Middle Right		0	0	C	23	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
Main	D Far Right	Six Year Olds and Over	1	11	C	18	C	NA	NA	Free Play, Centers
Main	Front Right		0	0	C	6	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 82			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0							
Total # Children this Date: 18			Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 82							
			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0							

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	Back	47	C
Main	Far Left	9	C
Main	Far Right	7	C

Enrolled Children						
Under 1 years	1 years	2 years	3 years	4 years	5 years (Prekonly)	5 years and older
0	0	0	0	8	11	22

Comments

Discussed rule changes effective July 1, 2025.

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.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

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-.03 Activities

Technical Assistance

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.03(14) - Discussed that media watched by the children need to be rated G.

Correction Deadline: 9/22/2025

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

Met

Comment

Equipment and furniture observed to be properly secured, as applicable.

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

Correction Deadline: 5/28/2025

Corrected on 9/22/2025

.25(12) - Previous citation was corrected as there were no space heaters accessible to the children and staff stated proper knowledge.

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.25(13) - Discussed that potentially hazardous items need to be kept inaccessible to children.

Correction Deadline: 9/22/2025

Correction Deadline: 5/28/2025

Corrected on 9/22/2025

.25(3) - Previous citation was corrected as the cafeteria was observed to be clean.

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.25(8) - Discussed that the outlets in the rooms and on the playground need to be covered.

Correction Deadline: 9/22/2025

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:

- * The gap at the bottom of the white plastic fence on the playground in the back measured approximately 5 inches when no more than 3 and a half were allowed.

- * The white lettuce fence had a piece missing and several broken pieces that presented a pinching hazard.

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: 9/22/2025

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.26(6) - Discussed that the water slide that was observed to be not in use and deflated should not be used in school settings as per the manufacturer's requirements. The Assistant Director stated that the slide has not been used and will be removed.

Discussed that the small trampoline needs to be removed.

Correction Deadline: 10/2/2025

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 the following hazards were present:

- * A gas grill and a gas griddle were observed on the playground on the left.

- * Large rocks and pine cones were observed on all playgrounds.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will remove any litter and fix or remove hazards from the playground and will routinely monitor the playground and remove litter and hazards.

Correction Deadline: 9/22/2025

Food Service**591-1-1-.18 Kitchen Operations****Not Met****Finding**

591-1-1-.18(10) requires that garbage be stored in trash containers with lids that are emptied and cleaned as needed. Acceptable facilities, including water and detergent or steam, shall be provided and used for cleaning containers. Areas around outside containers shall be kept clean. It was determined based on an investigation that the trash cans in the cafeteria had food leftovers in them and no lid.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will provide trash containers with lids and will train staff to keep lids on containers. The Center will develop and follow a plan to empty and clean trash containers as needed, will provide the cleaning materials, and will monitor.

Correction Deadline: 9/29/2025

Recited on 9/22/2025

Correction Deadline: 5/28/2025

Corrected on 9/22/2025

.18(2) - Previous citation was corrected as the kitchen was observed to be clean and food was stored as required.

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

No children enrolled who require diapering. School age children attend only for after school hours.

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

Please ensure lids remain on trash containing organic waste.

Comment

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

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

The Provider currently does not dispense/administer medication.

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****Technical Assistance**

591-1-1-.36(4)(f)1. - The program is using a 12 passenger Ford Transit 350 with license plate # CTD1620.

Discussed that Georgia Law requires:

- All children and youth under the age of 18 must be in an approved safety restraint.
- Children under age 8 and 4'9" (57 inches) must be in an approved car seat or booster seat. The car or booster seat must be installed and used according to the manufacturer's instructions.
- Children and youth age 8 through 17 must be in a safety belt.
- All children must be in the back seats.

Discussed that all seat belt need to be operating as required.

Correction Deadline: 9/23/2025

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.36(7)(c) - Discussed that each school run uses a separate checklist to account for appropriate start and end times, names of children, etc.

Correction Deadline: 9/23/2025

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.36(7)(c)1 - Discussed that children need to be listed with first and last name.

Correction Deadline: 9/23/2025

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

Sleeping/Naps are not required for this program. School age children attend only for after school hours.

Staff Records**Records Reviewed: 7****Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 2**

Staff # 1

Not Met

Date of Hire: 08/18/2025

Reminder - Health & Safety training is required within 90 calendar days of hired

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

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

Staff # 5

Not Met

Date of Hire: 09/02/2025

Reminder - Health & Safety training is required within 90 calendar days of hired

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

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

Comment

Criminal record checks were observed to be complete.

591-1-1-.14 First Aid & CPR(CR)**Not Met****Finding**

591-1-1-.14(2)(b) requires that there must always be one staff person present in each classroom where children are present that has current and valid pediatric cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and pediatric first aid training. It was determined based on review of records that there was only one staff member present in room D Far Rear and there was no evidence of current valid CPR/First Aid training available. There was no incident or injury.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Director will schedule and/or position caregiver Staff throughout the Center to ensure at least one currently pediatric CPR and First Aid trained Staff person is present in each classroom where children are present.

Correction Deadline: 9/22/2025

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)**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 one seven-year-old child walked from room D Far Left to get their water bottle in the far end of the hallway without a staff member present. Additionally, a 11-year-old child walked from room A Far Left to the kitchen and to get a snack without a staff member present with them. There were no incidents or injuries.

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: 9/22/2025