



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: 11/10/2025 **VisitType:** Licensing Study

Arrival: 10:30 AM **Departure:** 3:00 PM

CCLC-30911

AppleGate Academy & Preschool (Jonesboro)

9610 Deer Crossing Drive Jonesboro, GA 30236 Clayton County
 (770) 629-5876

Regional Consultant

Kayla Evans

Phone: (678) 222-4758

Fax:

kayla.evans@dec.al.ga.gov

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.
11/10/2025	Licensing Study	Good Standing	
12/16/2024	Licensing Study	Good Standing	
10/16/2023	Complaint Closure	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	Rm A: 1st Left	Five Year Olds	1	2	C	14	C	NA	NA	Centers
Main	Rm B: 1st Right	Infants	1	6	C	12	C	NA	NA	Feeding,Nap,Free Play
Main	Rm C: 2nd Right	Two Year Olds	2	14	C	11	NC	NA	NA	Lunch
Main	Rm D: 2nd Right (inside Rm C)		0	0	C	11	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
Main	Rm E: 3rd Right	Two Year Olds	2	13	C	18	C	NA	NA	Nap,Transitioning
Main	Rm F: 4th Right	One Year Olds	2	11	C	15	C	NA	NA	Nap
Main	Rm G: 2nd Left		0	0	C	21	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
Main	Rm H: 3rd Left	Two Year Olds	1	10	C	15	C	NA	NA	Nap
Main	Rm I: 5th Right	Three Year Olds	2	7	C	20	C	NA	NA	Transitioning,Nap
Main	Rm J: 4th Left	Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds	1	5	C	21	C	NA	NA	Nap,Transitioning
Main	Rm K: 6th Right	GA PreK	2	11	C	20	C	NA	NA	Lunch
Main	Rm L: 5th Left	GA PreK	2	12	C	25	C	NA	NA	Music

Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 203

Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0

Total # Children this Date: 91

Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 203

Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	A (4+ Years)	33	C
Main	B (3+ Years)	74	C
Main	C (Infants/Toddlers)	42	C

Enrolled Children						
Under 1 years	1 years	2 years	3 years	4 years	5 years (Prekonly)	5 years and older
7	12	16	12	0	32	26

Comments

The Affidavit for Verifying Completion of Background Check Video Units was left with the Director.

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.decgal.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 Licensing Study:

Activities and Equipment

591-1-1-.03 Activities

Met

Comment

Lesson Plans were observed to be posted and reflected the current weeks activities in each classroom.

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

Met

Comment

A variety of equipment and toys were observed throughout the center on this date.

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.

Children's Records

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

Met

Comment

Parent agreements observed obtained/completed.

Comment

Records were observed to be complete and well organized.

Facility

591-1-1-.06 Bathrooms

Met

Comment

Bathrooms observed to be clean and well maintained.

Comment

591-1-1-.06(4) - Please ensure that all exhaust vents in the bathrooms are free of dust as required.

Correction Deadline: 12/10/2025

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

Met

Comment

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

Correction Deadline: 12/16/2024

Corrected on 11/10/2025

.25(13) - The previous citation was observed corrected on this date. There were no hazards observed in the classrooms 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 toilet in the bathroom in Classroom E did not flush and was not working properly as required.

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: 11/24/2025

Recited on 11/10/2025

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

Met

Comment

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

Correction Deadline: 12/16/2024

Corrected on 11/10/2025

.26(4) - The previous citation was observed corrected on this date. The fence on the playgrounds measure 48 inches in height or higher as required on this date.

Food Service

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

Met

Comment

Center menu meets USDA guidelines.

Comment

Please ensure that bottles are covered and fully labeled with child's full name.

591-1-1-.18 Kitchen Operations

Met

Comment

Kitchen appears clean and well organized on this date.

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

Proper hand washing observed throughout the center on this date.

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

N/A

Comment

The Provider currently does not dispense/administer medication.

Policies and Procedures

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.21(2)(r) - New - Discussed 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. Also discussed to 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/>.

Correction Deadline: 11/15/2025

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

Observed all required posted notices.

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

Animals maintained clean and appropriately caged.

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

Age-appropriate discussion and/or redirection observed.

Comment

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

591-1-1-.36 Transportation(CR)**Not Met****Comment**

A current/completed inspection was observed for all vehicles used in transporting children this date.

Comment

Complete documentation of transportation observed on this date.

Correction Deadline: 12/21/2024

Corrected on 11/10/2025

.36(4)(a) - The previous citation was observed corrected on this date. There was evidence on file for current annual inspection check for vehicle with license QAE2871 on this date as required.

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 following seats had tears:

Vehicle with license plate QAE2871

- Four seats on the right with tears on the left bottom corner.
- Three seats on the left with tears on the right bottom corner.
- The seat on the first row of the left side was torn on top of the seat near where the seat belts snaps in.
- In the second row on the right side at the top of the back rest was torn.

Vehicle with license plate QAG5802

- Three seats on the right had tears in the left bottom corner.
- Two seats on the left side had tears on the right bottom corner.
- The first row seat had a tear near the seat near where the seat belts snaps in.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

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

Correction Deadline: 12/15/2025

Recited on 11/10/2025

Correction Deadline: 12/17/2024

Corrected on 11/10/2025

.36(7)(b) - The previous citation was observed corrected on this date. All children had emergency medical information on file as required in the transportation binder.

Correction Deadline: 12/17/2024

Corrected on 11/10/2025

.36(7)(c)3. - The previous citation was observed corrected on this date. The checklist for arrival and departures was completed and current on file in the transportation binder as required.

Sleeping & Resting Equipment

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

Not Met

Comment

Pleasant naptime environment observed.

Finding

591-1-1-.30(1)(b)1 requires that cots and mats are of sound construction and of sufficient size to accommodate comfortably the size and weight of the child; and that mats are in good repair, washable, covered with a waterproof material and at least two inches (2") thick. It was determined based on observations that the blue mats in classrooms E and K had tears and not in good repair as required.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will ensure that cots and mats are of sound construction and of sufficient size to accommodate the size and weight of the child and mats are in good repair, washable, covered with a waterproof material and is at least two inches thick.

Correction Deadline: 11/24/2025

Recited on 11/10/2025

Staff Records

Records Reviewed: 20

Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 3

Staff # 4

Not Met

Date of Hire: 07/09/2020

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.09-Criminal Records Check Missing

Staff # 9

Not Met

Date of Hire: 11/10/2025

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

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.09-Criminal Records Check Missing

Staff # 19

Not Met

Date of Hire: 11/10/2025

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

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.09-Criminal Records Check Missing

Finding

591-1-1-.09(1)(c) requires the Center to ensure that every Employee has a valid and current satisfactory Comprehensive Records Check Determination on file prior to being present at the Center while any child is present for care or before an individual age 17 or older resides in the Center. The Comprehensive Records Check Determination must have a Records Check Clearance Date that is no older than the preceding 12 months of the hire date; provided, however, if the Employee has had a lapse of employment from the child care industry that lasted for 180 days (6 months) or longer, a new satisfactory Comprehensive Records Check Determination is required. It was determined based on a review of records that Staff # 9 and Staff #19 was present with children without having a valid and current satisfactory Comprehensive Records Check Determination on file as required.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

IMMEDIATE CORRECTION - The Center will ensure that every Employee has a valid and current satisfactory Comprehensive Records Check Determination on file prior to being present at the Center while any child is present for care or before an individual age 17 or older resides in the Center. The Comprehensive Records Check Determination must have a Records Check Clearance Date that is no older than the preceding 12 months of the hire date; provided, however, if the Employee has had a lapse of employment from the child care industry that lasted for 180 days (6 months) or longer, a new satisfactory Comprehensive Records Check Determination is required. The program's owner or an officer/member of the corporation must view the A to Z Background Check video units pertaining to this records check rule and return the signed affidavit within one week from this visit date. The center will ensure the CRC rules are maintained.

Correction Deadline: 11/10/2025

Finding

591-1-1-.09(1)(l)3. requires the Center to immediately require a new Comprehensive Records Check Determination for a Director, Employee or Provisional Employee at least once every five years. It was determined based on a review of records that staff member #4 was present with children and had an expired Comprehensive Record Check Determination on file with an expiration date of July 02, 2025.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

IMMEDIATE CORRECTION - The Center will ensure that each Director, Employee and Provisional Employee has a Comprehensive Records Check Determination on file that has been issued within the past five years. The program's owner or an officer/member of the corporation must view the A to Z Background Check video units pertaining to this records check rule and return the signed affidavit within one week from this visit date. The Center will ensure CRC rules are maintained.

Correction Deadline: 11/10/2025

591-1-1-.09 Criminal Records Check(CR)**Met****Comment**

Criminal records checks were observed to be complete.

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

Complete first aid kits observed in center and on vehicles on this date.

Comment

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

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

Documentation observed of required staff training.

Correction Deadline: 12/17/2024

Corrected on 11/10/2025

.33(2)(a)-(n) - The previous citation was observed corrected on this date. All staff members had evidence of orientation on file as required on this date.

Correction Deadline: 1/15/2025

Corrected on 11/10/2025

.33(3)(a)-(k) - The previous citation was observed corrected on this date. All staff members had evidence of health and safety orientation training on file as required on this date.

Comment

Staff observed to be compliant with applicable laws and regulations.

Staffing and Supervision

Comment

Center observed to maintain appropriate staff:child ratios.

Comment

Staff observed to provide direct supervision and be attentive to children's needs.

Correction Deadline: 12/16/2024

Corrected on 11/10/2025

.32(7) - The previous citation was observed corrected on this date. There was adequate supervision in all classrooms on this date.