



**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:** 2/25/2025 **VisitType:** Licensing Study

**Arrival:** 10:15 AM **Departure:** 1:15 PM

**CCLC-34766**

**The Bright Futures Academy**

3602 Highlands Pkwy Smyrna, GA 30082 Cobb County  
(678) 424-1076 thebrightfuturesacademy@gmail.com

Regional Consultant

Laura Swann

Phone: (706) 855-3454

Fax: (706) 434-7641

laura.swann@decal.ga.gov

**Mailing Address**

Same

**Quality Rated:** No

| <b>Compliance Zone Designation</b> |                   |               | <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. |
|------------------------------------|-------------------|---------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 02/25/2025                         | Licensing Study   | Good Standing |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| 12/20/2024                         | Complaint Closure | Good Standing |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| 08/20/2024                         | 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 1st Left   | One Year Olds                                         | 1                              | 5        | C    | 7                             | C            | NA         | NA           | Floor Play, Feeding  |
| Main                           | B 2nd Left   |                                                       | 0                              | 0        | C    | 8                             | C            | NA         | NA           |                      |
| Main                           | C 3rd Left   | Two Year Olds                                         | 1                              | 10       | C    | 15                            | C            | NA         | NA           | Transitioning, Music |
| Main                           | D Right Room | Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds and Five Year Olds | 1                              | 10       | C    | 10                            | C            | NA         | NA           | Art                  |
|                                |              |                                                       | Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 40 |          |      | Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0 |              |            |              |                      |
| Total # Children this Date: 25 |              |                                                       | Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 40 |          |      | Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0 |              |            |              |                      |

| Building | Playground | Playground Occupancy | Playground Compliance |
|----------|------------|----------------------|-----------------------|
| Main     | Playground | 15                   | C                     |

| <b>Enrolled Children</b> |         |         |         |         |                    |                   |
|--------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|--------------------|-------------------|
| Under 1 years            | 1 years | 2 years | 3 years | 4 years | 5 years (Prekonly) | 5 years and older |
| 0                        | 8       | 10      | 2       | 3       | 0                  | 5                 |

## Comments

Licensing study completed on February 25, 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.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.

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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@decal.ga.gov](mailto: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 Licensing Study:

**Activities and Equipment**

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

**Technical Assistance**

**Technical Assistance**

591-1-1-.12(2) - Please continue to monitor the classrooms for broken equipment and remove when present.

**Correction Deadline: 2/25/2025**

**591-1-1-.35 Swimming Pools & Water-related Activities(CR)**

**Met**

**Comment**

Center does not provide swimming activities.

**Children's Records**

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

**Met**

**Comment**

Records were observed to be complete and well organized.

**Facility**

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

**Met**

**Correction Deadline: 8/20/2024**

**Corrected on 2/25/2025**

.19(1) - Correction observed on this date. Licensed capacity was met on this date.

**591-1-1-.25 Physical Plant - Safe Environment(CR)**

**Not Met**

**Comment**

Please be mindful to keep items that pose a hazard inaccessible to children.

**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 following items needed to be repaired:

Lobby- Two light bulbs not working.

Classroom C- Five lights not working and paint was peeling off the walls.

Classroom D- Two lights not working and two light bulbs not working.

Shared restroom and handwashing sinks- Two light bulbs not working and one light not working.

**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: 3/4/2025**

**Finding**

591-1-1-.25(8) requires protective caps on all unused electrical outlets within children's reach and requires that electrical outlets in use be made inaccessible to children. It was determined based on observation that in classrooms C and D cords in use were accessible to children posing a strangulation hazard.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

The Center will train Staff to check outlets and replace protective caps when needed and identify and monitor how outlets in use are inaccessible to children.

**Correction Deadline: 2/25/2025**

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**591-1-1-.26 Playgrounds(CR)****Not Met****Finding**

591-1-1-.26(6) requires that playground equipment provide an opportunity for the children to engage in a variety of experiences and shall be age-appropriate. For example, toddlers shall not be permitted to swing in swings designed for School-age Children. The outdoor equipment shall be free of lead-based paint, sharp corners and shall be regularly maintained in such a way as to be free of rust and splinters that could pose significant safety hazard to the children. All equipment shall be arranged so as not to obstruct supervision of children. It was determined based on observation that on the left side of the wooden stairs on the green and wooden play structure was broken posing a safety hazard to children. Further, it was observed that the brown wooden truck had four screw heads exposed and the left front side wood was rotten and breaking a part.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

The Center will provide a variety of age-appropriate equipment that is arranged so as not to obstruct supervision of children. Staff will check the equipment daily to ensure that the equipment is free of hazards, rust and splinters.

**Correction Deadline: 2/26/2025**

**Recited on 2/25/2025**

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**Health and Hygiene**

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

Staff state proper knowledge of diapering procedures.

**Technical Assistance**

591-1-1-.10(4) - Consultant reviewed with the director the requirements for diaper changing pads as follows: requires that if diapers are changed on a diaper changing surface, the surface shall be smooth, nonporous, and equipped with a guard or rails to prevent falls. Between each diaper change, the diaper changing surface shall be cleaned with a disinfectant and dried with a single-use disposable towel.

**Correction Deadline: 2/25/2025**

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

Staff were observed to remind children to wash hands.

**Comment**

The Provider currently does not dispense/administer medication.

|                                |
|--------------------------------|
| <b>Policies and Procedures</b> |
|--------------------------------|

**591-1-1-.21 Operational Policies & Procedures****Technical Assistance****Technical Assistance**

591-1-1-.21(3) - Consultant reviewed with the director the requirements for drills as follows: requires that the Center conduct drills for fire, tornado and other emergency situations. The fire drills will be conducted monthly and tornado and other emergency situation drills will be conducted every six months. The Center shall maintain documentation of the dates and times of these drills for two years.

**Correction Deadline: 3/2/2025**

**Technical Assistance**

591-1-1-.21(1)(p) - Consultant emailed a copy of BFTS's emergency preparedness plan and reviewed the requirements as follows: requires the Center to have a written plan for handling emergencies, including but not limited to severe weather, loss of electrical power or water and death, serious injury or loss of a child, a threatening event, or natural disaster which may occur at the Center; to have in place procedures for evacuation, relocation, shelter-in-place, lock-down, communication and reunification with families, and continuity of operations. The plan must apply to all children in care and include specific accommodations for infants and toddlers, children with disabilities, and children with chronic medical conditions and shall include assurance that no Center Personnel will impede in any way the delivery of emergency care or services to a child by licensed or certified emergency health care professionals.

**Correction Deadline: 3/2/2025**

|               |
|---------------|
| <b>Safety</b> |
|---------------|

**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)****Met****Comment**

Center does not provide routine transportation.

|                                         |
|-----------------------------------------|
| <b>Sleeping &amp; Resting Equipment</b> |
|-----------------------------------------|

**591-1-1-.30 Safe Sleeping and Resting Requirements(CR)****Not Met****Technical Assistance**

591-1-1-.30(1)(b)1 - Please continue to monitor mats/cots for wear and replace or repair as needed.

**Correction Deadline: 2/25/2025**

## Finding

591-1-1-.30(2) requires the Center to provide a safe sleep environment in accordance with American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) and American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) recommendations as listed in these rules for all infants. Center Staff shall place an infant to sleep on the infant's back in a crib unless the Center has been provided a physician's written statement authorizing another sleep position for that particular infant that includes how the infant shall be placed to sleep and a time frame that the instructions are to be followed. When an infant can easily turn over from back to front and back again, Staff shall continue to put the infant to sleep initially on the infant's back but allow the infant to roll over into his or her preferred position and not re-position the infant. Sleepers, sleep sacks and wearable blankets that fit according to the commercial manufacturer's guidelines and will not slide up around the infant's face may be used when necessary for the comfort of the sleeping infant. Swaddling shall not be used unless the Center has been provided a physician's written statement authorizing its use for a particular infant that includes instructions and a time frame for swaddling the infant. Center Staff shall not place objects or allow objects to be placed in or on the crib with an infant such as but not limited to toys, pillows, quilts, comforters, bumper pads, sheepskins, stuffed toys, or other soft items and shall not attach objects or allow objects to be attached to a crib with a sleeping infant, such as, but not limited to, crib gyms, toys, mirrors and mobiles. It was determined based on observation that staff in the 1st left classroom A infants were placed in cribs on their stomach to sleep.

### POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will take all steps necessary to provide a safe sleep environment for infants as listed in these rules; will train Staff to follow these rules; and will monitor for compliance. Consultant demonstrated to staff how to properly lay infants down on their back in a crib.

**Correction Deadline: 2/25/2025**

## Staff Records

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

Met

#### Comment

Criminal record checks were observed to be complete.

#### Comment

Director provided 3 file(s) for employees hired since last visit.

### 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

**Correction Deadline: 8/20/2024**

**Corrected on 2/25/2025**

.32(1) - Correction observed on this date. Ratios were maintained as required.

**Correction Deadline: 12/20/2024**

**Corrected on 2/25/2025**

.32(2) - Correction observed on this date. Children were actively supervised on this date.

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

Met

**Correction Deadline: 12/20/2024**

**Corrected on 2/25/2025**

.32(7) - Correction observed on this date. Staff were actively supervising children in care.