



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: 2/25/2026 VisitType: Licensing Study

Arrival: 9:35 AM Departure: 1:00 PM

CCLC-38042

Beyond the Books Academy

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

Regional Consultant

Tashana Cephas

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Mailing Address

Same

Quality Rated: ★ ★

| <u>Compliance Zone Designation</u> |                   |               | <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. |
|------------------------------------|-------------------|---------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 02/25/2026                         | Licensing Study   | Good Standing |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| 09/22/2025                         | Monitoring Visit  | Good Standing |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| 05/28/2025                         | 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     | A Far Left     |                                   | 0     | 0        | C    | 12         | C            | NA         | NA           | Not In Use  |
| 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 | Four Year Olds and Five Year Olds | 2     | 14       | C    | 23         | C            | NA         | NA           | Circle Time |
| Main     | D Far Right    |                                   | 0     | 0        | C    | 18         | C            | NA         | NA           | Not In Use  |
| 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: 14

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       | 10      | 0                  | 37                |

Comments

The exit conference was conducted with the Director.



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.decal.ga.gov/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.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

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.decal.ga.gov/> 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(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@dec.al.ga.gov](mailto:qualityrated@dec.al.ga.gov) for more information. Free technical assistance is available!**



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**Summary Report**

**Date:** 2/25/2026 **VisitType:** Licensing Study

**Arrival:** 9:35 AM **Departure:** 1:00 PM

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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.

**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)**

**Met**

**Comment**

The Center appeared clean and well maintained on this date.

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

**Not Met**

**Comment**

Discussed maintenance of resilient surface. Please fluff and redistribute.

**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 white interior 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: 3/25/2026

Recited on 2/25/2026

Correction Deadline: 9/22/2025

Corrected on 2/25/2026

.26(9) - The previous citation was observed corrected on this date. There were no hazards on the playground.

## Food Service

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

Met

#### Comment

Center menu meets USDA guidelines.

### 591-1-1-.18 Kitchen Operations

Met

#### Comment

Kitchen appears clean and well organized on this date.

Correction Deadline: 9/29/2025

Corrected on 2/25/2026

.18(10) - The previous citation was observed corrected on this date. All trash cans present in the cafeteria were clean and had a lid.

## Health and Hygiene

### 591-1-1-.10 Diapering Areas & Practices(CR)

N/A

#### Comment

No children enrolled who require diapering.

### 591-1-1-.17 Hygiene(CR)

Met

#### Comment

Proper hand washing observed throughout the center on this date.

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

Met

#### Comment

Documentation for medication dispensing observed completed on this date.

## Policies and Procedures

### 591-1-1-.21 Operational Policies & Procedures

Met

#### Comment

Program observed complete emergency drills

## Safety

### 591-1-1-.05 Animals

N/A

#### Comment

Center does not keep animals on premises.

### 591-1-1-.11 Discipline(CR)

Met

#### Comment

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

### 591-1-1-.13 Field Trips(CR)

Met

#### Comment

Field trip documentation observed to be complete on this date.

### 591-1-1-.36 Transportation(CR)

Not Met

#### Comment

A current/completed inspection form was observed for van with tag #CTD1620 that transported children on this date.

**Comment**

Complete documentation of transportation observed on this date.

**Comment**

The vehicle had a first aid kit on this date.

**Finding**

591-1-1-.36(4)(c) requires that each vehicle be equipped with a fire extinguisher maintained in working order and kept inaccessible to children. It was determined based on observation that there was no fire extinguisher present on the van with tag #CTD1620 that was used for transportation.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

The center will ensure that each vehicle has a working fire extinguisher and that the fire extinguisher is kept out of reach of children.

**Correction Deadline: 3/6/2026**

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

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

**Staff Records****Records Reviewed: 6****Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 1**

Staff # 4

Not Met

Date of Hire: 02/15/2025

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.31(2)(b)2.-Staff Qualifications-Education Missing

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

Consultant requested to view all Criminal Record checks for employees hired after last visit. Director stated that there have been no new hires since last visit

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

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

**Correction Deadline: 9/22/2025**

**Corrected on 2/25/2026**

**.14(2)(b) - The previous citation was observed corrected on this date. All staff present in the classroom had evidence of current and valid pediatric cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and pediatric first aid training.**

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

Documentation observed of required staff training.

**Comment**

Discussed: Health and Safety Training is required for each staff member with direct care responsibilities within 90 calendar days of their hire date.

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

Discussed that all lead staff must enroll in an approved education program within 6 months of hire and complete degree within 18 months.

**Comment**

Staff observed to be compliant with applicable laws and regulations.

**Finding**

591-1-1-.31(2)(b)2. requires teachers and lead caregivers to meet minimum academic requirements and qualifying experience at the time of employment. It was determined based on a review of records that staff #4 with a hire date of February 15, 2025, did not have required credentials for a lead teacher, as required.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

A teacher/lead caregiver will be hired that meets the minimum academic requirements and qualifying work experience. The Director will start a Professional Learning Plan for staff and maintain the record on file until the credential is complete.

**Correction Deadline: 2/25/2026**

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

**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)**

**Met**

**Comment**

Adequate supervision observed on this date.

**Correction Deadline: 9/22/2025**

**Corrected on 2/25/2026**

**.32(7) - The previous citation was observed corrected on this date. Students were being properly supervised during the visit.**