



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: 9/24/2025 **VisitType:** Monitoring Visit

Arrival: 9:50 AM **Departure:** 4:30 PM

CCLC-65513

Education Elevation Children's Academy

5341 Snapfinger Park Drive Stonecrest, GA 30035 DeKalb County
(770) 680-4730

Regional Consultant

Jessica Johnson

Phone: (770) 357-5090

Fax:

jessica.johnson@decal.ga.gov

Mailing Address

Same

Quality Rated: ★ ★

<u>Compliance Zone Designation</u>		
09/24/2025	Monitoring Visit	Support
12/03/2024	Initial Licensing Study	Good Standing

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.

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-1L-Infants & 1's	Infants and One Year Olds	1	5	C	25	C	NA	NA	Diapering, Floor Play
Main	B-2L-1's & 2's	Two Year Olds	1	15	NC	28	C	NA	NA	Centers
Main	C-Middle-5 & Up	Six Year Olds and Over	1	7	C	22	C	30	C	Free Play
Main	D-Middle Back-4's & Up		0	0	C	20	C	28	C	Not In Use
Main	E-3R-4's & Up	Three Year Olds	1	11	C	32	C	44	C	Outside
Main	F-2R-4's & Up	Four Year Olds	1	7	C	21	C	29	C	Outside
Main	G-1R-1 year old	One Year Olds	1	4	C	26	C	37	C	Free Play
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 174					Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 221					
Total # Children this Date: 49					Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 221					

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	Playground A-Left-Infants, 1's & 2's	18	C
Main	Playground B-Back-4's & Up	171	C
Main	Playground C-Right-3's	27	C

Enrolled Children						
Under 1 years	1 years	2 years	3 years	4 years	5 years (Prekonly)	5 years and older
5	12	19	20	8	0	27

Comments

On this date, Jessica Johnson (JJ), Consultant, reviewed the visit report with Director Deandra Marshall. JJ discussed and left a copy of the updated Child Care Weather watch Chart with the program today. Weather does not permit outdoor play when there is active precipitation or when weather advisories are in effect. Consult the Child Care Weather Watch Chart resource for further guidance, considering specific weather conditions.

Plan of Improvement: To Be Submitted 10/08/2025

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 Monitoring Visit:

Activities and Equipment

591-1-1-.03 Activities

Technical Assistance

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.03(2) - Please ensure that lesson plans in classroom G-1R are up-to-date.

Correction Deadline: 9/24/2025

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

Technical Assistance

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.12(2) - Please ensure covering the splintered wood on top of the stove in classroom G-1R and tightening the handle bar on the cabinet in the dramatic area.

Correction Deadline: 9/24/2025

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.12(4) - Please ensure that chairs are unstacked prior to children entering the classrooms.

Correction Deadline: 9/24/2025

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

Met

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)

Not Met

Comment

Please secure cleaning tools (i.e., broom, plunger) out of reach of children.

Finding

591-1-1-.25(13) requires that potentially hazardous equipment, materials and supplies be stored in a locked area inaccessible to children. It was determined based on observation that the following hazards were observed:

Classroom E-3R

- Empty plastic grocery bags in an unlocked white cabinet under the sink.
- A Staff bag in an unlocked white cabinet under the sink.
- Diaper wipes and gloves on top of the sink accessible to children in care.

Classroom F-2R

- Disinfecting wipes on the front circle table accessible to children in care.
- A pack of diaper wipes and gloves observed in the cubbies on the left side.

Classroom G-1R

- A empty white trash bag, diaper wipes, and gloves stored on top of the gray sink area.

Correction Deadline: 9/25/2025

Recited on 9/24/2025

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 chipping paint was observed on the left wall in classroom E-3R. It was further determined that the handle on the white cabinet in classroom B was broken.

Correction Deadline: 10/8/2025

Recited on 9/24/2025

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

Not Met

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 perimeter fencing on the right side had portions that were disconnected at the top. It was further determined that a four inch gap was observed at the entrance gate of playground A. It was also determined that there was a four and a half inch gap observed at the entrance gate of playground C.

Correction Deadline: 10/23/2025

Recited on 9/24/2025

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 the following hazards were observed:

Playground A

- The brown, yellow, and blue slide were positioned within two feet of the fence.

Playground B-Back

- Rust was observed on the handle bars of the pink tricycle.
- A broken picnic table seat was observed to the right side of the playground. Additionally a protruding nail was observed under the right seat of the picnic table.
- Rust was observed on all the swing chains.
- Rust and black residue was observed on the yellow monkey bars and stair handle bars on the large playground equipment.
- A disconnected PVC pipe were observed around the blue and red climbing structure.

Playground C-Right

- A loose wooden panel was observed on the car structure.
 - Rust was observed on the steering wheel of the car structure.
 - A disconnected PVC pipe was observed on the left side of the playground.
- -----

Correction Deadline: 10/23/2025

Recited on 9/24/2025

Finding

591-1-1-.26(8) requires climbing and swinging equipment to have a resilient surface beneath the equipment and the fall zone from such equipment must be adequately maintained by the Center to assure continuing resiliency. It was determined based on observation that the following hazards were observed:

Playground B-Back

- Two inches of resilient surface were observed around the swings when six inches were required.
 - Two inches of resilient surface were observed around the yellow monkey bars when six inches were required.
 - Two inches of resilient surface were observed around the stairs when three inches were required.
- -----

Correction Deadline: 10/23/2025

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.26(9) - Please ensure that all broken toys and litter are removed from the playground area.

Correction Deadline: 9/24/2025

Health and Hygiene

591-1-1-.07 Children's Health

Not Met

Finding

591-1-1-.07(5) requires Center Staff to not permit children to wear around their necks or attach to their clothing pacifiers or other hazardous items. It was determined based on observation that an infant was observed with a pacifier clip attached to their clothing.

Correction Deadline: 9/24/2025

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

Met

Comment

Staff stated proper knowledge of diapering procedures.

Correction Deadline: 12/3/2024

Corrected on 9/24/2025

.10(3) - The previous citation was corrected on this date as the Consultant observed a diapering pad in good repair.

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

Met

Comment

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

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

Not Met

Comment

Discussed proper medication documentation and procedures.

Finding

591-1-1-.20(3) requires the Center to maintain a record of medication dispensed that includes the date, time and amount of medication, any noticeable adverse reaction, and the signature or initials of the person administering the medication. It was determined based on a review of records that the authorization for medication form was not completed as required.

Correction Deadline: 9/24/2025

Policies and Procedures

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

Technical Assistance

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.21(4) - 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.decal.ga.gov/CCS/RulesAndRegulations.aspx> or through the Center on Shaken Baby Syndrome found at: <https://dontshake.org/>.

Correction Deadline: 9/29/2025

Safety

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

Technical Assistance

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.11(2) - Please ensure Staff are mindful of voice tone in redirecting children's behavior.

Correction Deadline: 9/24/2025

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

Comment

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

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.36(1)(a) - Discussed that transportation rules apply to all transportation provided by the licensee or on behalf of the licensee, regardless of whether the person is employed by the licensee or if a fee is charged or not.

Correction Deadline: 9/29/2025

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.36(4)(b) - Per the Director, transportation is provided through a third party company. The vehicles were not on-site on this date for review.

Correction Deadline: 9/25/2025

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.36(4)(f)1. - Please ensure that all transported children are secured in a child passenger restraining system or seat safety belt in accordance with current state and federal laws and regulations and according to manufacturer's directions.

Correction Deadline: 9/25/2025

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.36(7)(b) - Discussed that emergency medical information records must be maintained in the vehicle for each child being transported. The emergency medical information record for each child shall include a listing of the child's full name, date of birth, allergies, special medical needs and conditions, current prescribed medications that the child is required to take on a daily basis for a chronic condition, the name and telephone number of the child's doctor, the local medical facility that the Center uses in the area where the Center is located and the telephone numbers where the Parents can be reached.

Correction Deadline: 9/25/2025

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.36(7)(c)2. - Discussed that the driver or other designated person shall immediately document in writing, with a check or other mark/symbol to account for each child listed on the passenger transportation checklist each time a child enters and exits the vehicle. The driver or other designated staff person shall document in writing with a different mark/symbol to account for each child listed on the passenger transportation checklist who was not present on the vehicle for any reason. An explanation shall be documented in writing whenever a child is transported to a field trip site but is not present on the return trip to the Center.

Correction Deadline: 9/25/2025

Finding

591-1-1-.36(7)(d)1. requires that the first check be conducted immediately upon unloading the last child at any location including, but not limited to, a field trip destination, arrival at the Center, and the last stop during transportation to home or school. The responsible person on the vehicle shall physically walk through the entire vehicle; visually inspect all seat surfaces, under all seats and in all compartments or recesses in the vehicle's interior; sign the passenger transportation checklist (s), indicating all of the children have exited the vehicle; and give the passenger transportation checklist(s) to the second designated Staff person. It was determined based on a review of records that the first check signatures were not on file on this date.

Correction Deadline: 9/25/2025

Finding

591-1-1-.36(7)(d)2. requires that the second designated Staff person conduct a check of the vehicle immediately upon the completion of the first check of the vehicle. The responsible person shall physically walk through the entire vehicle; visually inspect all seat surfaces, under all seats and in all compartments or recesses in the vehicle's interior; and sign the passenger transportation checklist(s), indicating all of the children have exited the vehicle. There shall be continuous watchful oversight of the vehicle between the first check and second check. It was determined based on a review of records that the second check signatures were not on file on this date.

Correction Deadline: 9/24/2025

Sleeping & Resting Equipment

Comment

Discussed SIDS and infant sleeping position.

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.

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.30(1)(a)2 - Discussed replacing the torn mattress in the third crib on the left side in classroom A-1L.

Correction Deadline: 9/24/2025

Staff Records**Records Reviewed: 24****Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 8**

Staff # 7

Not Met

Date of Hire: 09/12/2025

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.09-Criminal Records Check Missing

Staff # 9

Not Met

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.09-Criminal Records Check Missing

Staff # 10

Not Met

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.09-Criminal Records Check Missing

Staff # 14

Not Met

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.09-Criminal Records Check Missing

Staff # 15

Not Met

Date of Hire: 07/10/2025

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.09-Criminal Records Check Missing

Staff # 20

Not Met

Date of Hire: 12/27/2024

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

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

Staff # 22

Not Met

Date of Hire: 01/03/2025

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

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

Staff # 24

Not Met

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.09-Criminal Records Check Missing

Finding

591-1-1-.09(1)(a) requires that a Center ensure that every actual and potential Director, Employee and Provisional Employee of a Child Care Learning Center submit both a Records Check Application to the Department and Fingerprints to an authorized fingerprinting site. It was determined based on a review of records that Staff # 9, Staff #10, and, Staff #24 did not submit both a Records Check Application to the Department and Fingerprints to an authorized fingerprinting site prior to being present at the site.

Correction Deadline: 9/24/2025

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 #7 hired on September 12, 2025, Staff # 9, Staff #10, Staff #15 hired on July 10, 2025, and Staff # 24 did not have a valid and current satisfactory Comprehensive Records Check Determination on file prior to being present at the Center while children were present for care on this date.

Correction Deadline: 9/24/2025

Finding

591-1-1-.09(1)(j) requires that for portability for Directors, Employees and Provisional Employees, excluding Students-in-Training, only the most recently issued determination letter is eligible for portability and must be ported electronically. A Center may accept a satisfactory Fingerprint Records Check Determination letter or a satisfactory Comprehensive Records Check Determination letter issued by the Department if the Records Check Clearance Date is within the preceding 12 months from the hire date, the individual has not had a lapse of employment from the child care industry that lasted for 180 days (6 months) or longer, and the Center does not know or reasonably should not know that the individual's satisfactory status has changed. It was determined based on a review of records that Staff # 14 hired August of 2025, did not have the most recently issued determination letter ported electronically prior to being present at the center.

Correction Deadline: 9/24/2025

Finding

591-1-1-.09(1)(l)2. requires the Center to immediately require a new Comprehensive Records Check Determination for a Director, Employee or Provisional Employee when there has been a lapse of employment from the child care industry that lasted for 180 calendar days (6 months) or longer. It was determined based on a review of records that Staff # 7 hired on September 12, 2025, and Staff # 15 hired on July 10, 2025, had a lapse of employment from the child care industry that lasted for 180 calendar days.

Correction Deadline: 9/24/2025

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

591-1-1-.14(1)(a) requires all Staff who provide direct care to children must obtain certification in a biennial training program in pediatric cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and a triennial training program in pediatric first aid within the first 45 days of employment. Current and valid evidence of the successful completion of such training shall be maintained on the Center's premises. The hours obtained completing this certification will not count towards the required annual training hours. It was determined based on a review of records that Staff # 20 hired on December 27, 2024, and Staff # 22 hired on January 3, 2025, did not obtain the certification in the biennial training program in pediatric cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and a triennial training program in pediatric first aid within the first 45 days of employment.

Correction Deadline: 10/24/2025

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.14(1)(a) - Discussed that effective July 1, 2025, new staff are required to obtain pediatric First Aid and pediatric CPR training within 45 days of employment. It was further discussed that programs must have at least one person with current pediatric First Aid and pediatric CPR training in each classroom at all times. Discussed that the training must be done by certified or licensed health care professionals or trainers and must deal with the provision of emergency care to infants and children.

Correction Deadline: 10/24/2025

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

591-1-1-.33(4) - Discussed that within the first year of employment, the Director and person with primary responsibility for food preparation shall have four clock hours of training in food nutrition planning, preparation, serving, proper dish washing and food storage.

Correction Deadline: 10/24/2025

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.33(5)(a) - Discussed that effective July 1, 2025, all staff are required to obtain at least two hours in evidence based, developmentally appropriate language and literacy practices and at least two hours in on-going child development and health and safety related topics as part of their 10 hours of annual training.

Correction Deadline: 10/24/2025

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.33(6) - Discussed that all Employees, including volunteers, independent contractors, students-in-training, etc. should have a completed initial program orientation form on file.

Correction Deadline: 10/4/2025

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

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.

Staffing and Supervision

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

Not Met

Finding

591-1-1-.32(1) requires the Center to maintain the required Staff:child ratios as follows: under 1 year or under 18 months if not walking = 1:6; 1 year and walking = 1:8; 2 years = 1:10; 3 years = 1:15; 4 years = 1:18; 5 years = 1:20;and 6 years and older = 1:25. A Center must establish groupings of children for care with maximum group sizes as follows: under 1 year = 12; under 18 months/not walking = 12; 1 year and walking = 16; 2 years = 20; 3 years = 30; 4 years = 36; 5 years = 40; and 6 years and older = 50. It was determined based on observation that a ratio of 1:15 was observed in classroom B-2L on this date.

Correction Deadline: 9/24/2025

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 there was a lack of supervision observed when a four-year-old child was observed to walk into classroom F-2R while the staff person stood at the door in classroom E-3R on this date.

