



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: 7/30/2025 **VisitType:** Monitoring Visit

Arrival: 8:30 AM **Departure:** 10:05 AM

CCLC-57498

Woods Academy

293 Knight Trail Thomaston, GA 30286 Upson County
(706) 648-6353

Regional Consultant

Brandi Mangino

Phone: (478) 314-9726

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Mailing Address

Same

Quality Rated: ★ ★

<u>Compliance Zone Designation</u>			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.
07/30/2025	Monitoring Visit	Good Standing	
07/14/2025	TA Follow Up	NA	
06/23/2025	TA Follow Up	NA	

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-School Age		0	0	C	15	C	NA	NA	
Main	B-2 year		0	0	C	20	C	NA	NA	
Main	C-1 year	Infants and One Year Olds	1	3	C	18	C	NA	NA	Floor Play,Nap
Main	D-Infants	One Year Olds and Two Year Olds	1	11	NC	20	C	NA	NA	Free Play
Main	E-Infants		0	0	C	13	C	NA	NA	
Main	F-4 Years		0	0	C	18	C	NA	NA	
Main	G-3 Years		0	0	C	18	C	NA	NA	
Main	H-School Age	Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds and Six Year Olds and Over	1	23	C	19	NC	NA	NA	Free Play
		Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 125			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0			Building @35 capacity limited by Insufficient Toilets/Sinks		
Total # Children this Date: 37		Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 125			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0					

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	A	35	C
Main	B	17	C
Main	C	115	C

Enrolled Children						
Under 1 years	1 years	2 years	3 years	4 years	5 years (Prekonly)	5 years and older
3	7	6	8	0	0	28

Comments

Plan developed on this date.

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

Please ensure the infant class goes outside as scheduled and meets all rule requirements.

Correction Deadline: 7/30/2025

Correction Deadline: 2/12/2025

Corrected on 7/30/2025

.03(9) - Citaion observed to be corrected.

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

Technical Assistance

Technical Assistance

Please ensure the green block shelf in Room H is secured.

Correction Deadline: 7/30/2025

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)

Not Met

Finding

591-1-1-.19(1) requires a Center to provide 35 square feet of usable space per child, which will determine the Center's License capacity. It was determined based on observation that Room H had 23 children present in a room that was licensed for 19 children.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will limit the number of children in this space to the licensed capacity.

Correction Deadline: 7/30/2025

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

Met

Comment

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

Technical Assistance

Consultant discussed the front gate on the right side playground had a gap and needs to be closed in.

Correction Deadline: 7/30/2025

Technical Assistance

Consultant discussed removal of pine cones, secure the PVC pipe and paint the green tractor on the right side.

Correction Deadline: 7/30/2025

Food Service**591-1-1-.15 Food Service & Nutrition****Not Met****Finding**

591-1-1-.15(3) requires baby bottles and formula to be labeled with the individual child's name; supplied by the Parent daily in bottles; and refrigerated at a temperature of forty (40) degrees Fahrenheit or less. Only the current day's formula or breast milk shall be served. If formula must be provided by the Center, only commercially prepared, ready-to-feed formula shall be used. Refrigerated or frozen breast milk shall only be heated or thawed under warm running water or in a container of warm water. It was determined based on observation that two bottles in Room C were left on the highchair and were warm to the touch.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will train Staff to follow the required procedures, ensure that parents are fully informed, and will review and monitor regularly.

Correction Deadline: 7/30/2025

Finding

591-1-1-.15(7) requires that food be served according to manufacturer's instructions and recommendations. Foods that are associated with young children's choking incidents, such as, but not limited to, peanuts, hot dogs, raw carrots, popcorn, fish with bones, cheese cubes, grapes and any other food that is of similar shape and size of the trachea/windpipe shall not be served to the children less than four (4) years of age. Children older than four (4) years of age may be served these foods provided that the foods are cut in such a way as to minimize choking. Food shall not be accessible or served to children until it has been chopped, diced, cut or mashed and is appropriate for each child's age and individual eating, chewing and swallowing ability. It was determined based on a review of the center menu blueberries were served on July 28, 2025, which pose a choking hazard to children under the age of four.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will train Staff and monitor food served and accessible to children to ensure that the food does not present a choking hazard.

Correction Deadline: 7/30/2025

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

Staff stated proper knowledge of diapering procedures.

Correction Deadline: 2/12/2025

Corrected on 7/30/2025

.10(9) - Citation observed ot be corrected.

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

Correction Deadline: 2/12/2025

Corrected on 7/30/2025

.17(8) - Citation corrected.

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

The Provider currently does not dispense/administer medication.

Policies and Procedures

Technical Assistance

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: 8/4/2025

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

Age-appropriate discussion and/or redirection observed.

591-1-1-.36 Transportation(CR)**N/A****Comment**

Center does not provide routine transportation.

Sleeping & Resting Equipment**591-1-1-.30 Safe Sleeping and Resting Requirements(CR)****Not Met****Finding**

591-1-1-.30(2)(c) requires that infants shall not sleep in equipment other than safety-approved cribs, such as, but not limited to, a car safety seat, bouncy seat, highchair, or swing. Infants who arrive at the Center asleep or fall asleep in such equipment, on the floor or elsewhere, shall be transferred to a safety-approved crib. It was determined based on observation that upon arrival to Room C and infant was sleeping on the floor on a pillow. The child remained on the pillow until asked to be moved by consultant.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will only place infants in safe cribs to sleep and will transfer them to a safe crib when the infants are asleep in other equipment.

Correction Deadline: 7/30/2025

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

Criminal record checks were observed to be complete.

591-1-1-.14 First Aid & CPR(CR)**Technical Assistance****Technical Assistance**

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.

The staff in Room H did not have first aid and CPR on file. The center will need to ensure that each class has a staff present in the room with first aid and CPR.

Correction Deadline: 8/9/2025

Technical Assistance

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: 7/30/2025

Technical Assistance

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

Correction Deadline: 7/31/2025

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(2) requires the Center maintain Staff:child ratios in mixed-age groups based on the age of the youngest group of children that includes more than twenty percent of the total number of children in the mixed-age group. It was determined based on observation that Room D had 11 children present. Eight 1-year-old children and three 2-year-old children. A ratio of one staff member to eight children should have been maintained.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will provide adequate staff when there is a mixed-age group.

Correction Deadline: 7/30/2025

591-1-1-.32 Supervision(CR)**Met**

Correction Deadline: 2/12/2025

Corrected on 7/30/2025

.32(7) - Citation observed to be corrected on this date during the current visit supervision was being provided.