



Bright from the Start Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning
3 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive SE, 670 East Tower
Atlanta, GA 30334

Phone: (404) 657-5562 WWW.DECAL.GA.GOV

Date: 3/11/2026 **VisitType:** Complaint Investigation & Licensing **Arrival:** 11:45 AM **Departure:** 6:15 PM
Study

CCLC-51942

Cornerstone Learning Center

1575 Milstead Road Conyers, GA 30012 Rockdale County
(770) 679-4385

Regional Consultant

Jessica Johnson

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Fax:

jessica.johnson@decal.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.
03/11/2026	Complaint Investigation & Licensing Study	Good Standing	
12/16/2025	Monitoring Visit	Good Standing	
07/30/2025	Incident Investigation 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
Building One	A-1st Left	Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds	2	15	C	20	C	NA	NA	Transitioning, Nap
Building One	B-2nd Left	Infants and One Year Olds	12	6	C	8	C	NA	NA	Floor Play, Lunch
Building One	C-3rd Left	One Year Olds	1	8	C	10	C	NA	NA	Nap, Transitioning
Building One	D- Middle Back	Two Year Olds	2	17	C	20	C	NA	NA	Nap
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 86			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0			Building @35 capacity limited by Heath Department Limitations				
Building Two	A-Right Side		0	0	C	28	C	NA	NA	
Building Two	B-Left Side	Four Year Olds	1	16	C	22	C	NA	NA	Transitioning, Nap
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 86			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0			Building @35 capacity limited by Heath Department Limitations				
Total # Children this Date: 62			Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 172			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0				

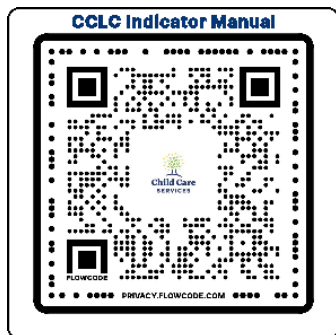
Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
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Enrolled Children						
Under 1 years	1 years	2 years	3 years	4 years	5 years (Prekonly)	5 years and older
3	8	18	16	15	0	20

Comments

On this date, Jessica Johnson (JJ), Consultant, reviewed the visit report with Director MeChelle Carrell Hobbs. The visit report was left open on this date because additional information was required. Upon completion, a copy of the report will be sent to the child care program via email.

Plan of Improvement: Developed This Date



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

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!



Summary Report

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The following information is associated with a Licensing Study Visit:

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)

Technical Assistance

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.12(2) - Please ensure that blue sofas with small tears are removed from the Building Two B-Left Side classroom. Please ensure that the broken cart wheel is removed from Building Two B-Left Side classroom.

Correction Deadline: 3/11/2026

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

Met

Comment

Center does not provide swimming activities.

Facility

591-1-1-.06 Bathrooms

Technical Assistance

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.06(7) - Please ensure that toilet paper is removed from the bathroom floor throughout the day.

Correction Deadline: 3/11/2026

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

Met

Correction Deadline: 12/16/2025

Corrected on 3/11/2026

.19(1) - The previous citation was observed corrected on this date as adequate licensing capacities were observed in each classroom.

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.

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.25(13) - Please ensure that staples are not used throughout the program.

Correction Deadline: 3/11/2026

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 hazards were observed:

Building One A-1st Left

- There was peeling plaster on the bottom of the wall below the alphabet wall in the back.
- A broken floor tile was observed at the exit door to the playground.

Building One D-Middle Back

- There was peeling plaster above the sink in the second restroom.

Building Two A- Right Side

- The sink nozzle was broken in the boys restroom.

Building Two B-Left Side

- The back wall was observed disconnected on the back left side of the classroom.

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: 4/1/2026

Recited on 3/11/2026

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 there was a gap that measured 7 inches on the bottom of the fence that separates the toddler and afterschool playground.

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

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 on the far right side of Playground B:

Toddler playground

- Peeling rubber was observed on the back side of the tree structure.

Afterschool Playground

- Rust was observed on the red merry go round.

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: 3/25/2026

Recited on 3/11/2026

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 2 inches of resilient surfacing was observed under the two pink slides on the afterschool playground when 3 inches was required. It was further determined that 1 inch of resilient surface was observed around the red climbing dome when 3 inches was required.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will add additional resilient surfacing to the fall zones where needed and check daily, adding resilient surfacing as needed to maintain adequate resiliency.

Correction Deadline: 4/1/2026

Finding

591-1-1-.26(9) requires the playground to be kept clean, free from litter and free of hazards, such as but not limited to rocks, exposed tree roots and exposed sharp edges of concrete. It was determined based on observation that the following hazards were observed:

Toddler playground

- Disconnected pieces and rust on the fencing around the playground.
- An active ant pile was observed on the tree.

Afterschool playground

- Two protruding nails were observed on the exit ramp to Building Two B-Left Side.
- Torn turf was observed around the red merry go round.
- A torn black rug was observed near the exit ramp.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will remove any litter and fix or remove hazards from the playground and will routinely monitor the playground and remove litter and hazards.

Correction Deadline: 4/1/2026

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)**Met****Comment**

The Provider currently does not dispense/administer medication.

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

Center does not keep animals on premises.

Finding

591-1-1-.11(2) requires that Personnel not: physically or sexually abuse a child or engage or permit others to engage in sexually overt conduct in the presence of any child enrolled in the Center; inflict corporal/physical punishment upon a child; shake, jerk, pinch or handle a child roughly; verbally abuse or humiliate a child which includes, but is not limited to, the use of threats, profanity or belittling remarks about a child or his family; isolate a child in a dark room, closet or unsupervised area; use mechanical or physical restraints or devices to discipline children; use medication to discipline or control children's behavior without written medical authorization issued by a licensed professional and given with the parent's written consent; restrict unreasonably a child from going to the bathroom; punish toileting accidents; force-feed a child or withhold feeding a child regularly scheduled meals and/or snacks; force or withhold naps; allow children to discipline or humiliate other children; or confine a child for disciplinary purposes to a swing, highchair, infant carrier, walker or jump seat. It was determined based on observation that the Consultant overheard a Staff person tell a member of their family to lay down or they would get a whipping.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will take immediate action to ensure the action/conduct has ceased; train/review appropriate child guidance techniques with center staff; and have a system in place to monitor and identify inappropriate actions.

Correction Deadline: 3/11/2026

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)

Technical Assistance

Comment

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

Comment

The vehicle had an approved fire extinguisher and first aid kit on this date.

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.36(4)(c) - Discussed mounting the fire extinguisher in the vehicle.

Correction Deadline: 3/11/2026

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

Technical Assistance

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)3 - Please ensure to tighten the spenders on the crib sheets so that they are tight.

Correction Deadline: 3/11/2026

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

Met

Comment

Criminal record checks were observed to be complete.

Correction Deadline: 12/16/2025

Corrected on 3/11/2026

.09(1)(c) - The previous citation was observed corrected on this date as all Staff criminal records checks were observed on file and complete.

Correction Deadline: 12/16/2025

Corrected on 3/11/2026

.09(1)(j) - The previous citation was observed corrected on this date as all Staff criminal records checks were observed on file and complete.

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

At least one staff person with current and valid pediatric first aid and pediatric CPR observed in each classroom where children were present.

Correction Deadline: 1/15/2026

Corrected on 3/11/2026

.14(1) - The previous citation was observed corrected as Staff # 18 was observed with a current and valid first aid and CPR certification. Staff # 20 was no longer employed at the program.

591-1-1-.33 Staff Training **Technical Assistance**

Comment

Documentation observed of required staff training.

Correction Deadline: 1/15/2026

Corrected on 3/11/2026

.33(3)(a)-(k) - The previous citation was observed corrected on this date as Staff # 14 was observed with a complete Health and Safety orientation training on file.

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.33(4) - Please ensure 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: 4/10/2026

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) **Met**

Comment

Center observed to maintain appropriate staff:child ratios.

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

Comment

Adequate supervision observed on this date.