



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: 5/11/2026 VisitType: POI Follow Up

Arrival: 12:30 PM Departure: 3:30 PM

CCLC-36694

1st Step Learning Academy L.L.C

3217 New MacLand Road Suite 120 & 130 Powder Springs, GA
30127 Cobb County
(678) 401-2379

Regional Consultant

Kaiyah Werts

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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.
05/11/2026	POI Follow Up	Deficient	
03/26/2026	Complaint Closure	Good Standing	
03/20/2026	Complaint Investigation & Monitoring Visit	Support	

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 2	One room	GA PreK	2	6	C	25	C	NA	NA	Nap
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 25			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0							
Main	B- 2nd Right	Two Year Olds	1	5	C	10	C	NA	NA	Nap
Main	C-1st Left	Three Year Olds	1	6	C	18	C	NA	NA	Nap
Main	D- 2nd Left	One Year Olds	1	4	C	9	C	NA	NA	Nap
Main	Rm. A-1st Right		0	0	C	6	C	NA	NA	
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 43			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0							
Total # Children this Date: 21			Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 68			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0				

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	Playground-Back of Center	29	C

Comments

Consultant discussed the report with a staff member at the center on this date

Plan of Improvement: To Be Submitted 05/26/2026



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@decal.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 POI Follow Up:

Activities and Equipment

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

Not Met

Finding

591-1-1-.12(4) requires that equipment and furniture is secured if it is of a weight or mass that could cause injury from tipping, falling, or being pulled or pushed over. It was determined based on observation the following furniture hazards were observed:

Room B 2nd Right had a red and green plush chair with small rips and exposed mesh.

Correction Deadline: 5/11/2026

Recited on 5/11/2026

Facility

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

Not Met

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 in classrooms and were labeled keep out of reach of children:

Room C 1st Left had baby wipes, labeled keep out of reach of children, accessible to children.

Building 2 had hand sanitizer on a shelf accessible to children.

Correction Deadline: 5/11/2026

Recited on 5/11/2026

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 multiple classrooms had water marks on the ceiling that needed to be repaired.

Correction Deadline: 5/18/2026

Recited on 5/11/2026

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

Correction Deadline: 3/20/2026

Corrected on 5/11/2026

.26(9) - Previous citation observed corrected on this date. Consultant observed the playground had tarp/ turf like material on the ground that was in good and that there were no low hanging electric cords on the playground near Building 2's back door at the time of the visit. .

Health and Hygiene

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

Correction Deadline: 3/20/2026

Corrected on 5/11/2026

.20(4) - Previous citation observed corrected on this date. Consultant observed no medication to be accessible to children at the time of the visit.

Policies and Procedures

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

Correction Deadline: 3/31/2026

Corrected on 5/11/2026

.21(3) - Previous citation observed corrected on this date. Consultant observed completed emergency drills since the last visit.

Safety

591-1-1-.36 Transportation(CR) **Not Met**

Correction Deadline: 3/30/2026

Corrected on 5/11/2026

.36(3)(a-b) - Previous citation observed corrected on this date. Consultant observed, staff responsible for transporting children, the 2-hour training certificate at the time of the visit.

Finding

591-1-1-.36(4)(f)1. requires that all transported children be 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. It was determined based on observation that the center was missing booster seats for the children transported on the center's vehicle.

Correction Deadline: 5/12/2026

Sleeping & Resting Equipment

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

Met

Correction Deadline: 3/20/2026

Corrected on 5/11/2026

.30(1)(a)2 - Previous citation observed corrected on this date. Consultant observed no infant to be enrolled at the time of the visit.

Correction Deadline: 3/20/2026

Corrected on 5/11/2026

.30(1)(a)3 - Previous citation observed corrected on this date. Consultant observed no infant enrolled at the time of the visit.

Staff Records

Records Reviewed: 8

Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 2

Staff # 1

Not Met

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.09-Criminal Records Check Missing,.24(1)-No Record

Staff # 8

Not Met

Date of Hire: 02/17/2026

Reminder - Health & Safety training is required within 90 calendar days of hired

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

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

Finding

591-1-1-.09(1)(k) requires that for portability for 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 or a satisfactory Comprehensive Records Check Determination letter issued by the Department for a Student-in-Training if the individual's Records Check Clearance Date is within the preceding 24 months from the hire date, the Center has verified and maintains evidence on file at the Center that the Student-in-Training is currently enrolled in a high school recognized by the Department of Education or an early education curriculum through an accredited school of higher education, 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 review of records that staff # 1 was present and caring for children with a satisfactory records check that was not ported before their start date.

Correction Deadline: 5/11/2026

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

Not Met

Correction Deadline: 3/31/2026

Corrected on 5/11/2026

.14(1)(a) - Previous citation observed corrected on this date. Staff were observed to have a completed First Aid and CPR certificate.

Correction Deadline: 3/31/2026

Corrected on 5/11/2026

.14(2)(b) - Previous citation observed corrected on this date. Consultant observed staff in each classroom with a completed First Aid and CPR certificate.

Finding

591-1-1-.14(2)(d) requires the Center Director must have current evidence of successful completion of pediatric cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and pediatric first aid at all times. It was determined based on review of records that the Director was missing their First Aid and CPR certificate at the tie of the visit.

Correction Deadline: 5/25/2026

Recited on 5/11/2026

591-1-1-.33 Staff Training	Met
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Correction Deadline: 3/31/2026

Corrected on 5/11/2026

.33(3)(a)-(k) - Previous citation observed corrected on this date. Consultant observed staff to have completed their Health and Safety Orientations.

591-1-1-.31 Staff(CR)	Not Met
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Finding

591-1-1-.31(1)(a) requires the Center to have a Director who is responsible for the supervision, operation and maintenance of the Center. The Director must be on the Center's premises. If the Director is absent from the Center at any time during the hours of the Center's operation, there shall be an officially designated person on the Center site to assume responsibility for the operation of the Center, and this person shall have full access to all records required to be maintained under these rules. It was determined based on observation that center failed to have a designated person present to assume responsibility for the operation of the center at the time of the visit.

Correction Deadline: 5/11/2026

Staffing and Supervision

591-1-1-.32 Staff:Child Ratios and Group Size(CR)	Not Met
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Finding

591-1-1-.32(5) requires that during day-time rest or sleeping periods, at least one Staff person is in each room providing direct supervision of the children and all Staff required by these rules relating to Staff: child ratios are in the Center and available to assure safe evacuation in an emergency. Staff: child ratios may be doubled for children three (3) years and older provided these requirements are met. It was determined based on observation that in classroom C-First Left, there was no staff present in the classroom upon the Consultant's arrival while six 3-year-olds were napping.

Correction Deadline: 5/11/2026

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 classroom D-2nd Left had one staff member present, that covered two classrooms, during nap time. It was further observed that classroom B-2nd Right had a staff present, in the classroom, sleep while the children were napping.

Correction Deadline: 5/11/2026

Recited on 5/11/2026