



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: 1/5/2026

VisitType: Complaint Investigation &
Monitoring Visit

Arrival: 10:10 AM **Departure:** 4:30 PM

CCLC-36981

Childcare Network #4

2805 Hamilton Road Columbus, GA 31904 Muscogee County
(706) 256-2239

Regional Consultant

Penny Svenson

Phone: (470) 346-1037

Fax: (678) 891-5613

penny.svenson@decal.ga.gov

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.
01/05/2026	Complaint Investigation & Monitoring Visit	Good Standing	
01/05/2026	Complaint Closure	Good Standing	
10/28/2025	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-1R	Infants and One Year Olds	2	11	C	12	C	NA	NA	Floor Play, Free Play, Nap
Main	B-2R		0	0	C	16	C	NA	NA	
Main	C-3R	Two Year Olds	2	14	C	18	C	NA	NA	Free Play
Main	D-4R		0	0	C	20	C	NA	NA	
Main	E-5R	Six Year Olds and Over	1	17	C	27	C	38	C	Homework
Main	F-4L		0	0	C	22	C	32	C	
Main	G-3L	Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds	1	15	C	22	C	32	C	Transitioning, Centers
Main	H-2L		0	0	C	15	C	NA	NA	
Main	I-1L		0	0	C	15	C	NA	NA	
			Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 167			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 167				
Total # Children this Date: 57			Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 167			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 167				

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	A-Fr R	18	C
Main	B-Left	46	C
Main	C-Back	19	C
Main	D-Bk Right	38	C

Enrolled Children						
Under 1 years	1 years	2 years	3 years	4 years	5 years (Prekonly)	5 years and older
10	18	21	22	19	3	29

Comments

January 5, 2026--The findings were discussed with the Director on this date.

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.dec.al.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.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-.12 Equipment & Toys(CR)

Not Met

Finding

591-1-1-.12(2) requires that all equipment and furniture be free from hazardous conditions such as, but not limited to, sharp rough edges or toxic paint; and be kept clean. It was determined based on observation that shelves, chairs, and tables were not clean on this date. Also, there was a brown mini sofa in Room E, 5R, that appeared to be dirty and/or stained.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will ensure that equipment and furniture are used by the age-appropriate group of children.

Correction Deadline: 1/5/2026

Finding

591-1-1-.12(6) requires that a variety of age-appropriate toys and play materials be available, stored on low, open shelves accessible to children in each room or assigned area. It was determined based on observation that there were several classrooms that had shelves that were empty or turned around to the wall. Further, there was evidence that toys were not cleaned and sorted as required.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center director will ensure there is a variety of age-appropriate toys and play materials in each room for each age group. that are stored on low, open shelves accessible to children.

Correction Deadline: 2/4/2026

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

Met

Comment

Center does not provide swimming activities.

Evening Care

591-1-1-.32 Staffing/Supervision(CR)

Met

Comment

No evening care hours provided

Facility

Finding

591-1-1-.06(7) requires Center Staff to ensure bathrooms are cleaned daily with a disinfectant. It was determined based on observation that there were two toilets with standing feces and two toilets with black rings present. In addition, there were many toilets with dirt and debris present on the toilet.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will develop and implement a plan to ensure that bathrooms are cleaned and disinfected daily and that this is monitored daily.

Correction Deadline: 1/5/2026

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.

Technical Assistance

The Consultant discussed with the Director to ensure any area rugs present were not bunched up or creased so that a tripping hazard was not posed.

Correction Deadline: 2/4/2026

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 Center as a whole was not kept clean, when crayons, dirt and dust were observed on walls and baseboards throughout the Center. Further, sinks throughout the Center were dirty. Also, floors appeared to be dirty throughout the Center.

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: 1/5/2026

591-1-1-.26 Playgrounds(CR)**Not Met**

Correction Deadline: 9/19/2025

Corrected on 1/5/2026

The previous citation was corrected. There were no gaps observed in the privacy fence on this date.

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 these hazards were posed:

Playground A--equipment with mold and mildew present

Playground B--rust on the steps of the climber and leaves on the surface of the climber and a slipping hazard was posed

Playground C--rust present on the inside of the silver area of the drums

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. The equipment will be pressure washed. The rust will be painted and covered. The drums were removed from the playground while the Consultant was present.

Correction Deadline: 1/15/2026

Technical Assistance

The Consultant discussed with the Director to monitor toys on the playground for dirt, debris, or mold present and to clean or replace as needed.

Correction Deadline: 1/15/2026

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 there were weeds throughout different areas on Playground A. Further, there was a long yellow briar bush behind the play structure next to the privacy fence on Playground B. Also, there were many blue pellets, of an unknown origin, that fell from a tree on Playground C. In addition, there was an old sand table with splintered areas and a broken yellow chair stored on top of the sand table on Playground D.

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. The sand table and chair was removed while the Consultant was present. The pellets will be blown off the playground as needed, The weeds and thorny bush will be cut.

Correction Deadline: 1/9/2026

Recited on 1/5/2026

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

Please ensure soiled items are stored inaccessible to children.

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

Met

Comment

The Provider currently does not dispense/administer medication.

Safety

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

Met

Comment

Age-appropriate discussion and/or redirection observed.

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

Met

Comment

Complete documentation of transportation observed on this date.

Sleeping & Resting Equipment

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

Met

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.

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)

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.

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

Comment

Center observed to maintain appropriate staff:child ratios.

Comment

Adequate supervision observed on this date.

The following information is associated with a Complaint Investigation Visit:

Activities and Equipment

Correction Deadline: 11/4/2025

Corrected on 1/5/2026

The previous citation was associated with a complaint.