



**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:** 3/23/2026 **VisitType:** Complaint Investigation Follow Up **Arrival:** 11:15 AM **Departure:** 2:30 PM

**CCLC-3329**

**The Preschool Academy**

2800 Atlanta Highway Athens, GA 30606 Clarke County  
(706) 353-8183

CCS Coordinator

Margarita Collier

Phone: (770) 342-7934

Fax: (678) 891-5989

margarita.collier@dec.al.ga.gov

**Mailing Address**

Same

**Quality Rated:** ★ ★

| Compliance Zone Designation |                                            |               | <b>Compliance Zone Designation</b> - 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.<br><br><b>Good Standing</b> - Program is demonstrating an acceptable level of performance in meeting the rules.<br><b>Support</b> - Program performance is demonstrating a need for improvement in meeting rules.<br><b>Deficient</b> - Program is not demonstrating an acceptable level of performance in meeting the rules. |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------------------|---------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 03/23/2026                  | Complaint Investigation Follow Up          | Support       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| 01/06/2026                  | Complaint Closure                          | Good Standing |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| 01/06/2026                  | Complaint Investigation & Monitoring Visit | 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                            | 1R           | Infants and One Year Olds          | 1                               | 3        | C    | 25                            | C            | NA         | NA           | Nap,Floor Play,Free Play        |
| Main                            | 2R           | One Year Olds                      | 1                               | 7        | C    | 24                            | C            | NA         | NA           | Circle Time,Story               |
| Main                            | 3R Back      | Two Year Olds                      | 2                               | 10       | C    | 18                            | C            | NA         | NA           | Outside,Diapering,Transitioning |
| Main                            | 3R front     |                                    | 0                               | 0        | C    | 32                            | C            | NA         | NA           | Not In Use                      |
| Main                            | 4R Back      |                                    | 0                               | 0        | C    | 13                            | C            | NA         | NA           | Not In Use                      |
| Main                            | 4R Front     | Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds | 1                               | 10       | C    | 35                            | C            | NA         | NA           | Art,Transitioning ,Outside      |
| Main                            | 5R left side | Four Year Olds                     | 1                               | 9        | C    | 23                            | C            | NA         | NA           | Transitioning,Lu nch,Outside    |
| Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 170 |              |                                    | Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0   |          |      |                               |              |            |              |                                 |
| Total # Children this Date: 39  |              |                                    | Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 170 |          |      | Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0 |              |            |              |                                 |

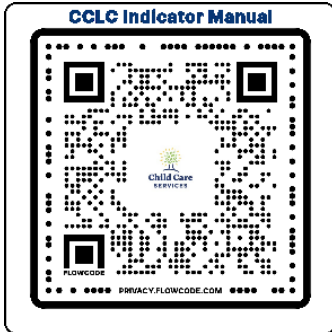
| Building | Playground     | Playground Occupancy | Playground Compliance |
|----------|----------------|----------------------|-----------------------|
| Main     | Playground - A | 44                   | C                     |
| Main     | Playground - B | 152                  | C                     |
| Main     | Playground - C | 8                    | C                     |

### Comments

Discussed the following with the Director during the visit:

- Chop, Look, and Listen Information
- Amendment process

Plan of Improvement: To Be Submitted 04/07/2026



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.dec.state.ga.us/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.state.ga.us/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.

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### 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](http://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.

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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](mailto:qualityrated@dec.al.ga.gov) for more information. Free technical assistance is available!**



Summary Report

Date: 3/23/2026 VisitType: Complaint Investigation Follow Up Arrival: 11:15 AM Departure: 2:30 PM

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The following information is associated with a Complaint Investigation Follow Up:

|                                                   | Facility |
|---------------------------------------------------|----------|
| 591-1-1-.25 Physical Plant - Safe Environment(CR) | Not Met  |
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Correction Deadline: 1/6/2026

Corrected on 3/23/2026

The previous citation was observed to be corrected. The Consultant observed all hazardous items to be inaccessible to the children present for care.

Finding

591-1-1-.25(17) requires that the Center premises be free of plants and shrubs which are poisonous or hazardous. It was determined based on observation that vines were observed growing on the back-right side of the fence located on Playground A. It was further determined based on observation that branches were protruding through the fence located on the back-right side of Playground A. Vines were also observed to be growing the fence located on the back-left side of the fence located on Playground B. The vines and branches were observed to be accessible to children.

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Correction Deadline: 3/23/2026

**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 a 5 inch hole with exposed wiring was observed on the back-right side of classroom 5R Left Side behind the blue cots. It was further determined based on observation that the purple air conditioning vent was not secured to the wall located on the back-right side of the diaper changing table located in classroom 2R.

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**Correction Deadline: 3/27/2026**

**Recited on 3/23/2026**

**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 the top metal pole was not secured to the top of the fence located on the back middle left side of Playground B behind the wooden sliding structure.

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**Correction Deadline: 3/23/2026**

**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 black mats underneath the swings were not flush with the sand, creating a potential tripping hazard located on the front-right side of Playground A. In addition, there was a wooden beam with a protruding screw located across from classroom 3R Back's entrance to Playground B.

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**Correction Deadline: 3/24/2026**

**Recited on 3/23/2026**

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| <b>Health and Hygiene</b> |
|---------------------------|

**Finding**

591-1-1-.10(2) requires Centers first licensed after March 1, 1991, and Centers that renovate existing plumbing facilities, to have a hand washing sink with running heated water located adjacent to the diapering area. Flush sinks shall not be used for hand washing. Cleansing procedures in other facilities shall be approved by the Department. It was determined based on observation that the sink located on the front-right side of classroom 3R Back was inoperable.

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**Correction Deadline: 3/23/2026**

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

Not Met

**Finding**

591-1-1-.17(7) requires that children wash their hands with liquid soap and warm running water upon arrival for care, when moving from one child care group to another, upon re-entering the child care area after outside play, before and after eating meals and snacks, handling or touching food, playing in water; after toileting and diapering, playing in sand, touching animals or pets, and contact with bodily fluids and after contamination by any other means. It was determined based on observation that staff did not wash the children's hands after completing the diapering procedures in classroom 3R Back. The sink located on the front-right side of the classroom was observed to be inoperable.

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**Correction Deadline: 3/23/2026**

**Recited on 3/23/2026**

**Finding**

591-1-1-.17(8) requires staff to wash their hands with liquid soap and warm running water upon arrival for the day, when moving from one child care group to another, upon re-entering the child care area after outside play, before and after diapering each child, dispensing medication, applying topical medications, handling and preparing food, eating, drinking, preparing bottles, feeding each child, assisting children with eating and drinking, after toileting or assisting children with toileting, using tobacco products, handling garbage and organic waste, touching animals or pets, handling bodily fluids and after contamination by any means. It was determined based on observation that Staff did not wash their hands upon completing the diapering procedures in classroom 3R Back. A sink was observed on the front-right side of the classroom; however, the sink was inoperable.

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**Correction Deadline: 3/23/2026**

**Recited on 3/23/2026**

**Correction Deadline: 1/6/2026**

**Corrected on 3/23/2026**

The previous citation was observed to be corrected. No medications were observed to be accessible to the children present for care during the visit.

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| <b>Organization</b> |
|---------------------|

**591-1-1-.16 Governing Body & License**

**Technical Assistance**

**Technical Assistance**

Discussed the amendment process with the Director for the following:

- Classroom 3R Back - Change from a non-diapered classroom to a diapered classroom. Diaper changing table was observed in the classroom, but an operable sink must be made available and the windows must be screened in if mechanical ventilation is not available.

- Classroom 4R Back and Classroom 5R Right Side - The Director is considering changing the classrooms to special use classrooms.

- Playground C - The playground has been removed from the front-left side of the building and moved to the back-right side of the building. The playground was not in use during the visit but is not considered licensed space.

Consultant discussed submitting to amendments regarding change in use of a classroom and capacity increase and decrease via DECAL KOALA.

**Correction Deadline: 3/23/2026**

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| <b>Sleeping &amp; Resting Equipment</b> |
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**591-1-1-.30 Safe Sleeping and Resting Requirements(CR)**

**Met**

**Correction Deadline: 1/6/2026**

**Corrected on 3/23/2026**

The previous citation was observed to be corrected. The cribs were observed to be clean and in good repair. No gaps were observed in the cribs located in classroom 1R.

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| <b>Staffing and Supervision</b> |
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**591-1-1-.32 Supervision(CR)**

**Met**

**Correction Deadline: 1/6/2026**

**Corrected on 3/23/2026**

The previous citation was observed to be corrected. The Consultant observed all Staff to provide direct supervision and attention to the children present for care during the visit.