



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: 5/20/2026 **VisitType:** Monitoring Visit

Arrival: 8:55 AM **Departure:** 10:20 AM

CCLC-52584

Higher Excellence Learning Center Too

4433 Roundfield Road Macon, GA 31210 Bibb County
(478) 259-7647

Regional Consultant

Brandi Mangino

Phone: (478) 599-0169

Fax: Brandi Mangino

brandi.mangino@dec.al.ga.gov

Mailing Address

Same

Quality Rated: No

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.
05/20/2026	Monitoring Visit	Good Standing	
07/22/2025	Complaint Closure	Good Standing	
07/22/2025	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 (Right side only)	A	One Year Olds	1	3	C	12	C	NA	NA	Breakfast
Main (Right side only)	B	Two Year Olds	1	10	C	9	NC	NA	NA	Breakfast
Main (Right side only)	C		0	0	C	12	C	NA	NA	
Main (Right side only)	D	Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds	1	8	C	29	C	NA	NA	Breakfast
Main (Right side only)	E		0	0	C	24	C	NA	NA	
Main (Right side only)	F		0	0	C	24	C	NA	NA	

Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 110

Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0

Total # Children this Date: 21

Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 110

Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main (Right side only)	B	267	C
Main (Right side only)	Playground A	26	C

Enrolled Children						
Under 1 years	1 years	2 years	3 years	4 years	5 years (Prekonly)	5 years and older
1	4	9	4	7	0	12

Comments

The purpose of the visit was to conduct a Monitoring Visit.

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.state.ga.us/CCS/Regulations.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/Regulations.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

Date: 5/20/2026 VisitType: Monitoring Visit

Arrival: 8:55 AM Departure: 10:20 AM

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The following information is associated with a Monitoring Visit:

Activities and Equipment

591-1-1-.03 Activities

Not Met

Finding

591-1-1-.03(2) requires the Center to keep current lesson plans on site that reflect appropriate instruction practices and activities to support children's development. The Center shall have sufficient and varied play and learning equipment and materials to support the above program of activities in all developmental areas. It was determined based on observation that lesson plans throughout were not current.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will keep current lesson plans on site that include appropriate instruction practices and activities and will have sufficient and varied play and learning equipment and materials to support the activities.

Correction Deadline: 5/20/2026

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

Met

Comment

Discussed adding equipment and toys to enhance variety.

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

N/A

Comment

Center does not provide swimming activities.

Children's Records

Records Reviewed: 5

Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 1

Child # 3

Not Met

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.08(1)-Allergies and Disabilities,.08(1)-Parent Names, Work Numbers

591-1-1-.08 Children's Records

Not Met

Technical Assistance

Please ensure that all enrollment applications have parents work information and if the child had any allergies or special conditions.

Correction Deadline: 5/20/2026

Finding

591-1-1-.08(1)(e) requires Center Staff to maintain a file for each child that includes Parental acknowledgment that where the sSchool-age Center does not agree to provide routine meals and/or snacks, as appropriate, for the children, the Parent(s) agree that they shall provide the children with nutritious meals and snacks daily as appropriate. It was determined based on a review of records that two of five records did not have the acknowledgement for meals and snacks completed.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will ensure that parental or guardian acknowledgement regarding meals/snacks is on file.

Correction Deadline: 5/20/2026

	Facility
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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

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 accessible to children in care:

Room B:

baby wipes in the cubbies

Microban and disinfecting wipes on the counter with a child stool right in front to provide reaching

Room D:

hand sanitizer

stapler

clorox wipes, and disinfecting spray in an unlocked desk

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will identify all hazardous items and keep them in a locked area inaccessible to children. The Center will inform all Staff about hazardous items and the safe storage of those items.

Correction Deadline: 5/20/2026

Recited on 5/20/2026

Correction Deadline: 5/30/2025

Corrected on 5/20/2026

.25(3) - Citation corrected.

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

Correction Deadline: 7/22/2025

Corrected on 5/20/2026

.26(9) - Citation observed to be corrected. Please monitor for pinecones.

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

Correction Deadline: 7/22/2025

Corrected on 5/20/2026

.15(2) - Citation corrected.

Finding

591-1-1-.15(2)(f) requires that food for infants or children less than one (1) year of age be cut into pieces one-quarter inch or smaller and food for toddlers shall be cut into pieces one-half inch or smaller to prevent choking. It was determined based on observation that mini pancakes and sliced apples were served to toddlers that exceeded the one-half inch in size. The portions were approximately two inches in size.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will ensure that food for infants and children less than one (1) year of age is cut into pieces one-quarter inch or smaller and food for toddlers is cut into pieces one-half inch or smaller to prevent choking.

Correction Deadline: 5/20/2026

Correction Deadline: 7/22/2025

Corrected on 5/20/2026
.15(7) - Citation corrected.

Health and Hygiene

591-1-1-.10 Diapering Areas & Practices(CR)

Not Met

Finding

591-1-1-.10(4) requires that if diapers are changed on a diaper changing surface, the surface shall be smooth, nonporous, and equipped with a guard or rails to prevent falls. Between each diaper change, the diaper changing surface shall be cleaned with a disinfectant and dried with a single-use disposable towel. It was determined based on observation that the diapering pad in Room A had exposed foam on the side.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will ensure there is a smooth, nonporous changing surface that has a guard or rails for safety in each classroom that houses children wearing diapers. Center Staff will be trained and have adequate supplies to properly clean the diaper changing surface between each diaper change.

Correction Deadline: 5/20/2026

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

Not Met

Correction Deadline: 7/22/2025

Corrected on 5/20/2026
.17(7) - Citation corrected.

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 the staff member in Room B did not wash hands with warm running water after cleaning a nose but used hand sanitizer.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will ensure liquid soap and warm running water are available for handwashing, train Staff on the handwashing requirements, review the requirements with Staff periodically, and monitor handwashing.

Correction Deadline: 5/20/2026

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

N/A

Comment

The Provider currently does not dispense/administer medication.

Policies and Procedures

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

Not Met

Finding

591-1-1-.21(1)(r) requires Center policies and procedures include 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. It was determined based on a review of the parent handbook shaken baby syndrome and abusive head trauma were not added.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will write or revise policies and procedures to include the required description of the Center's practices used to prevent shaken baby syndrome and abusive head trauma in children up to five years or age.

Correction Deadline: 5/25/2026

Finding

591-1-1-.21(3) requires that the Center conduct drills for fire, tornado and other emergency situations. The fire drills will be conducted monthly and tornado and other emergency situation drills will be conducted every six months. The Center shall maintain documentation of the dates and times of these drills for two years. It was determined based on a review of the fire drill form the emergency preparedness plan was not reviewed every six months as required.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will hold the drills as required and keep the documentation of the drills on file for two years.

Correction Deadline: 5/25/2026

591-1-1-.27 Posted Notices**Met****Comment**

Please make sure that all required signs are posted and up to date.

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

Age-appropriate discussion and/or redirection observed.

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

The center bus was not on site for viewing on this date.

Correction Deadline: 5/25/2026

Finding

591-1-1-.36(3)(a-b) requires any Center that provides any type of transportation to obtain two (2) hours of state-approved or state-accepted transportation training, biannually, for the Director and for each person responsible for or who participates in the transportation of children. The training shall include, but is not limited to, a review of the transportation rules, a review of approved transportation forms and procedures, and instruction on the usage and completion of the forms and procedures. This training may be counted as part of the annual training requirements for Staff. It was determined based on a review of records that the two staff members that provide transportation did not have current transportation training.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will ensure that the Director, Center Staff, and any person responsible for the transportation of children has completed the required transportation training.

Correction Deadline: 5/30/2026

Finding

591-1-1-.36(7)(c)3. requires that the driver or other designated person document in writing the date and time of arrival and departure each time the vehicle departs from the Center, is loaded or unloaded at each school and when the vehicle returns to the Center; each time the vehicle departs from the Center, arrives at the location where any child is picked up or dropped off and when the vehicle returns to the Center; each time the vehicle leaves the Center, arrives at a field trip destination, leaves a field trip destination, and returns to the Center. It was determined based on a review of records the date at the bottom of the visit was not listed and the week of transportation provided was not listed.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will ensure that each date and time of arrival and departure is documented by the driver or designated person with training, review and monitoring.

Correction Deadline: 5/21/2026

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

Please ensure that cots within the classrooms are covered to prevent climbing.

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**

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: 6/30/2025**Corrected on 5/20/2026****.14(1) - Citation observed to be corrected.****Correction Deadline: 7/22/2025****Corrected on 5/20/2026****.14(2)(b) - Citation observed to be corrected.****Correction Deadline: 8/21/2025****Corrected on 5/20/2026****.14(2)(d) - Citation observed to be corrected.****591-1-1-.33 Staff Training****Met****Correction Deadline: 6/19/2026****Corrected on 5/20/2026****.33(5)(a) - Citation corrected.****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)**Not Met****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 in Room A and Room B 1-year-old and 2-year-old children were eating and the staff members were not seated within arms length, but were observed to be standing.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will train Staff and monitor to ensure they are providing supervision and watchful oversight to the children at all times.

Correction Deadline: 5/20/2026

