



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: 1/30/2026 **VisitType:** Licensing Study

Arrival: 9:05 AM **Departure:** 6:00 PM

CCLC-65513

Education Elevation Children's Academy

5341 Snapfinger Park Drive Stonecrest, GA 30035 DeKalb County
(770) 680-4730

Regional Consultant

Jessica Johnson

Phone: (770) 357-5090

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.
01/30/2026	Licensing Study	Support	
10/30/2025	Complaint Closure	Good Standing	
10/23/2025	Complaint Investigation Follow Up	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-1L-Infants &1's	Infants	1	3	C	25	C	NA	NA	Floor Play
Main	B-2L-1's & 2's	Two Year Olds	2	15	C	28	C	NA	NA	Breakfast,Story
Main	C-Middle-5 & Up		0	0	C	22	C	30	C	
Main	D-Middle Back-4's & Up		0	0	C	20	C	28	C	
Main	E-3R-4's & Up	Three Year Olds	2	18	C	32	C	44	C	Music
Main	F-2R-4's & Up	Four Year Olds and Six Year Olds and Over	1	21	NC	21	C	29	C	Centers,Transiti oning,Circle Time
Main	G-1R-1 year old	One Year Olds	1	7	C	26	C	37	C	Free Play
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 174					Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 221					
Total # Children this Date: 64					Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 221					

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	Playground A-Left-Infants, 1's & 2's	18	C
Main	Playground B-Back-4's & Up	171	C
Main	Playground C-Right-3's	27	C

Enrolled Children						
Under 1 years	1 years	2 years	3 years	4 years	5 years (Prekonly)	5 years and older
5	13	22	22	12	0	25

Comments

On this date, Jessica Johnson (JJ), Consultant, reviewed the visit report with Director Deandra Marshall. JJ left a CBC video affidavit on this date.

Plan of Improvement: To Be Submitted 02/13/2026

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.decgal.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@decgal.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 Licensing Study:

Activities and Equipment

591-1-1-.03 Activities

Technical Assistance

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.03(2) -Please ensure that current current lesson plans posted.

Correction Deadline: 1/30/2026

Correction Deadline: 10/30/2025

Corrected on 1/30/2026

.03(9) - The previous citation was observed corrected on this date as no hazards were observed. The Consultant discussed Staff intervening in activities that could be detrimental to a child's health or well-being.

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 the following hazards were observed:

A-1L

- Splintered wood was observed on top of the dramatic play stove.

E- 3R

- Small tears were observed in the blue chair in the dramatic play area.

- Chairs were observed stacked on top of the back table in the dramatic play area.

G- 1R

- Splintered wood was observed on top of the dramatic play stove.

- Chairs were observed stacked near the white and gray cabinet near the restroom.

Correction Deadline: 1/30/2026

Recited on 1/30/2026

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

Not Evaluated

Comment

Center does not provide swimming activities.

Children's Records

Records Reviewed: 5

Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 1

Child # 2

Not Met

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.08(1)(a)-Work Number Missing,.08(3)-Name of Release Person Missing

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

Technical Assistance

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.08(1)(b)

- Discussed updating the authorized pick up list for Child # 2. Discussed updating the emergency medical form for Child # 4.

Correction Deadline: 1/30/2026

Facility

591-1-1-.06 Bathrooms

Technical Assistance

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.06(4) - Discussed monitoring the ventilation in the restroom in classroom C-Middle and F-2R.

Correction Deadline: 3/1/2026

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 be mindful to keep items that pose a hazard inaccessible to children.

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.25(11) - Please ensure that rugs are tight and smooth in classroom B-2L.

Correction Deadline: 3/1/2026

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 diaper cream was observed in the unlocked cabinet of the bottom cubby of the cabinet near the cribs accessible to children in care. It was also determined that diaper wipes were observed on the bottom cubby on the left side of classroom B- 2L accessible to children in care. It was further determined based on observation that empty plastic grocery bags were observed in the cubby on the left side of classroom F-2R and empty white trash bags were observed on the circle table on the left side of the entrance door in classroom F-2R.

Correction Deadline: 1/30/2026

Recited on 1/30/2026

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 front panel of the water fountain in classroom C Middle was missing. It was further determined based on observation that the water fountain in front of classroom F-2R was rusted in the front.

Correction Deadline: 2/13/2026

Recited on 1/30/2026

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 a four inch gap was observed at the bottom of the entrance gate of playground A. It was also determined that the fence bolts on the gate at the entrance of playground C were protruding past two threads.

Correction Deadline: 2/20/2026

Recited on 1/30/2026

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 observed:

Playground B-Back

- Rust was observed on three out of four of the tricycles.
- A broken seat was observed on the picnic table on the left side.

Playground C-Right

- Splintering wood was observed on top of the black car.
- Rust was observed on the bucket swing seats.

Correction Deadline: 2/20/2026

Recited on 1/30/2026

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 the following hazards were observed:

Playground A

- One inch of resilient surface was observed around the yellow climbing structure when three inches was required.

Playground B-Back

- Three inches of resilient surface were observed around the gray climbing structure, when six inches were required.
- Five inches of resilient surface were observed around the yellow climbing structure, when six inches were required.
- Four inches of resilient surface were observed around the yellow monkey bar structure, when six inches were required.
- Two inches of resilient surface were observed around the yellow stairs when three inches were required.

Correction Deadline: 2/20/2026

Recited on 1/30/2026

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.26(9) - Please ensure that all broken toys are removed from the playground areas.

Correction Deadline: 1/30/2026

Food Service

591-1-1-.15 Food Service & Nutrition

Technical Assistance

Comment

CACFP Meal Pattern Requirements effective October 1, 2017 will be implemented October 1, 2018: 3 Components for breakfast: Grains, Vegetables, Fruits or both, Milk
5 Components for lunch – Grains, Meat/Meat alternates, Fruits, Vegetable, and Milk OR Grains, Meat/Meat alternates, 2 different types of vegetables, and Milk
2 of 5 Components for snack

Provided Updated CACFP Infant Meal pattern and Child/Adult Meal pattern flyers.

The Crediting Handbook for the CACFP can be located on DECAL and USDA's website:

DECAL

<http://decalfga.gov/CACFP/Handbook.aspx>

USDA

<http://www.fns.usda.gov/cacfp/cacfp-handbooks>

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.15(3) - Please ensure that milk is stored and refrigerated at a temperature of forty (40) degrees Fahrenheit or less.

Correction Deadline: 1/30/2026

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.15(7) - Discussed placing a symbol by the food that has to be modified for children 3-years-old and younger.

Correction Deadline: 1/30/2026

591-1-1-.18 Kitchen Operations

Met

Comment

Kitchen appears clean and well organized on this date.

Health and Hygiene

591-1-1-.07 Children's Health

Not Met

Finding

591-1-1-.07(5) requires Center Staff to not permit children to wear around their necks or attach to their clothing pacifiers or other hazardous items. It was determined based on observation that an infant was observed sleeping in the crib with a bib around their neck in classroom A-1L.

Correction Deadline: 1/30/2026

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

Met

Comment

Staff stated proper knowledge of diapering procedures.

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

Technical Assistance

Comment

Please ensure lids remain on trash containing organic waste.

Comment

Staff were observed to remind children to wash hands on this date.

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.17(2) - Please ensure that children's noses are clean.

Correction Deadline: 1/30/2026

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

Not Evaluated

Comment

The Provider currently does not dispense/administer medication.

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

Not Evaluated

Comment

Center does not keep animals on premises.

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

Met

Comment

Age-appropriate discussion and/or redirection observed.

591-1-1-.13 Field Trips(CR)

Not Evaluated

Comment

Center does not participate in field trips at this time.

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

Met

Comment

Per the Director, the Center does not provide routine transportation as parents contact a third party for transportation.

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

Met

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.

Staff Records**Records Reviewed: 18****Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 6**

Staff # 4

Not Met

Date of Hire: 09/23/2025

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(3)-Health & Safety Certificate

Staff # 5

Not Met

Date of Hire: 10/02/2025

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(3)-Health & Safety Certificate

Staff # 8

Not Met

Date of Hire: 08/06/2024

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(4)-Food Prep Training Missing 4 hrs.

Staff # 9

Not Met

Date of Hire: 10/28/2025

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(3)-Health & Safety Certificate

Staff # 13

Not Met

Date of Hire: 08/07/2024

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training

Staff # 14

Not Met

Date of Hire: 12/02/2024

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training,.33(3)-Health & Safety Certificate

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

Not Met

Finding

591-1-1-.09(1)(j) requires that for portability for Directors, Employees and Provisional Employees, excluding 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 letter or a satisfactory Comprehensive Records Check Determination letter issued by the Department if the Records Check Clearance Date is within the preceding 12 months from the hire date, 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 a review of records that Staff # 6 hired on January 7, 2026, was observed in classroom E-3R and did not have the most recently issued determination letter ported electronically prior to being present at the center.

Correction Deadline: 1/30/2026

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

Met

Correction Deadline: 10/24/2025

Corrected on 1/30/2026

.14(1) - The previous citation was observed corrected as Staff were observed with the CPR certification.

591-1-1-.33 Staff Training

Not Met

Finding

591-1-1-.33(3)(a)-(k) requires each Staff member with direct care responsibilities to complete health and safety orientation training within the first 90 days of employment. The state-approved training hours obtained will count toward required first year training hours. The training must address the following health and safety topics: a) prevention and control of infectious diseases (including immunizations); b) prevention of sudden infant death syndrome and use of safe sleeping practices; c) administration of medication, consistent with standards for parental consent; d) prevention of and response to emergencies due to food and allergic reactions; e) building and physical premises safety, including identification of and protection from hazards that can cause bodily injury such as electrical hazards, bodies of water, and vehicular traffic; f) prevention of shaken baby syndrome, abusive head trauma and child maltreatment; g) emergency preparedness and response planning for emergencies resulting from a natural disaster or a human-caused event (such as violence at a child care facility); h) handling and storage of hazardous materials and the appropriate disposal of bio contaminants; i) precautions in transporting children; j) recognition and reporting of child abuse and neglect; and k) child development to include all major domains: cognitive; social and emotional; physical development and motor skills; communication, language, and literacy; and approaches to play and learning. It was determined based on a review of records that Staff #4 hired on September 23, 2025, Staff #5 hired on October 2, 2025, Staff #9 hired on October 28, 2025, and Staff # 14 hired on December 2, 2024, did not complete health and safety orientation training within the first 90 days of employment

Correction Deadline: 3/1/2026

Finding

591-1-1-.33(4) requires 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. It was determined based on a review of records that Staff # 8 hired on August 6, 2024, did not complete the 4 clock hours of training in food nutrition planning, preparation, serving, proper dish washing and food storage as of this date.

Correction Deadline: 3/1/2026

Finding

591-1-1-.33(5)(a) requires that every calendar year after the first year of employment, all supervisory and caregiver Personnel, except independent contractors, Students-in-Training and volunteers, shall attend ten (10) clock hours of diverse training which is offered by an accredited college, university or vocational program or other Department-approved source. It was determined based on a review of records that Staff # 14 hired on December 2, 2024, did not complete the 10 hours of annual training for the 2025 calendar year.

Correction Deadline: 12/31/2026

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.33(5)(b)1. - Please ensure that 2 hours of developmentally appropriate language and literacy practices are completed yearly.

Correction Deadline: 3/1/2026

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)**Not Met****Finding**

591-1-1-.32(2) requires the Center maintain Staff:child ratios in mixed-age groups based on the age of the youngest group of children that includes more than twenty percent of the total number of children in the mixed-age group. It was determined based on observation that a ratio of 1:21 was observed in classroom F-2R, consisting of 10 4-year-old children and 11 6 and up children, when a ratio of 2:18 was required.

Correction Deadline: 1/30/2026

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

Adequate supervision observed on this date.

Correction Deadline: 10/23/2025

Corrected on 1/30/2026

.32(7) - The previous citation was corrected on this date as adequate supervision was observed.