



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: 2/2/2026

VisitType: Licensing Study

Arrival: 2:15 PM Departure: 4:45 PM

CCLC-2045

McCullough's Creative Child Care

612 Clifton Road, S.E. Atlanta, GA 30316 DeKalb County
(404) 624-1019

Regional Consultant

Jessica Johnson

Phone: (770) 357-5090

Fax:

jessica.johnson@dec.al.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.
02/02/2026	Licensing Study	Support	
09/17/2025	Monitoring Visit	Good Standing	
01/29/2025	Licensing Study	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		0	0	C	9	C	12	C	
Main	B	Three Year Olds	1	2	C	19	C	NA	NA	Nap
Main	C		0	0	C	13	C	19	C	
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 41			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 50							
Total # Children this Date: 2			Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 41							
			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 50							

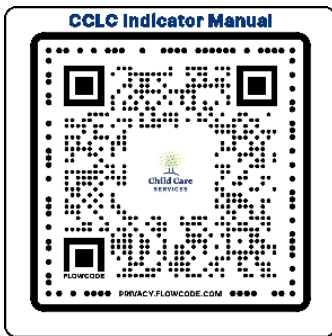
Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	Playground	88	C

Enrolled Children						
Under 1 years	1 years	2 years	3 years	4 years	5 years (Prekonly)	5 years and older
0	0	4	4	10	9	0

Comments

On this date, Jessica Johnson (JJ), Consultant, reviewed the visit report with Director Arlesia McCullough. A 1-day letter and CBC video affidavit was left with the program.

Plan of Improvement: To Be Submitted 02/16/2026



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.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

You have received permission to operate and the form received with this report is intended to serve as a temporary license which is **valid for thirty(30) days**. Your actual license/ will be emailed to you upon receipt of the licensing fee. You may pay the licensing fee either online at <http://www.dec.al.ga.gov/> or by certified check or money order mailed to: Bright from the Start, 2 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive SE, Suite 670 East Tower, Atlanta, GA 30334

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 Licensing Study:

Activities and Equipment

591-1-1-.03 Activities

Met

Comment

Lesson Plans were observed to be posted and reflected the current weeks activities in each classroom.

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

Met

Comment

Equipment and furniture observed to be properly secured, as applicable.

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

Met

Comment

Center does not provide swimming activities.

Children's Records

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

Technical Assistance

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.08(1) - Discussed updating the children's records on this date. Per the Consultants observation, the Center had a flood over the weekend and the children's files were observed damaged. The Consultant was unable to review children files on this date.

Correction Deadline: 2/2/2026

Facility

591-1-1-.06 Bathrooms

Met

Comment

Bathrooms observed to be clean and well maintained.

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)

Technical Assistance

Comment

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

Correction Deadline: 2/6/2026

.25(12) - The previous citation was observed corrected on this date as the air conditioner unit was observed unconnected and unplugged. Per the Director, the air conditioner was not in use as the central air system had been repaired.

Corrected on 2/2/2026

Technical Assistance

Correction Deadline: 2/2/2026

Technical Assistance

Correction Deadline: 2/2/2026

Not Met

Finding

- 1 inch of resilient surface was observed around the blue climbing dome, when 3 inches were required.

- 1 inch of resilient surface was observed around the swings, monkey bar, and green slide that were connected to the wooden play structure when 6 inches were required.

- 2 inches of resilient surface were observed around the red swings when 6 inches were required.

- 2 inches of resilient surface were observed around the silver slide, when 6 inches were required.

Correction Deadline: 3/2/2026

Recited on 2/2/2026

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 a discarded door and wooden panels with protruding nails were observed near the silver slide on the playground.

Correction Deadline: 2/3/2026

Recited on 2/2/2026

Health and Hygiene

Met

Hand washing requirements for diapering were discussed with the director on this date.

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.17(7) - Discussed reminding children to wash their hands with liquid soap and warm running water upon arrival for care.

Correction Deadline: 2/2/2026

Not Evaluated

The Provider currently does not dispense/administer medication.

Safety

Met

Center does not keep animals on premises.

Met

Age-appropriate discussion and/or redirection observed.

Met

Center does not participate in field trips at this time.

Not Met

A current/completed inspection was observed for all vehicles used in transporting children this date.

The vehicle had an approved fire extinguisher and first aid kit on this date.

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 car seats in the vehicle were not in accordance with current state and federal laws and regulations as required.

Correction Deadline: 2/3/2026

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.36(7)(b) - Discussed with the Director updating the transportation agreements and the vehicle emergency medical form prior to completing the next routine pick up. Upon the Consultants observation the files were damaged in a flood in the program on this date.

Correction Deadline: 2/3/2026

Sleeping & Resting Equipment

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

Met

Comment

Per the Director, no infants were enrolled in the program.

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: 4

Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 2

Staff # 1

Not Met

Date of Hire: 09/23/2024

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training

Staff # 4

Not Met

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.09-Criminal Records Check Missing

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

Not Met

Finding

591-1-1-.09(1)(a) requires that a Center ensure that every actual and potential Director, Employee and Provisional Employee of a Child Care Learning Center submit both a Records Check Application to the Department and Fingerprints to an authorized fingerprinting site. It was determined based on a review of records that Staff # 6 did not submit both a Records Check Application to the Department and Fingerprints to an authorized fingerprinting site prior to being present at the site.

Correction Deadline: 2/2/2026

Recited on 2/2/2026

Finding

591-1-1-.09(1)(c) requires the Center to ensure that every Employee has a valid and current satisfactory Comprehensive Records Check Determination on file prior to being present at the Center while any child is present for care or before an individual age 17 or older resides in the Center. The Comprehensive Records Check Determination must have a Records Check Clearance Date that is no older than the preceding 12 months of the hire date; provided, however, if the Employee has had a lapse of employment from the child care industry that lasted for 180 days (6 months) or longer, a new satisfactory Comprehensive Records Check Determination is required. It was determined based on a review of records that Staff #6 did not have a valid and current satisfactory Comprehensive Records Check Determination on file prior to being present at the Center while children were present for care on this date.

Correction Deadline: 2/2/2026

Recited on 2/2/2026

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.

Comment

Complete first aid kits observed in center and on vehicles on this date.

591-1-1-.33 Staff Training

Not Met

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 # 1 hired on September 1, 1992 and Staff # 2 hired on September 23, 2024 did not complete the 10 clock hours of diverse training for the 2025 calendar year as required.

Correction Deadline: 12/31/2026

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.33(5)(b)1. - Discussed that 2 hours of evidence based, developmentally appropriate language and literacy practices are required each year.

Correction Deadline: 3/4/2026

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)**Met****Comment**

Center observed to maintain appropriate staff:child ratios.

Correction Deadline: 9/17/2025**Corrected on 2/2/2026**

.32(4) - The previous citation was observed corrected on this date as the Staff:child ratio was observed as adequate.

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

591-1-1-.32(7) - Discussed 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.

Correction Deadline: 2/2/2026