



**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:** 10/17/2023 **VisitType:** Licensing Study

**Arrival:** 7:45 AM

**Departure:** 12:00 PM

**CCLC-28751**

**Stepping Stones Early Development Center**

305 West White Road Byron, GA 31008 Peach County  
 (478) 956-2510 stepstones956@hotmail.com

**Regional Consultant**

Brandi Mangino

Phone: (478) 314-9726

Fax: (478) 599-0169

brandi.mangino@dec.al.ga.gov

**Mailing Address**  
 Same

**Quality Rated:** ★ ★

| <b>Compliance Zone Designation</b> |                                        |               | <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. |
|------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|---------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 10/17/2023                         | Licensing Study                        | Good Standing |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| 03/28/2023                         | Incident Investigation Closure         | Good Standing |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| 03/28/2023                         | Incident Investigation/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    | Infants and One Year Olds          | 2     | 3        | C    | 17         | C            | NA         | NA           | Breakfast                     |
| Main     | B    | Infants                            | 2     | 6        | C    | 14         | C            | NA         | NA           | Floor Play, Nap               |
| Main     | C    | One Year Olds                      | 2     | 9        | C    | 14         | C            | NA         | NA           | Breakfast                     |
| Main     | D    | One Year Olds                      | 1     | 3        | C    | 13         | C            | NA         | NA           | Free Play                     |
| Main     | E    | One Year Olds                      | 1     | 6        | C    | 12         | C            | NA         | NA           | Transitioning, Breakfast      |
| Main     | F    | Two Year Olds                      | 1     | 4        | C    | 15         | C            | NA         | NA           | Transitioning                 |
| Main     | G    | Two Year Olds                      | 1     | 8        | C    | 15         | C            | NA         | NA           | Centers                       |
| Main     | H    | Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds | 1     | 10       | C    | 17         | C            | NA         | NA           | Centers                       |
| Main     | I    | Two Year Olds and Three Year Olds  | 1     | 11       | C    | 17         | C            | NA         | NA           | Centers                       |
| Main     | J    | Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds | 1     | 14       | C    | 20         | C            | 28         | C            | Transitioning, Circle Time    |
| Main     | K    | GA PreK                            | 2     | 18       | C    | 26         | C            | 36         | C            | Centers                       |
| Main     | L    | Four Year Olds and Five Year Olds  | 2     | 9        | C    | 25         | C            | 35         | C            | Centers                       |
| Main     | M    | Two Year Olds                      | 1     | 7        | C    | 13         | C            | NA         | NA           | Breakfast, Story, Circle Time |
| Main     | N    | Three Year Olds                    | 1     | 7        | C    | 10         | C            | NA         | NA           | Centers                       |

|                                 |  |  |                                 |  |  |
|---------------------------------|--|--|---------------------------------|--|--|
| Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 260 |  |  | Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 301 |  |  |
| Total # Children this Date: 122 |  |  | Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 301 |  |  |

| Building | Playground   | Playground Occupancy | Playground Compliance |
|----------|--------------|----------------------|-----------------------|
| Main     | Playground E | 58                   | C                     |
| Main     | Playground A | 12                   | C                     |
| Main     | playground B | 44                   | C                     |
| Main     | playground C | 50                   | C                     |
| Main     | playground D | 50                   | C                     |

#### Comments

Plan developed on this date.

Plan of Improvement: Developed This Date 10/17/2023

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](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.

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!**

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Katey Ray, Program Official

Date

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Brandi Mangino, Regional Consultant

Date



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(Findings Report)

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The following information is associated with a Licensing Study:

Activities and Equipment

591-1-1-.03 Activities

Met

Correction Deadline: 3/28/2023

Corrected on 10/17/2023  
.03(2) - Citation corrected.

Correction Deadline: 3/28/2023

Corrected on 10/17/2023  
.03(8) - Citation corrected.

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

Met

Comment

A variety of equipment and toys were observed throughout the center.

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

Not Evaluated

Comment

Center does not provide swimming activities.

Facility

591-1-1-.06 Bathrooms

Technical Assistance

Technical Assistance

Consultant discussed having the restroom vents checked to ensure they are in working order.

Correction Deadline: 11/16/2023

591-1-1-.19 License Capacity(CR)

Met

Comment

Licensed capacity observed to be routinely met by center.

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**591-1-1-.25 Physical Plant - Safe Environment(CR)****Met****Correction Deadline: 4/11/2023****Corrected on 10/17/2023****.25(3) - Citation observed to be corrected.**

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**591-1-1-.26 Playgrounds(CR)****Technical Assistance****Technical Assistance**

Consultant discussed the right side playground has some trash items that need to be picked up.

**Correction Deadline: 10/17/2023**

|                     |
|---------------------|
| <b>Food Service</b> |
|---------------------|

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**591-1-1-.15 Food Service & Nutrition****Technical Assistance****Technical Assistance**

Consultant discussed that infant feeding plans must include parents initials and be filled out in all areas.

Consultant discussed to ensure that bottle are labeled and not just the area in the refrigerator.

**Correction Deadline: 10/17/2023**

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**591-1-1-.18 Kitchen Operations****Not Met****Finding**

591-1-1-.18(8) requires that containers of food be stored above the floor on clean surfaces protected from splash and other contamination. Containers for food storage other than the original container or package in which the food was obtained shall be impervious and non-absorbent, have tight-fitting lids or covers and labeled as to contents. It was determined based on observation that frozen items were not in the original packages and not labeled as to their contents.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

The Center will designate an appropriate area for the storage of containers of food, will make available containers, lids, and covers, and will train Staff on proper storage and labeling.

**Correction Deadline: 10/17/2023**

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

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

Staff state proper knowledge of diapering procedures.

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**591-1-1-.17 Hygiene(CR)****Not Met****Comment**

Please ensure lids remain on trash containing organic waste.

**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 a child in Room C was not required to wash hand upon arrival.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

The Center will train Staff on required handwashing for children and Staff will ensure children's hands are washed when required. The Director will monitor for compliance.

**Correction Deadline: 10/17/2023**

**Recited on 10/17/2023**

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

**Comment**

Documentation for medication dispensing observed complete.

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**Safety**

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

**Comment**

Age-appropriate discussion and/or redirection observed.

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

**Comment**

Field trip documentation observed to be complete.

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

**Comment**

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

**Comment**

Paperwork, checklist, permission forms, annual inspection form and proper check of the vehicle after transportation were discussed with the director.

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**Sleeping & Resting Equipment**

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**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.

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**Staff Records**

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

**Comment**

Criminal record checks were observed to be complete.

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**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.

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**Staffing and Supervision**

**Comment**

Center observed to maintain appropriate staff:child ratios.

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**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 staff membes in Room C, G and M were not seated within arms lenght as the children were eating breakfast.

**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: 10/17/2023**