**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:** 9/2/2026 **VisitType:** Licensing Study **Arrival:** 11:30 AM **Departure:** 3:30 PM

**CCLC-35847**
**Bright Beginnings Learning Academy**
2982 Flat Shoals Rd. Decatur, GA 30034 DeKalb County
(404) 254-3475

Regional Consultant
Jessica Johnson
Phone: (470) 618-9283
Fax:
jessica.johnson@decal.ga.gov

**Mailing Address**
Same

Quality Rated: ★ ★

| Compliance Zone Designation | | |
|---|---|---|
| 09/02/2026 | Licensing Study | Good Standing |
| 04/28/2026 | Monitoring Visit | Good Standing |
| 10/29/2025 | Licensing Study | Good Standing |

**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.

**Ratios/License Capacity**

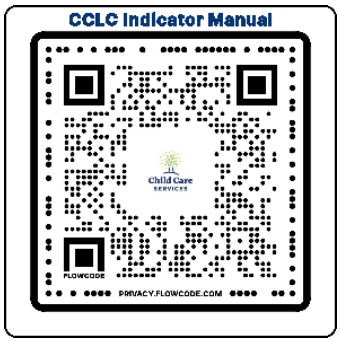
| Building | Room | Age Group | Staff | Children | NC/C | Max 35 SF. | 35 SF. Comp. | Max 25 SF. | 25 SF. Comp. | Notes |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Building 2 | A | | 0 | 0 | C | 18 | C | NA | NA | Not In Use |
| | | Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 18 | | | Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 82 | | | | | |
| Main | A/Front | Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds | 1 | 7 | C | 13 | C | NA | NA | Transitioning,Nap |
| Main | B/Front Right | Two Year Olds | 1 | 8 | C | 9 | C | NA | NA | Nap |
| Main | C/Left | Infants and One Year Olds | 1 | 3 | C | 11 | C | NA | NA | Nap,Transitionin g |
| Main | D/Lower | GA PreK | 2 | 8 | C | 31 | C | 43 | C | Lunch,Transition ing |
| | | Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 64 | | | Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 82 | | | | | |
| Total # Children this Date: 26 | | Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 82 | | | Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 82 | | | | | |

| Building | Playground | Playground Occupancy | Playground Compliance |
|---|---|---|---|
| Main | A/Concrete | 49 | C |
| Main | B | 196 | C |

| Enrolled Children | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Infant (0-12 months)** | **Toddler (1-2 yrs)** | **Preschool (3-5yrs/full time care)** | **School Age (before/after care only)** | **GA PreK only** | **Summer Only** |
| 2 | 16 | 22 | 23 | 12 | 0 |

**Comments**
On this date, Jessica Johnson (JJ), Consultant, reviewed the visit report with Director Latrawne Ellis.

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.decal.ga.gov/CCS/RulesAndRegulations.aspx.




For additional information regarding the full compliance inspection results of this program or any licensed program in the state, access the Child Care Services Compliance-at-a Glance website by scanning this QR code or visiting: https://families.decal.ga.gov.

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.decal.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.

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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 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@decal.ga.gov for more information. Free technical assistance is available!**

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**Summary Report**

**Date:** 9/2/2026 **VisitType:** Licensing Study **Arrival:** 11:30 AM **Departure:** 3:30 PM

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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**
A variety of equipment and toys were observed throughout the center on this date.

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

**Comment**
Center does not provide swimming activities.

## 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.

**Technical Assistance**
591-1-1-.25(13) - Discussed removing all unused staples in the wall in classroom C/Left.

**Correction Deadline: 9/2/2026**

**Technical Assistance**
591-1-1-.25(3) - Discussed with the Director tightening the screws on the top portion of the restroom doors in classroom A/Front. Discussed monitoring the ceiling in classroom C/Left.

**Correction Deadline: 9/2/2026**

**591-1-1-.26 Playgrounds(CR)** **Not Met**

**Technical Assistance**
591-1-1-.26(4) - Discussed covering the protruding bolts on the entrance fence to playground B.

**Correction Deadline: 9/2/2026**

**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 a review of records that the following hazards were observed on the playground:

Playground B
- Splintering wood was observed on the large playground equipment on the right side of the playground.
- Rust was observed on the center of the red merry go round.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**
The Center will provide a variety of age-appropriate equipment that is arranged so as not to obstruct supervision of children. Staff will check the equipment daily to ensure that the equipment is free of hazards, rust and splinters.

**Correction Deadline: 9/16/2026**

**Recited on 9/2/2026**

**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 1 inch of resilient surfacing was observed around the double yellow slide on the back left side of playground B when 3 inches was required. It was further determined that the 1 inch of resilient surfacing was observed around the green slide when 3 inches was required.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**
The Center will add additional resilient surfacing to the fall zones where needed and check daily, adding resilient surfacing as needed to maintain adequate resiliency.

**Correction Deadline: 9/16/2026**

**Recited on 9/2/2026**

## Food Service

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

**Technical Assistance**
591-1-1-.15(3) - Please ensure that baby bottles and formula are labeled with the individual child's name.

**Correction Deadline: 9/2/2026**

**591-1-1-.18 Kitchen Operations** **Met**

**Comment**
Kitchen appears clean and well organized on this date.

## Health and Hygiene

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

**Comment**
Staff stated proper knowledge of diapering procedures.

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

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

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

**Comment**
The Provider currently does not dispense/administer medication.

## Safety

**591-1-1-.05 Animals** **Met**

**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)** **Met**

**Comment**
Center does not participate in field trips at this time.

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

**Technical Assistance**
591-1-1-.36(4)(b) - Discussed removing any items that were not mounted from vehicle tag # RTA1404.

**Correction Deadline: 9/3/2026**

**Finding**
591-1-1-.36(4)(b) requires that the interior of a transportation vehicle be clean, in safe repair and free of hazardous items, objects and/or other non-essential items which could cause injury. It was determined based on observation that exposed foam was observed on the back right seat in vehicle tag # RTA1404. It was further determined that rust was observed on the seat belt buckles on vehicle tag # RTA1404.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**
The center will maintain that all transportation vehicles are clean, in safe repair, and free from hazards.

**Correction Deadline: 9/10/2026**

**Finding**
591-1-1-.36(7)(d)2. requires that the second designated Staff person conduct a check of the vehicle immediately upon the completion of the first check of the vehicle. The responsible person shall physically walk through the entire vehicle; visually inspect all seat surfaces, under all seats and in all compartments or recesses in the vehicle's interior; and sign the passenger transportation checklist(s), indicating all of the children have exited the vehicle. There shall be continuous watchful oversight of the vehicle between the first check and second check. It was determined based on a review of records that there was no evidence that a second check of the vehicle was conducted after the PM route to McNair School to BBLA on August 28, 2026. It was also determined based on a review of records that there was no evidence that a second check of the vehicle was conducted after the PM route BBLA to Columbia School on August 21, 2026.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**
The Center will train Staff who are or may be involved in transporting children in how to thoroughly inspect a vehicle and properly complete transportation documentation. The Center will review and monitor.

**Correction Deadline: 9/2/2026**

## 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

**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**
Evidence observed of 100% of center Staff certified in First Aid and CPR containing emergency care for infants and children on this date.

**591-1-1-.31 Staff(CR)** **Met**

**Comment**
Staff observed to be compliant with applicable laws and regulations.

## 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)** **Met**

**Comment**
Adequate supervision observed on this date.