



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: 3/24/2026 VisitType: Licensing Study

Arrival: 11:45 AM Departure: 2:00 PM

CCLC-48298

First Beginning Day Care

1411 Parker Street Americus, GA 31709 Sumter County  
(229) 380-4927

Regional Consultant

Charlene Story

Phone: (770) 405-7942

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charlene.story@dec.al.ga.gov

Mailing Address

1411 Parker Street  
Americus, GA 31719

Quality Rated: ★ ★

| Compliance Zone Designation |                  |               | <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. |
|-----------------------------|------------------|---------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 03/24/2026                  | Licensing Study  | Good Standing |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| 08/27/2025                  | Monitoring Visit | Good Standing |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| 01/08/2025                  | 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                           | Room A - Infants   | Infants and One Year Olds and Two Year Olds and Three Year Olds | 2                             | 14       | NC   | 6          | NC           | NA         | NA           | Nap   |
| Main                           | Room B- Toddlers   |                                                                 | 0                             | 0        | C    | 15         | C            | NA         | NA           |       |
| Main                           | Room C - 3 & Older |                                                                 | 0                             | 0        | C    | 16         | C            | NA         | NA           |       |
| Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 37 |                    |                                                                 | Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0 |          |      |            |              |            |              |       |
| Total # Children this Date: 14 |                    |                                                                 | Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0 |          |      |            |              |            |              |       |

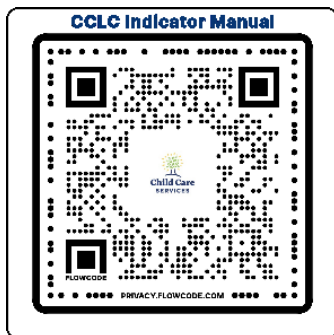
| Building | Playground   | Playground Occupancy | Playground Compliance |
|----------|--------------|----------------------|-----------------------|
| Main     | Playground A | 25                   | C                     |

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

Comments

Children's files, staff records, emergency drills and other required items were available for the consultant to review.

An exit conference discussing the licensing study report was conducted with the Director on this date. An email with the licensing study report was sent to the Director for signature on 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](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.

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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@dec.al.ga.gov](mailto: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

Technical Assistance

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.03(1) - Consultant discussed with the Provider to ensure current lesson plans are posted in all classrooms.

Correction Deadline: 3/24/2026

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

Met

Comment

Equipment and furniture observed to be properly secured on this date.

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

Met

Comment

Parent agreements observed obtained/completed.

Comment

Parent authorizations obtained/completed.

Comment

Records were observed to be complete and well organized.

Facility

591-1-1-.06 Bathrooms

Technical Assistance

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.06(7) - Consultant discussed with the Provider to ensure bathrooms are cleaned and disinfected daily.

Correction Deadline: 3/24/2026

**Finding**

591-1-1-.19(1) requires a Center to provide 35 square feet of usable space per child, which will determine the Center's License capacity. It was determined based on observation that Classroom A had a total of 14 children present when the classroom has a license capacity of six (6).

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

The Center will limit the number of children in this space to the licensed capacity.

**Correction Deadline: 3/24/2026**

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**591-1-1-.25 Physical Plant - Safe Environment(CR)****Not Met****Finding**

591-1-1-.25(11) requires that floor coverings be tight, smooth, free of odors and washable or cleanable. It was determined based on observation that the flooring in the first bathroom in Classroom C when you enter the classroom, was not tight. The linoleum was rolled up and not attached to the wall with the baseboard around the toilet.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

Floors will be maintained to be safe and sanitary.

**Correction Deadline: 4/23/2026**

**Technical Assistance**

591-1-1-.25(13) - Consultant discussed with the Provider to ensure there are no hazards accessible to the children.

**Correction Deadline: 3/24/2026**

**Technical Assistance**

591-1-1-.25(3) - Consultant discussed with the Provider to ensure lights bulbs are replaced regularly.

**Correction Deadline: 3/24/2026**

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**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 the bolts around the back gate and the fencing around the gate measured more than two (2) thread lengths.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

The Center will routinely check the fence to determine if it is in good repair and remains at least 4 feet high, and will repair any hazards. The Center will train Staff to identify and report any fence hazards and to keep the fence gates closed when not in use.

**Correction Deadline: 4/7/2026**

**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 resilient surface located around the tall climbing equipment and slide located in the left rear corner of the playground, measured less than one (1) inch and not the six (6) inches that is required by the department.

**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: 4/3/2026**

**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 the following playground hazards:

- \* Several small active ant beds located throughout the playground and one large active ant bed located around the flat wood with the potting soil sitting on top, at the back of the building near the tricycles.
- \* A blue water hose located at the back of the building.
- \* Exposed tree roots to the left of the playground near the tall climbing equipment and slide.
- \* Thorny vine growing beside the right fence between the pvc pipe and the fencing,
- \* Thorny vine growing between the pvc piping around the large climbing equipment, slide, and the back fence.
- \* Vines and weeds growing through the fence on all sides.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

The Center will remove any litter and fix or remove hazards from the playground and will routinely monitor the playground and remove litter and hazards.

**Correction Deadline: 3/24/2026**

**Food Service****591-1-1-.15 Food Service & Nutrition****Met****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://decals.ga.gov/CACFP/Handbook.aspx>

USDA

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

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

Please ensure that all food items are stored in airtight containers.

**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**

Proper hand washing of children and staff was discussed with the director and staff on this date.

**591-1-1-.20 Medications(CR)****N/A****Comment**

The Provider currently does not dispense/administer medication.

**Policies and Procedures****591-1-1-.27 Posted Notices****Met****Comment**

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

**591-1-1-.29 Required Reporting****Met****Comment**

Thank you for reporting as required.

**591-1-1-.05 Animals****N/A****Comment**

Center does not keep animals on premises.

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

The center's discipline policy was reviewed on this date. Regulations regarding proper discipline were discussed with the director on this date.

**591-1-1-.13 Field Trips(CR)****N/A****Comment**

Center does not participate in field trips at this time.

**591-1-1-.36 Transportation(CR)****N/A****Comment**

Center does not provide routine transportation.

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

Discussed SIDS and infant sleeping position.

**Comment**

Pleasant naptime environment observed.

**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-.09 Criminal Records Check(CR)****Met****Comment**

Criminal records checks were observed to be complete.

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

Evidence observed of more than 50% of center Staff certified in First Aid and CPR.

**Comment**

Please replace or add missing or expired items in first aid kit.

**591-1-1-.33 Staff Training****Not Met****Comment**

Documentation observed of required staff training.

**Finding**

591-1-1-.33(5)(b)1. requires the annual ten (10) clock hours of training shall include at least two (2) hours in evidence based, developmentally appropriate language and literacy practices. It was determined based on review of records that Staff Members #1, #2, #3, and #4 did complete the two hours of developmentally appropriate language and literacy practices for the year 2025. In addition, Staff Member #5 and #6 had completed one (1) hour of language and literacy practices and not two (2) for the year 2025.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

The Center will plan and schedule the required 10 hours of annual training each year to include a least two (2) hours in evidence based, developmentally appropriate language and literacy practices and follow up to ensure the training is completed.

Correction Deadline: 4/23/2026

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

**Met**

**Comment**

Staff observed to be compliant with applicable laws and regulations.

|                                 |
|---------------------------------|
| <b>Staffing and Supervision</b> |
|---------------------------------|

**591-1-1-.32 Staff:Child Ratios and Group Size(CR)**

**Not Met**

**Finding**

591-1-1-.32(4) requires that children under three years old be housed in separate physical areas from older children and cannot be mixed with older children except at specified times and circumstances. It was determined based on observation that an infant child and four (4) 1-year-old children were grouped with 3-year-old children during naptime, outside of the first and last hour of the day.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

The Center will maintain separation of these children under three years old.

Correction Deadline: 3/24/2026

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

**Met**

**Comment**

Adequate supervision observed on this date.