



**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:** 2/17/2025 **VisitType:** Licensing Study

**Arrival:** 11:50 AM **Departure:** 4:45 PM

**CCLC-1093**

**Creekstone Academy**

475 South Deshon Rd. Lithonia, GA 30058 DeKalb County  
(770) 879-9700 creekstoneacademy3@gmail.com

Special Investigations Unit Lead

Tasha McDonald

Phone: (770) 344-3353

Fax: (678) 891-5601

tasha.mcdonald@decal.ga.gov

Joint with: Brittany Cook

**Mailing Address**

Same

**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. |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------------------|---------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 02/17/2025                  | Licensing Study                            | Good Standing |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| 12/05/2024                  | Complaint Closure                          | Good Standing |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| 12/05/2024                  | Complaint Investigation & Monitoring Visit | 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-1st Left            | Infants and One Year Olds | 1     | 5        | C    | 17         | C            | NA         | NA           | Nap,Feeding,Diapering   |
| Main     | B-2nd Left            | One Year Olds             | 1     | 6        | C    | 15         | C            | NA         | NA           | Diapering,Free Play,Nap |
| Main     | C-3rd Left 150        |                           | 0     | 0        | C    | 15         | C            | NA         | NA           |                         |
| Main     | D- 1st Right 200      | Two Year Olds             | 1     | 9        | C    | 23         | C            | NA         | NA           | Nap                     |
| Main     | E-2nd Right 250       |                           | 0     | 0        | C    | 22         | C            | NA         | NA           |                         |
| Main     | F-3rd Right 300       |                           | 0     | 0        | C    | 22         | C            | NA         | NA           |                         |
| Main     | G-4th Right 350       | Three Year Olds           | 1     | 14       | C    | 22         | C            | NA         | NA           | Nap                     |
| Main     | H-5th Right(Rear) 400 |                           | 0     | 0        | C    | 23         | C            | NA         | NA           |                         |
| Main     | I-Center Rear 500     |                           | 0     | 0        | C    | 30         | C            | NA         | NA           |                         |
| Main     | J-Left Rear- GYM      | Six Year Olds and Over    | 1     | 12       | C    | 28         | C            | NA         | NA           | Outside,Free Play       |
| Main     | K-Center- Cafeteria   |                           | 0     | 0        | C    | 23         | C            | 32         | C            |                         |
| Main     | L- Bldg II 1st Rt     |                           | 0     | 0        | C    | 16         | C            | 22         | C            |                         |
| Main     | M- 2nd Rt- 1st Grade  |                           | 0     | 0        | C    | 16         | C            | 23         | C            |                         |
| Main     | N- 1st Left-1st Grade |                           | 0     | 0        | C    | 16         | C            | 22         | C            |                         |
| Main     | O- 2nd Left           |                           | 0     | 0        | C    | 16         | C            | 23         | C            |                         |
| Main     | P - 1st Left Drake    |                           | 0     | 0        | C    | 12         | C            | NA         | NA           |                         |
| Main     | Q - next to gym       |                           | 0     | 0        | C    | 17         | C            | NA         | NA           |                         |

Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 333

Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 368

---

Total # Children this Date: 46

Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 333

Total Capacity @25 sq.  
ft.: 368

| Building | Playground | Playground<br>Occupancy | Playground<br>Compliance |
|----------|------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|
|----------|------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|

| Enrolled Children |         |         |         |         |                    |                   |
|-------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|--------------------|-------------------|
| Under 1 years     | 1 years | 2 years | 3 years | 4 years | 5 years (Prekonly) | 5 years and older |
| 6                 | 11      | 18      | 15      | 43      | 10                 | 65                |

**Comments**

The purpose of today's visit was to conduct a Licensing Study

Plan of Improvement: Developed This Date

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!**



**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

**(Findings Report)**

**Date:** 2/17/2025 **VisitType:** Licensing Study

**Arrival:** 11:50 AM **Departure:** 4:45 PM

**CCLC-1093**

**Creekstone Academy**

475 South Deshon Rd. Lithonia, GA 30058 DeKalb County  
(770) 879-9700 creekstoneacademy3@gmail.com

Special Investigations Unit Lead

Tasha McDonald

Phone: (770) 344-3353

Fax: (678) 891-5601

tasha.mcdonald@dec.al.ga.gov

Joint with: Brittany Cook

**Mailing Address**

Same

The following information is associated with a LS:

**Activities and Equipment**

**591-1-1-.03 Activities**

**Not Met**

**Finding**

591-1-1-.03(6) requires Center Staff to ensure children less than three years of age do not spend more than one-half hour of time consecutively in confining equipment, such as swings, highchairs, jump seats, carriers or walkers. Children shall use such equipment only when they are awake. Such children shall be allowed time to play on the floor daily. Infants shall have supervised tummy time on the floor daily when they are awake. It was determined based on observation that two infants were observed in highchairs for over thirty minutes. Additionally, one infant was observed in a bouncer for over thirty minutes on this date.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

The Center will train Staff to use confining equipment appropriately, to provide supervised floor play daily for children under three years of age, including infants, and will monitor regularly.

**Correction Deadline: 2/17/2025**

**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)**

**Met**

**Comment**

Center does not provide swimming activities.

**Facility**

**591-1-1-.06 Bathrooms**

**Not Met**

**Finding**

591-1-1-.06(4) requires a Center first licensed after March 1, 1991, and Centers that remodel or add to existing plumbing facilities, to have the bathroom area fully enclosed and ventilated to the outside of the building with either an open screened window or functioning exhaust fan and duct system and requires Centers without fully enclosed bathrooms to ensure there is adequate ventilation to control odors and adequate sanitation measures to prevent the spread of contagious diseases. It was determined based on observation that the bathroom in classroom D 1st Right 200 and both restrooms in classroom G 4th right 350 did not have a working vent.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

The Center will fully enclose and ventilate bathroom areas, as required, and will provide adequate ventilation and sanitation in bathrooms that are not fully enclosed.

**Correction Deadline: 3/19/2025**

---

**591-1-1-.19 License Capacity(CR)****Met****Comment**

Licensed capacity observed to be routinely met by center.

---

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

591-1-1-.25(8) requires protective caps on all unused electrical outlets within children's reach and requires that electrical outlets in use be made inaccessible to children. It was determined based on observation that eight electrical outlets, not in use, did not have protective caps and were within reach of children in classroom J Left rear Gym on this date.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

The Center will train Staff to check outlets and replace protective caps when needed and identify and monitor how outlets in use are inaccessible to children.

**Correction Deadline: 2/17/2025**

---

**591-1-1-.26 Playgrounds(CR)****Not Met****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 there were several large tree limbs on the turf area of the back center playground, where 11 children were actively playing.

**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: 2/17/2025**

**Prior Visits: 07/18/2023, 02/15/2023**

---

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

---

---

**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 in classroom D 1st right 200 a two-year old child was observed sleeping with a pacifier connected to a strap attached to their clothing on this date.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

The Center will instruct Staff regarding this safety requirement.

**Correction Deadline: 2/17/2025**

---

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

Proper diapering procedures observed.

---

**591-1-1-.17 Hygiene(CR)****Not Met****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's hands were not washed after diapering in classroom B 2nd left.

**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: 2/17/2025**

**Finding**

591-1-1-.17(8) requires staff to wash their hands with liquid soap and warm running water upon arrival for the day, when moving from one child care group to another, upon re-entering the child care area after outside play, before and after diapering each child, dispensing medication, applying topical medications, handling and preparing food, eating, drinking, preparing bottles, feeding each child, assisting children with eating and drinking, after toileting or assisting children with toileting, using tobacco products, handling garbage and organic waste, touching animals or pets, handling bodily fluids and after contamination by any means. It was determined based on observation that a staff person did not wash their hands after diapering a child in classroom B 2nd left.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

The Center will ensure liquid soap and warm running water are available for handwashing, train Staff on the handwashing requirements, review the requirements with Staff periodically, and monitor handwashing.

**Correction Deadline: 2/17/2025**

---

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

**Met**

**Comment**

The Provider currently does not dispense/administer medication.

**Safety**

---

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

**Met**

**Comment**

Staff were observed to maintain a positive learning environment on this date.

---

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

**Not Met**

**Finding**

591-1-1-.36(4)(a) requires an annual safety check for each vehicle. The annual safety check, completed by a trained individual, should include a check of the: tires, headlights, horn, taillights, turn signals, brake lights, brakes, suspension, exhaust system, steering, windows, windshields and windshield wipers. A copy of the annual safety check will be kept in the Center or on the vehicle and should include evidence of any repairs and/or replacements that were identified as needed on the inspection report. It was determined based on a review of records that one vehicle with VIN # ending in 6865 did not have a current annual vehicle inspection.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

The Center will obtain the annual vehicle inspection.

**Correction Deadline: 2/22/2025**

**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 the three seats were torn exposing foam in the vehicle with tag number RJR4809.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

The center will maintain that all transportation vehicles are clean, in safe repair, and free from hazards.

**Correction Deadline: 2/18/2025**

**Sleeping & Resting Equipment**

---

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

**Not Met**

**Finding**

591-1-1-.30(1)(a)3 requires that each crib shall have only an individual, tight-fitting sheet which is changed daily or more often as needed and prior to a change of occupant. It was determined based on observations that one of fourteen cribs were observed to have crib sheets that were not tight-fitting in classroom A 1st left.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

The center will ensure that each crib has an individual, tight-fitting sheet which is changed daily or more often as needed and prior to a change of occupant.

**Correction Deadline: 2/17/2025**

**Finding**

591-1-1-.30(2) requires the Center to provide a safe sleep environment in accordance with American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) and American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) recommendations as listed in these rules for all infants. Center Staff shall place an infant to sleep on the infant's back in a crib unless the Center has been provided a physician's written statement authorizing another sleep position for that particular infant that includes how the infant shall be placed to sleep and a time frame that the instructions are to be followed. When an infant can easily turn over from back to front and back again, Staff shall continue to put the infant to sleep initially on the infant's back but allow the infant to roll over into his or her preferred position and not re-position the infant. Sleepers, sleep sacks and wearable blankets that fit according to the commercial manufacturer's guidelines and will not slide up around the infant's face may be used when necessary for the comfort of the sleeping infant. Swaddling shall not be used unless the Center has been provided a physician's written statement authorizing its use for a particular infant that includes instructions and a time frame for swaddling the infant. Center Staff shall not place objects or allow objects to be placed in or on the crib with an infant such as but not limited to toys, pillows, quilts, comforters, bumper pads, sheepskins, stuffed toys, or other soft items and shall not attach objects or allow objects to be attached to a crib with a sleeping infant, such as, but not limited to, crib gyms, toys, mirrors and mobiles. It was determined based on observation that safe sleep rules were not met in classroom A 1st left when a three month old child was observed sleeping in a crib on their stomach. Additionally, the teacher placed a five month old child in a crib on their stomach after removing them from sleeping in a bouncer seat.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

The Center will take all steps necessary to provide a safe sleep environment for infants as listed in these rules; will train Staff to follow these rules; and will monitor for compliance.

**Correction Deadline: 2/17/2025**

**Finding**

591-1-1-.30(2)(c) requires that infants shall not sleep in equipment other than safety-approved cribs, such as, but not limited to, a car safety seat, bouncy seat, highchair, or swing. Infants who arrive at the Center asleep or fall asleep in such equipment, on the floor or elsewhere, shall be transferred to a safety-approved crib. It was determined based on observation that an infant was observed sleeping in a bouncer in classroom A 1st left for over thirty minutes. Additionally, two one year olds were observed sleeping in highchairs for over thirty minutes in classroom B 2nd left on this date.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

The Center will only place infants in safe cribs to sleep and will transfer them to a safe crib when the infants are asleep in other equipment.

**Correction Deadline: 2/17/2025**

**Prior Visits: 10/12/2022**

**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-.31 Staff(CR)**

**Not Met**

**Finding**

591-1-1-.31(13) prohibits Center Staff from committing any criminal act, as defined under Georgia law, in the presence of any child enrolled in the Center and requires Center staff to comply with all applicable laws and regulations. It was determined based on observation that there was an expired tag on vehicle VIN # ending in 6865 on this date.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

The Center will ensure that all Staff comply with all applicable laws and regulations.

**Correction Deadline: 2/17/2025**

**Staffing and Supervision**

**Comment**

Center observed to maintain appropriate staff:child ratios.

---

**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 a child left out of classroom J- Left Rear- Gym and walked into the K- Center- cafeteria unattended. Additionally, two children left the K- center cafeteria and entered classroom J- Left Rear-Gym unattended. It was further observed that six children in classroom B- 2nd Left were allowed to eat snack without a staff member sitting within arm's length away.

**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: 2/17/2025**