



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

Investigation Report

Date: 7/20/2026 VisitType: Self-Reported Investigation

CCLC-33581
Smarties Childcare, LLC
465 Clairemont Avenue Decatur, GA 30030 DeKalb County
(770) 630-1921 anna.kelly@smartiesacademy.com

Special Investigations Unit Lead
Tasha McDonald
Phone: (470) 346-1409
Fax:
tasha.mcdonald@decal.ga.gov

Mailing Address
Same

Quality Rated: No

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.
07/20/2026	Incident Investigation Closure	Good Standing	
06/25/2026	Incident Investigation & Follow Up	Good Standing	
02/18/2026	Monitoring Visit	Good Standing	

Comments

06-25-2026: The investigation remains open pending additional information. Upon completion, the findings will be reviewed with the childcare program, and a final copy of the report will be sent.

The investigation was closed on this date. The findings were reviewed with the Director, Anna Kelly

Advisement of Potential for Repeated Rule Violations during Pending Investigations

This report shall serve as official notice of potential rule violations. These potential rule violations have been detailed in this report and discussed with you by the consultant. The department shall conduct a thorough investigation to determine if in fact the alleged rule violation(s) should or should not be substantiated. Please be aware that the investigation may take some time to be finalized to ensure fairness and accuracy. During this investigation period, any violations of an identical rule or rules will require the department to treat any and all substantiated rule violations identified in the investigation as repeated rule violation(s).

Further, from time to time the department discovers additional rule violations during the course of an investigation. If there are new rule violation(s), your consultant shall inform you of the violation(s) as soon as possible. However, as stated above, any violations of identical rule(s) will require the department to treat any and all additional rule violations identified in the investigation as repeated rule violations.

All rule violations found in relation to a complaint or incident investigation will be associated with the date the investigation was closed.



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.

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)

I have read and understand the Rules and Regulations for Child Care Learning Centers, 591-1-1. I acknowledge that the items noted in this report have been discussed with me and I have agreed to a Plan of Improvement (POI) as indicated in this report. I understand that correction of these deficiencies, while required, will not necessarily prevent DECAL from taking adverse action against this facility. I understand that if I disagree with any of the deficiencies cited, I have the right to refute them on this report or any other form that I choose to send to Child Care Services.



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Summary Report

Date: 7/20/2026 **VisitType:** Self-Reported Investigation

Arrival: 11:55 AM **Departure:** 2:00 PM

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The following information is associated with a Self-Reported Investigation:

Food Service

591-1-1-.15 Food Service & Nutrition

Not Met

Finding Associated with Complaint

591-1-1-.15(9) requires that a written statement be on file from a medical authority when a child requires a modified diet for medical reasons and from the child's Parent(s) when a child requires a modified diet for religious reasons. All caregiver Personnel shall be informed of the diet restriction for the child and only food that complies with the prescribed dietary regimen but still meets the food and nutrition requirements shall be served to the child. It was determined, based on the investigation, that on June 4, 2026, at approximately 3:27 p.m., in Classroom Up 2 - 2nd Lt a 1-year-old child was mistakenly given another child's formula instead of their own bottle due to staff failing to ensure that each child received the correct bottle. As a result, the child received a milk-based formula rather than their prescribed hypoallergenic formula and subsequently suffered a severe allergic reaction.

Correction Deadline: 7/20/2026

Staffing and Supervision

Finding Associated with Complaint

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, on June 4, 2026, at approximately 3:10 a.m., staff in Classroom Up 2 - 2nd Lt were not seated within arm's length of children 36 months of age and younger during afternoon snack time. The staff member was observed walking away from children who were drinking their bottles while sitting in bouncy chairs. As a result, a 1-year-old child was served another child's bottle, which contained a milk-based formula rather than their prescribed hypoallergenic formula.

Correction Deadline: 7/20/2026