



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: 4/1/2025 **VisitType:** Licensing Study

Arrival: 10:10 AM **Departure:** 1:30 PM

CCLC-53079

First Step Learning Academy

1213 North Liberty Street Waynesboro, GA 30830 Burke County
(706) 535-4251 patriciapressley81@gmail.com

Regional Consultant

Rebecca Owsley

Phone: (229) 238-2130

Fax:

rebecca.owsley@decal.ga.gov

Mailing Address

Same

Quality Rated: ★ ★

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.
04/01/2025	Licensing Study	Good Standing	
02/21/2025	Incident Investigation & Follow Up	Good Standing	
08/12/2024	MV POI Follow Up	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- (1L) 1's & 2's	Infants and Two Year Olds	1	4	C	12	C	NA	NA	Diapering, Free Play, Nap, Feeding
Main	B- (2L) 4wks- 18 mths		0	0	C	6	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
Main	C-(2R) 3 yrs	Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds	2	8	C	14	C	NA	NA	Story, Circle Time, Clean Up, Transitioning
Main	D- (1R) 4 yr-12yrs		0	0	C	19	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
			Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 51			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0				
Total # Children this Date: 12			Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 51			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0				

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	Playground A - 4 wks - 12 years	44	C

Enrolled Children						
Under 1 years	1 years	2 years	3 years	4 years	5 years (Prekonly)	5 years and older
2	2	3	4	5	4	14

Comments

An in person licensing study was conducted on this date.

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.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)

Important Quality Rated/CAPS Update:

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 CAPS/ QR Provisional Status, allowing for scholarships while working toward an initial star rating. Provisional Status eligibility will be determined at the time of CAPS enrollment as part of the CAPS application process.

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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(Findings Report)

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The following information is associated with a Licensing Study:

Activities and Equipment

Records Reviewed: 8

Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 3

Staff # 5

Not Met

Date of Hire: 11/06/2020

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training

Staff # 7

Not Met

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training

Staff # 8

Not Met

Date of Hire: 05/23/2024

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training

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)

N/A

Comment

Staff stated the Center does not provide swimming activities.

Evening Care

Records Reviewed: 8

Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 3

Staff # 5

Not Met

Date of Hire: 11/06/2020

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training

Records Reviewed: 8**Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 3**

Staff # 7 Not Met

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training

Staff # 8 Not Met

Date of Hire: 05/23/2024

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training

591-1-1-.32 Staffing/Supervision(CR)**N/A****Comment**

No evening care hours provided

Facility

Records Reviewed: 8**Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 3**

Staff # 5 Not Met

Date of Hire: 11/06/2020

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training

Staff # 7 Not Met

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training

Staff # 8 Not Met

Date of Hire: 05/23/2024

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training

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****Technical Assistance**

591-1-1-.25(13) - Please ensure the toilet brush in the right bathroom for the Main C- (2R) is not accessible to children.

Correction Deadline: 4/1/2025**Finding**

591-1-1-.25(3) requires the Center and surrounding premises to be kept clean, free of debris and in good repair. It was determined based on observation that there were two exposed toilet screws located on the sides of the left toilet in the right bathroom for the Main C-(2R) classroom.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will have the screws cut down or covered with caps.

Correction Deadline: 4/1/2025

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

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.26(9) - Please ensure standing water is removed before children return to play outside.

Correction Deadline: 4/1/2025**Health and Hygiene****Records Reviewed: 8****Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 3**

Staff # 5

Not Met

Date of Hire: 11/06/2020

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training

Staff # 7

Not Met

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training

Staff # 8

Not Met

Date of Hire: 05/23/2024

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training

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

Proper diapering procedures observed.

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

Proper hand washing observed throughout the center.

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

Staff stated the Center currently does not dispense/administer medication.

Safety**Records Reviewed: 8****Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 3**

Staff # 5

Not Met

Date of Hire: 11/06/2020

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training

Staff # 7

Not Met

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training

Staff # 8

Not Met

Date of Hire: 05/23/2024

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training

591-1-1-.05 Animals

N/A

Comment

Staff stated the Center does not keep animals on premises.

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

Met

Comment

Age-appropriate discussion and/or redirection observed.

Comment

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

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

Met

Comment

Field trip documentation observed to be complete.

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

N/A

Comment

Staff stated the Center does not provide routine transportation.

Sleeping & Resting Equipment**Records Reviewed: 8****Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 3**

Staff # 5

Not Met

Date of Hire: 11/06/2020

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training

Staff # 7

Not Met

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training

Staff # 8

Not Met

Date of Hire: 05/23/2024

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training

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**Records Reviewed: 8****Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 3**

Staff # 5

Not Met

Date of Hire: 11/06/2020

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training

Staff # 7

Not Met

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training

Staff # 8

Not Met

Date of Hire: 05/23/2024

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training

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

Criminal record checks were observed to be complete.

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

91-1-1-.33(5) requires that every calendar year after the first year of employment, all supervisory and caregiver Personnel, except independent contractors, Students-in-Training and volunteers shall attend ten (10) clock hours of diverse training which is task-focused in on-going health, safety and early childhood or child development related topics and which is offered by an accredited college, university or vocational program or other Department-approved source. The annual ten (10) clock hours of training shall be chosen from the following fields: child development, including discipline, guidance, nutrition, injury control and safety; health, including sanitation, disease control, cleanliness, detection and disposition of illness; child abuse and neglect, including identification and reporting, and meeting the needs of abused and/or neglected children; and business related topics, including parental communication, recordkeeping, etc.; provided however that such business related training shall be limited to no more than two (2) of the required ten (10) clock hours of training. Records of completion of such training shall be maintained, as required by these rules. It was determined based on a review of records that Staff #5, Staff #7, and Staff #8 did not complete ten (10) hours of diverse training in 2024 as required.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will plan and schedule the required 10 hours of annual training each year and follow up to ensure the training is completed.

Correction Deadline: 12/31/2025**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 and a Professional Learning Plan be completed for their file

Staffing and Supervision

Staff # 5

Not Met

Date of Hire: 11/06/2020

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training

Staff # 7

Not Met

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training

Staff # 8

Not Met

Date of Hire: 05/23/2024

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training

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.