



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: 8/7/2025 **VisitType:** Monitoring Visit

Arrival: 9:55 AM **Departure:** 12:45 PM

CCLC-52649
The Garden Early Learning Academy, LLC
1229 Salem Gate Drive Conyers, GA 30013 Rockdale County
(770) 285-6939 awalker@thegardenkids.com

SysAdmin
Chrissy Miller
Phone: (770) 408-5457
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chrissy.miller@decal.ga.gov
Joint with: Ronald Logan

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.
08/07/2025	Monitoring Visit	Good Standing	
02/26/2025	Licensing Study	Good Standing	
12/20/2024	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- 6wks - 35 mnths	One Year Olds and Two Year Olds	1	4	C	15	C	NA	NA	Free Play,Diapering
Main	D- 3-12 yrs	Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds	1	4	C	18	C	NA	NA	Free Play
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 25			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0			Building @35 capacity limited by Insufficient Toilets/Sinks				
Total # Children this Date: 8			Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 25			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0				

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	Playground - 6wks- 12 yrs	47	C

Enrolled Children						
Under 1 years	1 years	2 years	3 years	4 years	5 years (Prekonly)	5 years and older
0	1	4	2	5	0	0

Comments

This is the first regulatory visit of the fiscal year.

Per the Director, the center does not currently dispense medication, provide routine transportation, or field trips.

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:

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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(Findings Report)

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The following information is associated with a MV:

Activities and Equipment

591-1-1.12 Equipment & Toys(CR)

Met

Comment

Equipment and furniture observed to be properly secured, as applicable.

591-1-1.35 Swimming Pools & Water-related Activities(CR)

Met

Comment

Swimming rules discussed.

Facility

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)

Met

Comment

The Center appeared clean and well maintained on this date.

591-1-1.26 Playgrounds(CR)

Not Met

Technical Assistance

591-1-1.26(4) - Discussed with Director about ensuring there are no gaps in the fence to ensure that no entrapment hazards are accessible to the children. Discussed adding a foam filler to the gate entrance when children are present on the playground to ensure that the gap created from the fencing door is closed does not pose a hazard to the children. There were no children present on the playground.

Correction Deadline: 8/7/2025

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 consultants observation, that the green carpet on the left side of the playground was ripped, posing a potential tripping hazard; A ring of mushrooms was observed in the center of the playground; The right shed was observed to be unlocked, containing lawn equipment

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.

Health and Hygiene

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 on this date.

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) Met

Comment

Center does not provide routine transportation.

Sleeping & Resting Equipment

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

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. Discussed ensuring that any staff who's CRC determination that is expired must have a new CRC determination that is satisfactory issued by the department prior to being present on the premises.

591-1-1-.14 First Aid & CPR(CR) Not Met

Finding

591-1-1-.14(2)(b) requires that there must always be one staff person present in each classroom where children are present that has current and valid pediatric cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and pediatric first aid training. It was determined based on the consultant's view of the records that staff member 1 and staff member 2 did not have valid CPR certification on file, due to certification expiring on July 24, 2025

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Director will schedule and/or position caregiver Staff throughout the Center to ensure at least one currently pediatric CPR and First Aid trained Staff person is present in each classroom where children are present.

Correction Deadline: 8/8/2025

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

Comment

Staff observed to be compliant with applicable laws and regulations.

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**

Center observed to maintain appropriate staff:child ratios.