



**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:** 5/15/2024 **VisitType:** Licensing Study

**Arrival:** 12:25 PM **Departure:** 3:00 PM

**CCLC-11080**

**First Steps At Elberton**

1638 Washington Highway Elberton, GA 30635 Elbert County  
(706) 283-4820 tony\_mills@att.net

Regional Consultant

Ashley Richards

Phone: (229) 584-1482

Fax:

ashley.richards@decal.ga.gov

**Mailing Address**

Same

**Quality Rated:** ★ ★

| <u>Compliance Zone Designation</u> |                  |               | <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. |
|------------------------------------|------------------|---------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 05/15/2024                         | Licensing Study  | Good Standing |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| 06/07/2023                         | Licensing Study  | Good Standing |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| 04/11/2022                         | 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-1L   | One Year Olds and Two Year Olds    | 2                              | 16       | C    | 15                            | NC           | NA         | NA           | Nap   |
| Main                           | B-1R   | Infants and One Year Olds          | 1                              | 6        | C    | 6                             | C            | NA         | NA           | Nap   |
| Main                           | C-2R   | Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds | 1                              | 14       | C    | 14                            | C            | NA         | NA           | Nap   |
| Main                           | D-back |                                    | 0                              | 0        | C    | 15                            | C            | NA         | NA           |       |
|                                |        |                                    | Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 50 |          |      | Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0 |              |            |              |       |
| Total # Children this Date: 36 |        |                                    | Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 50 |          |      | Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0 |              |            |              |       |

| Building | Playground | Playground Occupancy | Playground Compliance |
|----------|------------|----------------------|-----------------------|
| Main     | Playground | 115                  | C                     |

**Comments**

The purpose of this visit was to conduct a Licensing Study.

Plan of Improvement: Developed This Date 05/15/2024

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 user id 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!**



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**(Findings Report)**

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The following information is associated with a Licensing Study:

**Activities and Equipment**

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

**Met**

**Comment**

A variety of equipment and toys were observed throughout the center.

**Comment**

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

**591-1-1-.35 Swimming Pools & Water-related Activities(CR)**

**N/A**

**Comment**

Center does not provide swimming activities.

**Facility**

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

**Not Met**

**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 16 children were observed in classroom A-1L, which was licensed for 15 on this date.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

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

**Correction Deadline: 5/15/2024**

**591-1-1-.25 Physical Plant - Safe Environment(CR)**

**Technical Assistance**

**Technical Assistance**

591-1-1-.25 - Please be mindful to keep items such as plastic grocery bags inaccessible to children.

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

**Technical Assistance**

**Comment**

Discussed maintenance of resilient surface. Please fluff and redistribute.

**Correction Deadline: 6/7/2023**

**Corrected on 5/15/2024**

**.26(4) - Correction of previous citation in that the playground fencing on Main Playground was in good repair on this date.**

**Technical Assistance**

591-1-1-.26(6) - The Consultant and the Director discussed capping or cutting down the exposed bolts on top of the red trike-go-round.

**Correction Deadline: 5/25/2024**

**Technical Assistance**

591-1-1-.26(7) - The Consultant and the Director discussed replacing two of the four missing anchor ties on the xylophone play equipment on Main Playground.

**Correction Deadline: 5/25/2024**

**Technical Assistance**

591-1-1-.26(9) - The Consultant and the Director discussed touching up the spray paint on the two small pieces of exposed concrete located on the front right section of Main Playground.

**Correction Deadline: 5/15/2024**

**Food Service****591-1-1-.15 Food Service & Nutrition****Technical Assistance****Technical Assistance**

591-1-1-.15(2) - Please ensure that Infant Feeding Plans are updated with parent signatures periodically.

**Correction Deadline: 5/15/2024**

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

Staff state proper knowledge of diapering procedures.

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

Proper hand washing observed throughout the center.

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

The Provider currently does not dispense/administer medication.

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

Center does not keep animals on premises.

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

Age-appropriate discussion and/or redirection observed.

**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)****Met****Comment**

A current/completed annual inspection was observed for all vehicles used in transporting children this date.

**Comment**

The vehicle had an approved fire extinguisher and first aid kit on this date.

**Correction Deadline: 6/8/2023**

Corrected on 5/15/2024

.36(4)(f)1. - Correction of previous citation in that all seat safety belts on vehicle CHM8705 latched properly on this date.

## Sleeping & Resting Equipment

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

Met

#### Comment

Discussed SIDS and infant sleeping position.

#### 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.

**Correction Deadline: 6/7/2023**

Corrected on 5/15/2024

.30(2)(c) - Correction of previous citation in that Infants who were sleeping were located in safety-approved cribs on their backs 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-.14 First Aid & CPR

Not Met

#### Finding

591-1-1-.14(2) requires a Staff member who is trained in CPR and first aid to be on the premises and on any field trip whenever any child is present. In addition, Staff who provide direct care to children must satisfactorily obtain certification in first aid and CPR by December 29, 2016 if employed prior to September 30, 2016 and within 90 days of their hire date if employed after September 30, 2016. It was determined based on review of records that Staff #1, #2, #3, #4, #5, #6, and #7 had expired CPR and First Aid training.

#### POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will develop a schedule to ensure there is always a staff person with current first aid and CPR training present and will develop and implement a plan to ensure all staff members have satisfactorily completed first aid and CPR training by the specified date.

**Correction Deadline: 5/31/2024**

Recited on 5/15/2024

### 591-1-1-.33 Staff Training

Met

**Correction Deadline: 12/31/2023**

Corrected on 5/15/2024

.33(5) - Correction of previous citation in that all Staff members had ten hours of diverse annual training complete for 2023.

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

Met

#### Comment

Staff observed to be compliant with applicable laws and regulations.

## Staffing and Supervision

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

Met

#### Comment

Center observed to maintain appropriate staff:child ratios.

Correction Deadline: 6/7/2023

Corrected on 5/15/2024

.32(7) - Correction of previous citation in that adequate supervision was maintained on this date.