



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: 3/19/2026 VisitType: Monitoring Visit

Arrival: 12:35 PM Departure: 5:00 PM

CCLC-117

Phoenix School

415 E. Lake Dr. Decatur, GA 30030 DeKalb County
(404) 687-9010

Regional Consultant

Maryn Accord

Phone: (404) 591-6031

Fax:

maryn.accord@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.
03/19/2026	Monitoring Visit	Good Standing	
09/11/2025	Licensing Study	Good Standing	
07/08/2025	Incident Investigation Closure	Good Standing	
			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.

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- front	Infants and One Year Olds	2	8	C	8	C	NA	NA	Floor Play
Main	Afterschool		0	0	C	11	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
Main	B - 2nd right	Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds	1	16	C	16	C	NA	NA	Nap
Main	C - 3rd right	Three Year Olds	2	11	C	13	C	NA	NA	Nap
Main	D - 4th right	One Year Olds and Two Year Olds	2	11	C	11	C	NA	NA	Nap
Main	E - Pre-K	GA PreK	1	18	C	18	C	NA	NA	Nap

Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 77

Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0

Total # Children this Date: 64

Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 77

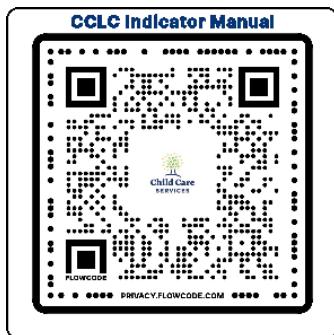
Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	A	31	C
Main	B	26	C

Enrolled Children						
Under 1 years	1 years	2 years	3 years	4 years	5 years (Prekonly)	5 years and older
5	6	10	20	19	8	0

Comments

Newly hired Staff Records were reviewed and Core Rules were evaluated



For additional information regarding any licensing topics discussed during this visit, please consult the Rules and Regulations Indicator Manual. This manual provides comprehensive clarification of each rule, including evaluation indicators, related best practices, and relevant considerations to support your program's continued and sustained compliance.

To access the Indicator Manual, please scan the QR code below or visit our website at <https://www.decal.ga.gov/CCS/RulesAndRegulations.aspx>.

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

You have received permission to operate and the form received with this report is intended to serve as a temporary license which is **valid for thirty(30) days**. Your actual license/ will be emailed to you upon receipt of the licensing fee. You may pay the licensing fee either online at <http://www.decal.ga.gov/> or by certified check or money order mailed to: Bright from the Start, 2 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive SE, Suite 670 East Tower, Atlanta, GA 30334

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@dec.al.ga.gov for more information. Free technical assistance is available!



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Summary Report

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The following information is associated with a Monitoring Visit:

Activities and Equipment

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

Met

Comment

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

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)

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

No hazards observed accessible to children on this date.

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

Not Met

Correction Deadline: 9/30/2025

Corrected on 3/19/2026

.26(4) - Previous citation was observed corrected on this date. The Consultant observed the fencing material was well maintained, free of hazards, and bolts that were present and extended more than two threads on the entrance gate of playground Main B were covered with rubber bolt caps to prevent a potential hazard. as required.

Finding

591-1-1-.26(8) requires climbing and swinging equipment to have a resilient surface beneath the equipment and the fall zone from such equipment must be adequately maintained by the Center to assure continuing resiliency. It was determined, based on observation, that the rubber mats underneath the swings on Playground A and Playground B were not flush with the resilient surfacing, creating a potential tripping hazard on this date. It was further determined that the following climbing equipment did not have the required depth of resilient surfacing beneath the equipment or within the fall zone areas, as required:

Playground A:

- The gray climbing structure, located in the front right area of the playground, had 1 inch in depth of resilient surfacing when 3 inches in depth was required.
- The green and brown playground structure, located in the front right corner, had 2 inches in depth of resilient surfacing when 6 inches in depth was required.
- The wooden climbing wall, located in the back left corner, had 3 inches in depth of resilient surfacing when 6 inches in depth was required.

Playground B:

- The wooden playground structure, located in the front right corner, had 1 inch in depth of resilient surfacing when 3 inches in depth was required.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will add additional resilient surfacing to the fall zones where needed and check daily, adding resilient surfacing as needed to maintain adequate resiliency.

Correction Deadline: 4/13/2026

Correction Deadline: 9/30/2025

Corrected on 3/19/2026

.26(9) - The previous citation was observed corrected on this date. The Consultant observed the playground was clean, free from litter and free of hazards, as required.

Health and Hygiene

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

Not Met

Finding

591-1-1-.10(4) requires that if diapers are changed on a diaper changing surface, the surface shall be smooth, nonporous, and equipped with a guard or rails to prevent falls. Between each diaper change, the diaper changing surface shall be cleaned with a disinfectant and dried with a single-use disposable towel. It was determined, based on observation, that the diaper changing surface in room A- front had a changing pad with textured, porous material. It was further determined that the changing pad had a small hole located at the bottom corner.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will ensure there is a smooth, nonporous changing surface that has a guard or rails for safety in each classroom that houses children wearing diapers. Center Staff will be trained and have adequate supplies to properly clean the diaper changing surface between each diaper change.

Correction Deadline: 3/23/2026

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

Documentation for medication dispensing observed completed on this date.

Safety

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

Met

Comment

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

Comment

Center does not provide routine transportation.

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 observation, that two of five crib sheets were not maintained in good repair and were observed to have small tears in them on this date.

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: 3/20/2026

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(CR)

Met

Comment

At least one staff person with current and valid pediatric first aid and pediatric CPR observed in each classroom where children were present.

591-1-1-.33 Staff Training

Not Met

Finding

591-1-1-.33(2)(a)-(n) requires the initial Center orientation to include the following subjects: a) the Center's policies and procedures; b) the portions of these rules dealing with the care, health and safety of children; c) the Staff person's assigned duties and responsibilities; d) reporting requirements for suspected cases of child abuse, neglect or deprivation; e) communicable diseases and serious injuries; f) emergency weather plans; g) the program's emergency preparedness plan; h) childhood injury control; i) the administration of medicine; j) reducing the risk of Sudden Unexpected Infant Death (SUID), which includes Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS); k) hand washing; l) fire safety; m) water safety; and n) prevention of HIV/AIDS and blood borne pathogens. It was determined based on a review of records that the initial Center orientation was on file, but did not indicate the following required subjects were reviewed:

- Reporting requirements for suspected cases of child abuse, neglect or deprivation
- Communicable diseases and serious injuries
- Emergency weather plans
- The Center's emergency preparedness plan
- Reducing the risk of Sudden Unexpected Infant Death (SUID), including Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS)
- Prevention of HIV/AIDS and blood borne pathogens
- The administration of medicine

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will provide orientation in all missing subjects to the employee(s) and will take steps to provide a complete orientation to new Employees in the future.

Correction Deadline: 4/30/2026

Recited on 3/19/2026

Finding

591-1-1-.33(4) requires within the first year of employment, the Director and person with primary responsibility for food preparation shall have four clock hours of training in food nutrition planning, preparation, serving, proper dish washing and food storage. It was determined based on a review of records that Staff #4, hired January 15, 2014, did not have four clock hours of training in food nutrition planning, preparation, serving, proper dish washing and food storage on file as required.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will schedule food preparation training, as required, and follow up to ensure the training is completed.

Correction Deadline: 4/30/2026

Recited on 3/19/2026

Correction Deadline: 12/31/2025

Corrected on 3/19/2026

.33(5)(a) - The previous citation was observed corrected on this date. The required Staff were observed to have completed their diverse annual training for the 2025 calendar year, as required.

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.

591-1-1-.32 Supervision(CR) **Met**

Comment

Staff observed to provide direct supervision and be attentive to children's needs.