



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: 7/23/2025 **VisitType:** Licensing Study

Arrival: 11:00 AM **Departure:** 1:40 PM

CCLC-14435

The Creative Learning Center

205 Ministry Mountain Dr. Clayton, GA 30525 Rabun County
(706) 782-1567

CCS Coordinator

Margarita Collier

Phone: (770) 342-7934

Fax: (678) 891-5989

margarita.collier@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.
07/23/2025	Licensing Study	Good Standing	
07/07/2025	Complaint Closure	Good Standing	
07/07/2025	Complaint Investigation 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-1R--24-35 months	Infants	2	6	C	14	C	NA	NA	Floor Play,Free Play
Main	B2R--2 years	Infants	2	9	C	14	C	NA	NA	Floor Play,Diapering,F ree Play
Main	C-3R-4 years	Two Year Olds	2	18	C	21	C	29	C	Transitioning
Main	D-4R	Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds	4	26	C	22	NC	NA	NA	Outside
Main	E-Back Right	One Year Olds and Two Year Olds	2	16	C	17	C	NA	NA	Lunch
Main	F-3 years	One Year Olds	2	10	C	17	C	24	C	Lunch,Transition ing,Nap
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 105					Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 120					
Total # Children this Date: 85			Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 105			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 120				

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	Playground	85	C

Enrolled Children						
Under 1 years	1 years	2 years	3 years	4 years	5 years (Prekonly)	5 years and older
15	11	33	25	0	0	40

Comments

The consultant was unable to leave an official copy of the visit report with the Director during the visit due technical difficulties (unable to connect to the network). An official copy of the visit report will be emailed to the provider by Thursday, July 24, 2025.

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.decgal.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@decgal.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 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 on this date.

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

N/A

Comment

Center does not provide swimming activities.

Children's Records

591-1-1-.08 Children's Records

Technical Assistance

Comment

Parent authorizations obtained/completed.

Technical Assistance

Discussed ensuring parents update the following information in the children's files as needed:

- Parents' work and personal contact information (telephone numbers and addresses).
- Release to persons' names, addresses, and relationship to the parent and child.
- Emergency contact persons' names, contact information, and relationship to the parent and child.
- Medical conditions and/or needs.

Correction Deadline: 7/23/2025

Facility

591-1-1-.06 Bathrooms

Met

Comment

Bathrooms observed to be clean and well maintained.

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 classroom D-4R exceeded the 35 square feet capacity in that a ratio of 4:25 was observed when the classroom was licensed for 22.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

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

Correction Deadline: 7/23/2025

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

Please be mindful to keep items that pose a hazard inaccessible to children.

Comment

The Center appeared clean and well maintained on this date.

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

Correction Deadline: 7/7/2025

Corrected on 7/23/2025

The previous citation was observed to be corrected. The consultant observed the children to engaging in outdoor activities on the playground areas surrounded by a fence taller than four feet in height.

Food Service

591-1-1-.15 Food Service & Nutrition**Met****Comment**

Center menu meets USDA guidelines.

Comment

Please ensure that bottles are covered and fully labeled with child's full name.

Comment

Please ensure that infant feeding forms are updated regularly.

591-1-1-.18 Kitchen Operations**Met****Comment**

Kitchen appears clean and well organized on this date.

Health and Hygiene

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

Proper diapering procedures observed.

Technical Assistance

Please ensure that all trash cans used for diapering are monitored for normal wear and tear and covered with a tight lid at all times.

Correction Deadline: 7/23/2025

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

Proper hand washing observed throughout the center on this date.

Comment

Staff were observed to remind children to wash hands on this date.

591-1-1-.20 Medications(CR)**Met****Comment**

The Provider currently does not dispense/administer medication.

Organization

591-1-1-.16 Governing Body & License**Met**

Correction Deadline: 7/11/2025

Corrected on 7/23/2025

The previous citation was observed to be corrected. The center submitted an amendment request to add the gym to the center's overall licensed capacity.

591-1-1-.21 Operational Policies & Procedures

Technical Assistance

Technical Assistance

Discussed updating the Center's policies and procedures to include the program's practices regarding the expulsion and suspension of children enrolled for care within the description of behavior management and discipline actions used by the Center. Also discussed to ensure a description of the practices followed by the Center to prevent shaken baby syndrome and abusive head trauma in children up to five years of age that includes the following information: how to recognize, respond to, and report the signs and symptoms of shaken baby syndrome and abusive head trauma; strategies to assist staff members in understanding how to care for infants and how to cope with a crying, fussing, or distraught child; strategies to ensure staff members understand the brain development of children up to five years of age; and a list of prohibited behaviors when dealing with children. Additional information can be found in the CCLC Indicator Manual found on DECAL's website at: <https://www.dec.state.ga.us/CCS/Regulations.aspx> or through the Center on Shaken Baby Syndrome found at: <https://dontshake.org/>.

Correction Deadline: 7/28/2025**591-1-1-.29 Required Reporting****Met****Comment**

Discussed reporting requirements.

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.

Comment

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

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)**N/A****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**Records Reviewed: 29****Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 10**

Staff # 3

Not Met

Date of Hire: 03/04/2025

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.14(2)-First Aid Missing,.14(2)-CPR missing

Staff # 4

Not Met

Date of Hire: 12/04/2024

<u>"Missing/Incomplete Components"</u> .14(2)-First Aid Missing,.14(2)-CPR missing	
Staff # 5	Not Met
<u>"Missing/Incomplete Components"</u> .14(2)-First Aid Missing,.14(2)-CPR missing	
Staff # 7	Not Met
<u>"Missing/Incomplete Components"</u> .14(2)-CPR missing,.14(2)-First Aid Missing	
Staff # 12	Not Met
Date of Hire: 11/04/2024 <u>"Missing/Incomplete Components"</u> .14(2)-CPR missing,.14(2)-First Aid Missing	
Staff # 13	Not Met
Date of Hire: 03/17/2025 <u>"Missing/Incomplete Components"</u> .14(2)-First Aid Missing,.14(2)-CPR missing	
Staff # 24	Not Met
Date of Hire: 04/17/2025 <u>"Missing/Incomplete Components"</u> .33(3)-Health & Safety Certificate,.14(2)-First Aid Missing,.14(2)-CPR missing	
Staff # 27	Not Met
<u>"Missing/Incomplete Components"</u> .14(2)-First Aid Missing,.14(2)-CPR missing	
Staff # 28	Not Met
Date of Hire: 05/19/2025 <u>"Missing/Incomplete Components"</u> .14(2)-First Aid Missing,.14(2)-CPR missing	
Staff # 29	Not Met
Date of Hire: 03/17/2025 <u>"Missing/Incomplete Components"</u> .14(2)-First Aid Missing,.14(2)-CPR missing	

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

Criminal record checks were observed to be complete.

Technical Assistance

Discussed the following criminal record check reminders with the provider:

New records checks will be required to be completed if a staff member experiences a six month break in service from the childcare 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 satisfactory comprehensive records check clearance.
- Facilities are required to use DECAL KOALA for Criminal Records Checks, including to verify portability of an employee. A re-check maybe needed under the following circumstances:
- When the Center knows or reasonably should know that a provider, Employee or Provisional Employee, Resident has been arrested or charged for any covered crime.
- When there is a lapse of employment from the childcare industry that lasted for 180 calendar days (6 months) or longer.
- When the Department so requests.

Correction Deadline: 7/23/2025

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

591-1-1-.14(1)(a) requires all Staff who provide direct care to children must obtain certification in a biennial training program in pediatric cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and a triennial training program in pediatric first aid within the first 45 days of employment. Current and valid evidence of the successful completion of such training shall be maintained on the Center's premises. The hours obtained completing this certification will not count towards the required annual training hours. It was determined based on review of records that staff member #3, staff member, #4, staff member #5, staff member #7, staff member #12, staff member #13, staff member #23, staff member #26, staff member #27, and staff member #28 did not have evidence of a current first aid and CPR training on file.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

All caregiver Staff will complete the required training. The Director will send copies via email verification of completed CPR/First Aid certification to the Consultant upon completion and will develop a plan to ensure all caregiver Staff have completed this training within the first 45 days of employment and that evidence of successful completion of the training is on file available for inspection.

Correction Deadline: 8/22/2025

Technical Assistance

Discussed that effective July 1, 2025, new staff are required to obtain pediatric First Aid and pediatric CPR training within 45 days of employment. It was further discussed that programs must have at least one person with current pediatric First Aid and pediatric CPR training in each classroom at all times.

Correction Deadline: 8/22/2025

591-1-1-.33 Staff Training**Not Met****Technical Assistance**

Discussed that all Employees, including volunteers, independent contractors, students-in-training, etc. should have a completed initial program orientation form on file.

Correction Deadline: 7/24/2025

Finding

591-1-1-.33(3)(a)-(k) requires each Staff member with direct care responsibilities to complete health and safety orientation training within the first 90 days of employment. The state-approved training hours obtained will count toward required first year training hours. The training must address the following health and safety topics: a) prevention and control of infectious diseases (including immunizations); b) prevention of sudden infant death syndrome and use of safe sleeping practices; c) administration of medication, consistent with standards for parental consent; d) prevention of and response to emergencies due to food and allergic reactions; e) building and physical premises safety, including identification of and protection from hazards that can cause bodily injury such as electrical hazards, bodies of water, and vehicular traffic; f) prevention of shaken baby syndrome, abusive head trauma and child maltreatment; g) emergency preparedness and response planning for emergencies resulting from a natural disaster or a human-caused event (such as violence at a child care facility); h) handling and storage of hazardous materials and the appropriate disposal of bio contaminants; i) precautions in transporting children; j) recognition and reporting of child abuse and neglect; and k) child development to include all major domains: cognitive; social and emotional; physical development and motor skills; communication, language, and literacy; and approaches to play and learning. It was determined based on review of records that staff member #23 did not complete the required health and safety orientation training within the first 90-days of their date of hire.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will develop and implement a plan to schedule and track this training for all employees based on their hire dates and will ensure that the training includes all required components as required.

Correction Deadline: 8/22/2025

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 review of records that the Director and the Center Cook did not complete the required four clock hours of training in food nutrition.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

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

Correction Deadline: 8/22/2025

Technical Assistance

Discussed that effective July 1, 2025, all staff are required to obtain at least two hours in evidence based, developmentally appropriate language and literacy practices and at least two hours in on-going child development and health and safety related topics as part of their 10 hours of annual training.

Correction Deadline: 8/22/2025

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.