



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: 9/18/2026 **VisitType:** Monitoring Visit

Arrival: 9:15 AM **Departure:** 1:45 PM

CCLC-3175

Kiddie Castle Day Care Center

4119 Clark Street Covington, GA 30014 Newton County
 (770) 786-7028

Regional Consultant

LaTanya Swift

Phone: (470) 368-4487

Fax:

latanya.swift@dec.al.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.
09/18/2026	Monitoring Visit	Good Standing	
02/17/2026	Licensing Study	Good Standing	
08/04/2025	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- Far Left	One Year Olds and Two Year Olds	1	6	C	20	C	NA	NA	Art
Main	B Middle Left	Three Year Olds	1	11	C	14	C	NA	NA	Art
Main	C Back Right	Infants and One Year Olds and Two Year Olds	1	6	C	12	C	NA	NA	Free Play,Nap
Main	D Back		0	0	C	49	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
Main	E Front Right		0	0	C	24	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 119			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0							
Total # Children this Date: 23			Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 119							
			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0							

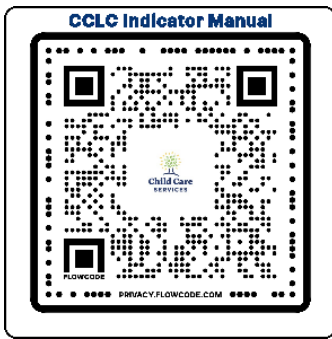
Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	Playground	79	C

Enrolled Children					
Infant (0-12 months)	Toddler (1-2 yrs)	Preschool (3-5yrs/full time care)	School Age (before/after care only)	GA PreK only	Summer Only
2	14	13	9	0	0

Comments

The exit Conference was conducted with the Director, Richard Childers.

Plan of Improvement: Developed This Date



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.dec.al.gov/CCS/RulesAndRegulations.aspx>.



For additional information regarding the full compliance inspection results of this program or any licensed program in the state, access the Child Care Services Compliance-at-a Glance website by scanning this QR code or visiting: <https://families.dec.al.gov>.

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.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@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

Correction Deadline: 2/17/2026

Corrected on 9/18/2026

.12(3) - The previous citation was observed corrected on this date. There were no stacked chairs in the bathrooms and classrooms throughout the Center.

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

Met

Correction Deadline: 2/27/2026

Corrected on 9/18/2026

.08(2) - The previous citation was observed corrected on this date. All children records reviewed had age-appropriate immunizations as required.

Facility

591-1-1-.06 Bathrooms

Not Met

Finding

591-1-1-.06(4) requires a Center first licensed after March 1, 1991, and Centers that remodel or add to existing plumbing facilities, to have the bathroom area fully enclosed and ventilated to the outside of the building with either an open screened window or functioning exhaust fan and duct system and requires Centers without fully enclosed bathrooms to ensure there is adequate ventilation to control odors and adequate sanitation measures to prevent the spread of contagious diseases. It was determined based on observation that the bathroom located in Classroom B Middle Left did not have adequate ventilation.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will fully enclose and ventilate bathroom areas, as required, and will provide adequate ventilation and sanitation in bathrooms that are not fully enclosed.

Correction Deadline: 10/2/2026

Recited on 9/18/2026

Comment

Licensed capacity observed to be routinely met by center on this date.

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

Not Met

Finding

591-1-1-.25(13) requires that potentially hazardous equipment, materials and supplies be stored in a locked area inaccessible to children. It was determined based on observation that the following potential hazards were accessible to children:

Classroom A- Far Left

- There were five packages of diapers in an unlocked cabinet located under the diapering table that had a label that said, "keep out of reach of children".
- There were two packages of Pampers baby wipes in an unlocked cabinet located under the diapering table that had a label that said, "keep out of reach of children".
- There was one package of Parents Choice baby wipes in an unlocked cabinet located under the diapering table that had a label that said, "keep out of reach of children".
- There was one package of Comforts baby wipes in an unlocked cabinet located under the diapering table that had a label that said, "keep out of reach of children".

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will identify all hazardous items and keep them in a locked area inaccessible to children. The Center will inform all Staff about hazardous items and the safe storage of those items.

Correction Deadline: 9/18/2026

Correction Deadline: 2/17/2026

Corrected on 9/18/2026

.25(3) - The previous citation was observed corrected on this date. The toilets located in Classroom D Back were in working order.

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

Not Met

Finding

591-1-1-.26(4) requires that playgrounds be protected from traffic or other hazards by a (4) four foot high fence or other barrier approved by this Department. Fencing material shall not present a hazard to children and shall be maintained so as to prevent children from leaving the playground area by any means other than through an approved access route. Fence gates shall be kept closed except when persons are entering or exiting the area. It was determined based on observation that the following potential hazards were accessible to the children:

Playground Toddler

- There were 41 out of 41 bolts measuring over two threads located at the two gates and the four fences.
- The fencing around the heating and cooling equipment measured 3 feet, 8 inches in height when 4 feet were required.

Playground 3 Years Old

- There were 26 out of 27 bolts measuring over two threads located at the gate and the four fences.
- There was a gap that measured 5.5 inches at the bottom of the fence facing the parking lot, that created a potential entrapment or escape hazard.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will routinely check the fence to determine if it is in good repair and remains at least 4 feet high, and will repair any hazards. The Center will train Staff to identify and report any fence hazards and to keep the fence gates closed when not in use.

Correction Deadline: 10/9/2026

Recited on 9/18/2026

Finding

591-1-1-.26(6) requires that playground equipment provide an opportunity for the children to engage in a variety of experiences and shall be age-appropriate. For example, toddlers shall not be permitted to swing in swings designed for School-age Children. The outdoor equipment shall be free of lead-based paint, sharp corners and shall be regularly maintained in such a way as to be free of rust and splinters that could pose significant safety hazard to the children. All equipment shall be arranged so as not to obstruct supervision of children. It was determined based on observation that there was rust on ten of ten swing chains located on Playground Three Years Old, that created a potential pinching hazard.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will provide a variety of age-appropriate equipment that is arranged so as not to obstruct supervision of children. Staff will check the equipment daily to ensure that the equipment is free of hazards, rust and splinters.

Correction Deadline: 10/2/2026

Correction Deadline: 2/27/2026

Corrected on 9/18/2026

.26(8) - The previous citation was observed corrected on this date. The Playground School Age with black padded mats located in the fall zones of the swings were no longer in use and under construction.

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 observation that there were exposed tree roots located next to the riding toys on Playground Toddlers, that created a tripping hazard. It was further determined that there were acorns throughout Playground Toddlers and Playground Three Years Old, that created a potential choking hazard.

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.

Correction Deadline: 10/2/2026

Recited on 9/18/2026

Food Service

591-1-1-.15 Food Service & Nutrition

Met

Correction Deadline: 2/17/2026

Corrected on 9/18/2026

.15(4) - The previous citation was observed corrected on this date. The safety straps at the infant feeding table were in working order as required.

Health and Hygiene

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

Technical Assistance

Correction Deadline: 2/17/2026

Corrected on 9/18/2026

.10(2) - The previous citation was observed corrected on this date. The sinks located in Classroom A-Far Left were in working order as required.

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.10(4) - Please ensure that the porous diaper changing pad located in Classroom C Back Right, is removed or replaced.

Correction Deadline: 9/18/2026

591-1-1-.17 Hygiene(CR)

Met

Comment

Proper hand washing observed throughout the center on this date.

591-1-1-.20 Medications(CR)

N/A

Comment

The Provider currently does not dispense/administer medication.

Policies and Procedures

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

Not Met

Correction Deadline: 2/22/2026

Corrected on 9/18/2026

.21(1)(p) - The previous citation was observed corrected on this date. The Center's emergency preparedness plan had been written as required.

Finding

591-1-1-.21(1)(r) requires Center policies and procedures include 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. It was determined based on a review of records the center did not update the policy and procedures to include the practices to prevent shaken baby syndrome as required.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will write or revise policies and procedures to include the required description of the Center's practices used to prevent shaken baby syndrome and abusive head trauma in children up to five years or age.

Correction Deadline: 9/25/2026

Recited on 9/18/2026

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
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Comment

Complete documentation of transportation observed on this date.

Correction Deadline: 2/27/2026

Corrected on 9/18/2026

.36(3)(a-b) - The previous citation was observed corrected on this date. The Director and driver had completed the two (2) hours of state-approved transportation training as required.

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: 5	Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 2

Staff # 3 Not Met

Date of Hire: 08/14/2019

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.31(2)(b)2.-Staff Qualifications-Education Missing

Staff # 5 Not Met

Date of Hire: 06/02/2025

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.31(2)(b)2.-Staff Qualifications-Education Missing

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

Criminal record checks were observed to be complete.

Correction Deadline: 2/17/2026

Corrected on 9/18/2026

.14(1)(a) - The previous citation was observed corrected on this date. All staff had completed the Pediatric Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) and Pediatric First Aid training as required.

Correction Deadline: 3/19/2026

Corrected on 9/18/2026

.14(2)(a) - The previous citation was observed corrected on this date. At least fifty percent (50%) of the staff had completed the Pediatric Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) and Pediatric First Aid training as required.

Correction Deadline: 2/17/2026

Corrected on 9/18/2026

.14(2)(c) - The previous citation was observed corrected on this date. All staff that were on the vehicle had completed the Pediatric Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) and Pediatric First Aid training as required.

Correction Deadline: 3/19/2026

Corrected on 9/18/2026

.14(2)(d) - The previous citation was observed corrected on this date. The Director had completed the Pediatric Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) and Pediatric First Aid training as required.

591-1-1-.33 Staff Training**Defer**

Correction Deadline: 3/19/2026

Corrected on 9/18/2026

.33(3)(a)-(k) - The previous citation was observed corrected on this date. All staff had completed the health and safety orientation training as required.

Defer

591-1-1-.33(5)(b)(1)-Evaluation of the previous citation was deferred to the next regulatory visit.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will plan and schedule the required 10 hours of annual training each year to include a least two (2) hours in evidence based, developmentally appropriate language and literacy practices and follow up to ensure the training is completed.

Correction Deadline: 3/19/2026

591-1-1-.31 Staff(CR)**Not Met**

Finding

591-1-1-.31(2)(b)3.(i) requires that newly hired teachers who do not possess the educational and qualifying child care experience requirements must enroll in a program of study to obtain one of the educational credentials and qualifying experience requirements as required by these rules within six months after employment at the Center and complete the credential or degree within 18 months after enrollment. It was determined based on a review of records that Staff #3 hired on August 14, 2019, and Staff #5 hired on June 2, 2025, did not have evidence of educational requirements.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will ensure that all teachers will comply with the educational and qualifying child care experience requirements.

Correction Deadline: 10/16/2026

Recited on 9/18/2026

Finding

591-1-1-.31(2)(b)3.(ii)(I)-(VIII) requires the Center develop a written plan for newly hired teacher's who do not possess the educational credential or degree listed in 591-1-1-.31(2)(b)2.(i) through (xii). It was determined based on a review of records that the Center failed to develop a written educational plan for Staff #3 hired on August 14, 2019, and Staff #5 hired on June 2, 2025, as required.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will develop a written plan for newly hired teacher's and ensure that the teacher's follow the plan.

Correction Deadline: 10/16/2026

Recited on 9/18/2026

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

Adequate supervision observed on this date.