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: 8/12/2026 **VisitType:** Monitoring Visit **Arrival:** 9:30 AM **Departure:** 2:00 PM

CCLC-68086
Premier Early Learning Academy
2696 Macland Rd Dallas, GA 30157 Paulding County
(770) 445-4517

Regional Consultant
Kaiyah Werts
Phone: (404) 615-2155
Fax:
kaiyah.werts@decal.ga.gov

Mailing Address
Same

Quality Rated:

Compliance Zone Designation		
08/12/2026	Monitoring Visit	Good Standing
04/08/2026	ILS Follow Up	Good Standing
03/16/2026	Initial Licensing Study	Good Standing

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.

Data retrieval failed for the subreport, 'RatioCapacity', located at: Koala.Reports.Visits.RDLC.RatioCapacity.rdlc.

Comments
Consultant discussed the report and addressed any questions and concerns.

Plan of Improvement: Developed This Date

CCLC Indicator Manual

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.

Compliance at a Glance

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.decal.ga.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.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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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) **Technical Assistance**

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

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

Technical Assistance
591-1-1-.12(2) - Discussed with the Director to monitor the child sized couch and chairs (blue and brown) for any rips or tears.

Correction Deadline: 8/12/2026

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
Please secure cleaning tools (i.e., brooms, dust pans) out of reach of children.

Comment
The Center appeared clean and well maintained on this date.

591-1-1-.26 Playgrounds(CR) **Not Met**

Comment
Playground observed to be clean and in good repair on this date.

Technical Assistance
591-1-1-.26(4) - Discussed with the Director to ensure that fence, located on the left side of the playground, had a door to be used as an exit in case of an emergency.

Correction Deadline: 8/12/2026

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 blue dragon climbing structure measured 5 feet and 8 inches tall. I was further determined that the mulch for the blue dragon climbing structure measured 4 inches deep when 6 inches or more was required based on the height of the climbing structure.

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: 8/22/2026

Technical Assistance
591-1-1-.26(9) - Discussed with the Director to ensure that the brush, that was growing outside of the playground fence, did not grow into the fence. It was further discussed to ensure that multiple types of plants did not grow on the playground area where they are accessible to children.

Correction Deadline: 8/12/2026

Health and Hygiene

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

Comment
Proper diapering procedures observed.

591-1-1-.17 Hygiene(CR) **Not Met**

Finding
591-1-1-17(7) requires that children wash their hands with liquid soap and warm running water upon arrival for care, when moving from one child care group to another, upon re-entering the child care area after outside play, before and after eating meals and snacks, handling or touching food, playing in water; after toileting and diapering, playing in sand, touching animals or pets, and contact with bodily fluids and after contamination by any other means. It was determined based on observation that a staff member failed to wash an infant's hands with soap and warm water after diapering.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
The Center will train Staff on required handwashing for children and Staff will ensure children's hands are washed when required. The Director will monitor for compliance.

Correction Deadline: 8/12/2026

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
Age-appropriate discussion and/or redirection observed.

591-1-1-.36 Transportation(CR) **Met**

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

Comment
Complete documentation of transportation observed on this date.

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

Sleeping & Resting Equipment

591-1-1-.30 Safe Sleeping and Resting Requirements(CR) **Technical Assistance**

Comment
Discussed SIDS and infant sleeping position.

Correction Deadline: 4/8/2026

Corrected on 8/12/2026
.30(1)(a)1 - The previous citation was observed to be corrected on this date. Consultant observed five new cribs that replaced the cribs that were out of compliance.

Technical Assistance
591-1-1-.30(1)(a)3 - Discussed with the Director to ensure that the crib sheets are pulled tightly and not loose before they are in use.

Correction Deadline: 8/12/2026

Staff Records

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

Comment
Criminal record checks were observed to be complete.

Comment
Director provided four files for employees hired since last visit.

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

Correction Deadline: 4/16/2026

Corrected on 8/12/2026
.14(2)(b) - The previous citation was observed corrected on this date. Consultant observed at least one staff in each classroom with a completed pediatric cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and pediatric first aid certification.

Finding
591-1-1-.14(3) requires the Center to have a first aid kit in each building of the Center and in any vehicle used by the Center for transportation of children, that contains scissors, tweezers, gauze pads, adhesive tape, thermometer, band-aids, assorted sizes, antibacterial ointment, insect-sting preparation, an antiseptic cleansing solution, triangular bandages, rubber gloves, protective eye wear, a protective face mask, and a cold pack. The first aid kit, together with a first aid instruction manual which must be kept with the kit at all times, shall be stored so that it is not accessible to children but is easily accessible to Staff. It was determined based on observation that classroom H - Front Left had a first aid kit that hung low on the wall accessible to children.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
Center Staff will provide any missing first aid kits, add any missing items to each first aid kit and will develop and use a plan for checking the kits and replacing missing items in each kit in the future. First aid kits and instruction manuals will be stored so that they kits are not accessible to children but are easily accessible to Center Staff.

Correction Deadline: 8/22/2026

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) **Not Met**

Finding
591-1-1-.32(1) requires the Center to maintain the required Staff:child ratios as follows: under 1 year or under 18 months if not walking = 1:6; 1 year and walking = 1:8; 2 years = 1:10; 3 years = 1:15; 4 years = 1:18; 5 years = 1:20;and 6 years and older = 1:25. A Center must establish groupings of children for care with maximum group sizes as follows: under 1 year = 12; under 18 months/not walking = 12; 1 year and walking = 16; 2 years = 20; 3 years = 30; 4 years = 36; 5 years = 40; and 6 years and older = 50. It was determined based on observation that in classroom H - Front Left, two staff members were present with 17 3-year-olds. It was further observed that one staff member walked out of the classroom with one child, to use the bathroom that was located outside the classroom, which left one staff member present with 16 3-year-old children in the classroom.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
The Center will hire additional Staff or reschedule current Staff to meet required Staff:child ratios and will organize children into groups that meet requirements.

Correction Deadline: 8/12/2026

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

Comment
Adequate supervision observed on this date.

Correction Deadline: 4/8/2026

Corrected on 8/12/2026
.32(7) - The previous citation observed corrected on this date. Consultant observed staff to be within arms reach with child in all classrooms during the time of the visit.