



**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:** 4/29/2024 **VisitType:** Incident Investigation/Monitoring Visit **Arrival:** 7:45 AM **Departure:** 12:00 PM

**CCLC-28751**  
**Stepping Stones Early Development Center**  
305 West White Road Byron, GA 31008 Peach County  
(478) 956-2510 stepstones956@hotmail.com

Regional Consultant  
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Same

**Quality Rated:** ★ ★

| Compliance Zone Designation |                                         |               | <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. |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------------|---------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 04/29/2024                  | Incident Investigation/Monitoring Visit | Good Standing |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| 10/17/2023                  | Licensing Study                         | Good Standing |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| 03/28/2023                  | Incident Investigation Closure          | 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    | Infants and One Year Olds                            | 2     | 8        | C    | 17         | C            | NA         | NA           | Floor Play,Breakfast   |
| Main     | B    | Infants                                              | 2     | 7        | C    | 14         | C            | NA         | NA           | Nap,Feeding,Floor Play |
| Main     | C    | One Year Olds                                        | 2     | 9        | C    | 14         | C            | NA         | NA           | Centers                |
| Main     | D    | One Year Olds                                        | 1     | 5        | C    | 13         | C            | NA         | NA           | Breakfast              |
| Main     | E    | One Year Olds                                        | 1     | 6        | C    | 12         | C            | NA         | NA           | Breakfast              |
| Main     | F    | Two Year Olds                                        | 1     | 3        | C    | 15         | C            | NA         | NA           | Transitioning          |
| Main     | G    | Two Year Olds and Three Year Olds                    | 1     | 7        | C    | 15         | C            | NA         | NA           | Centers                |
| Main     | H    | Three Year Olds                                      | 1     | 7        | C    | 17         | C            | NA         | NA           | Free Play              |
| Main     | I    | Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds                   | 1     | 8        | C    | 17         | C            | NA         | NA           | Breakfast,Free Play    |
| Main     | J    | Two Year Olds and Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds | 1     | 15       | C    | 20         | C            | 28         | C            | Circle Time,Breakfast  |
| Main     | K    | GA PreK                                              | 2     | 1        | C    | 26         | C            | 36         | C            | Transitioning          |
| Main     | L    |                                                      | 0     | 0        | C    | 25         | C            | 35         | C            |                        |
| Main     | M    | Two Year Olds                                        | 1     | 9        | C    | 13         | C            | NA         | NA           | Breakfast              |
| Main     | N    | Two Year Olds                                        | 1     | 7        | C    | 10         | C            | NA         | NA           | Breakfast,Centers      |
| Main     | O    | GA PreK                                              | 2     | 6        | C    | 32         | C            | 45         | C            | Transitioning          |

|                                |                                 |                                 |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
|                                | Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 260 | Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 301 |
| Total # Children this Date: 98 | Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 260 | Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 301 |

| Building | Playground   | Playground Occupancy | Playground Compliance |
|----------|--------------|----------------------|-----------------------|
| Main     | Playground E | 58                   | C                     |
| Main     | Playground A | 12                   | C                     |
| Main     | playground B | 44                   | C                     |
| Main     | playground C | 50                   | C                     |
| Main     | playground D | 50                   | C                     |

#### Comments

Plan developed on this date.

Plan of Improvement: Developed This Date 04/29/2024

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.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 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](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 Monitoring Visit:

**Activities and Equipment**

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

**Technical Assistance**

**Technical Assistance**

Consultant discussed that wooden shelves in Room D need to be secured.

**Correction Deadline: 4/29/2024**

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

**Not Evaluated**

**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.

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

**Technical Assistance**

**Technical Assistance**

Consultant discussed that ventilation fans in restroom need to be dusted and monitored to ensure they are working correctly. In Room G one ceiling tile was stained and need to be changed.

**Correction Deadline: 5/29/2024**

**Technical Assistance**

Consultant discussed fixing the safety latch in Room N at the diapering station as gloves and plastic bags were accessible.

**Correction Deadline: 4/29/2024**

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

**Technical Assistance**

**Technical Assistance**

Consultant discussed the back playground outside Room F and Room G needs to be monitored as the green step has a crack. In addition, on the left side playground two green rocking horses did not have handles.

**Correction Deadline: 4/29/2024**

## Food Service

### 591-1-1-.18 Kitchen Operations

Met

Correction Deadline: 10/17/2023

Corrected on 4/29/2024

.18(8) - Citation observed to be corrected.

## Health and Hygiene

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

Technical Assistance

#### Technical Assistance

Diapering and food service requirements were discussed on this date.

### 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 children in Room N were not required to wash hands after breakfast.

#### 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: 4/29/2024

Recited on 4/29/2024

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

Met

#### Comment

Documentation for medication dispensing observed complete.

## Safety

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

Met

#### Comment

Age-appropriate discussion and/or redirection observed.

### 591-1-1-.36 Transportation(CR)

Technical Assistance

#### Technical Assistance

Consultant discussed that bus seats on bus ending in tag 3349 had tape and were in need of attention.

Correction Deadline: 5/4/2024

## 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.

## Staff Records

**Comment**

Criminal record checks were observed to be complete.

**591-1-1-.33 Staff Training****Not Met****Finding**

591-1-1-.33(3) 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: prevention and control of infectious diseases (including immunizations); prevention of sudden infant death syndrome and use of safe sleeping practices; administration of medication, consistent with standards for parental consent; prevention of and response to emergencies due to food and allergic reactions; 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; prevention of shaken baby syndrome, abusive head trauma and child maltreatment; 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); handling and storage of hazardous materials and the appropriate disposal of bio contaminants; precautions in transporting children; recognition and reporting of child abuse and neglect; and child development. It was determined based on a review of records that one staff member over 90 days of hire did not have health and safety training.

**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: 5/29/2024****591-1-1-.31 Staff(CR)****Met****Comment**

Discussed that all lead staff must enroll in an approved education program within 6 months of hire and complete degree within 18 months.

**Staffing and Supervision****591-1-1-.32 Staff:Child Ratios and Group Size(CR)****Not Met****Finding**

591-1-1-.32(4) requires that children under three years old be housed in separate physical areas from older children and cannot be mixed with older children except at specified times and circumstances. It was determined based on observation that in Room J two-year-old children were housed with three-year-old and four-year-old children outside of the first hour of operation.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

The Center will maintain separation of these children under three years old.

**Correction Deadline: 4/29/2024****591-1-1-.32 Supervision(CR)****Met****Correction Deadline: 4/29/2024****Corrected on 4/29/2024**

.32(7) - Citation corrected. Rule requirements were discussed on this date.