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: 9/15/2026 **VisitType:** Licensing Study **Arrival:** 1:35 PM **Departure:** 3:20 PM

CCLC-51917
Smart Start Pre-School Learning Academy
505 Bartow Street Thomasville, GA 31792 Thomas County
(229) 225-1122

Regional Consultant
Angela Williams-Jackson
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angela.williams-jackson@decal.ga.gov

Mailing Address
Same

Quality Rated: ★ ★

Compliance Zone Designation		
09/15/2026	Licensing Study	Good Standing
06/17/2026	Complaint Closure	Good Standing
06/17/2026	Complaint Investigation Follow Up	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.

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	Room A - Infants		0	0	C	14	C	NA	NA	
Main	Room B - 1 to 2 yr olds	Infants and One Year Olds and Two Year Olds	1	5	C	13	C	NA	NA	Nap
Main	Room C - Older 2's	Two Year Olds and Three Year Olds	1	10	C	20	C	NA	NA	Nap
Main	Room D - 5 to 12 yr olds		0	0	C	19	C	26	C	
Main	Room E - 3 to 4 yr olds		0	0	C	20	C	27	C	
		Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 86			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 86					
Total # Children this Date: 15		Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 86			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 86					

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	Playground A	21	C
Main	Playground B	48	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	2	5	0	0

Comments
The Consultant discussed the Chop, Look, Listen information with the Director.

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 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 **Met**

Comment
Parent agreements observed obtained and completed.

Facility

591-1-1-.06 Bathrooms **Met**

Comment
Bathrooms observed to be clean and well maintained.

591-1-1-.19 License Capacity(CR) **Met**

Comment
Licensed capacity observed to be routinely met by the 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) **Met**

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

Food Service

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

Comment
Center menu meets USDA guidelines.

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) **Met**

Comment
Staff stated proper knowledge of diapering procedures.

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

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

591-1-1-.20 Medications(CR) **N/A**

Comment
The Provider currently does not dispense or administer medication.

Policies and Procedures

591-1-1-.21 Operational Policies & Procedures **Not Met**

Finding
591-1-1-.21(3) requires that the Center conduct drills for fire, tornado and other emergency situations. The fire drills will be conducted monthly and tornado and other emergency situation drills will be conducted every six months. The Center shall maintain documentation of the dates and times of these drills for two years.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
The Center will hold the drills as required and keep the documentation of the drills on file for two years.

Correction Deadline: 9/20/2026

Safety

591-1-1-.05 Animals **N/A**

Comment
Center does not keep animals on the premises.

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

Comment
Age-appropriate discussion and redirection observed.

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) **Met**

Comment
A current and completed inspection was observed for the vehicle with license plate number SKZ1896 used in transporting children on this date. Transportation was observed on 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) **Not Met**

Finding
591-1-1-.30(2)(c) requires that infants shall not sleep in equipment other than safety-approved cribs, such as, but not limited to, a car safety seat, bouncy seat, highchair, or swing. Infants who arrive at the Center asleep or fall asleep in such equipment, on the floor or elsewhere, shall be transferred to a safety-approved crib. It was determined based on observation that there was an infant asleep in a bouncy chair posing an upper airway restriction hazard in Room B 1 to 2 yr olds.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
The Center will only place infants in safe cribs to sleep and will transfer them to a safe crib when the infants are asleep in other equipment.

Correction Deadline: 9/15/2026

Staff Records

Records Reviewed: 6 **Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 2**

Staff # 4 Not Met

Date of Hire: 06/30/2026 Reminder - Health & Safety training is required within 90 calendar days of hired

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

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

Staff # 5 Not Met

Date of Hire: 08/28/2026 Reminder - Health & Safety training is required within 90 calendar days of hired

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

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

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

Correction Deadline: 6/17/2026

Corrected on 9/15/2026
The previous citation was observed corrected on this date. The Staff is no longer employed.

Correction Deadline: 6/17/2026

Corrected on 9/15/2026
The previous citation was observed corrected on this date. The Staff is no longer employed.

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 a review of records that Staff #4 did not have evidence of current pediatric cardiopulmonary resuscitation and a triennial training program in pediatric first aid obtained within the first 45 days of employment on file as required.

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: 9/29/2026

Finding
591-1-1-.14(2)(b) requires that there must always be one staff person present in each classroom where children are present that has current and valid pediatric cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and pediatric first aid training. It was determined based on a review of records that Staff #5 did not have evidence of current pediatric cardiopulmonary resuscitation and a triennial training program in pediatric first aid on file as required. This Staff was observed to be working alone in Room C- Older 2's.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
The Director will schedule and/or position caregiver Staff throughout the Center to ensure at least one currently pediatric CPR and First Aid trained Staff person is present in each classroom where children are present.

Correction Deadline: 9/29/2026

591-1-1-.24 Personnel Records **Met**

Correction Deadline: 6/22/2026

Corrected on 9/15/2026
The previous citation was observed corrected on this date. The Staff is no longer employed. all new Staff had a file.

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

Defer
Evaluation of the previous citation was deferred on this date to the next regulatory visit.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
The Center will plan and schedule the required 10 hours of annual training each year and follow up to ensure the training is completed.

Correction Deadline: 7/15/2026

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) **Met**

Comment
Center observed to maintain appropriate staff:child ratios.

591-1-1-.32 Supervision(CR) **Not Met**

Finding
591-1-1-.32(7) requires that children be supervised at all times appropriate to the individual age, needs and capabilities of each child. Such supervision must include, but not be limited to, indoor and outdoor activities, mealtimes, naptime, transportation, field trips, and transitions between activities. "Supervision" means that the appropriate number of Staff members are physically present in the area where children are being cared for and are providing watchful oversight to the children, volunteers and Students-in-Training. The persons supervising in the child care area must be alert, positioned to maximize their ability to hear and see the children at all times, and able to respond promptly to the needs and actions of the children being supervised, as well as the actions of the volunteers and Students-in-Training, and provide timely attention to the children's actions and needs. Staff shall be attentive and participating with all children during mealtimes and shall be seated within an arm’s length away from children thirty-six (36) months of age and younger. It was determined based on observation that there was one Staff in Room B 1 to 2 yr olds who was observed sitting on a bench outside the classroom leaving five children unsupervised.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
The Center will train Staff and monitor to ensure they are providing supervision and watchful oversight to the children at all times.

Correction Deadline: 9/15/2026