



**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:** 12/9/2025 **VisitType:** Monitoring Visit

**Arrival:** 10:45 AM **Departure:** 3:00 PM

**CCLC-58424**  
**Storybrook Academy of Jefferson**  
 1988 Washington Street Jefferson, GA 30549 Jackson County  
 (706) 708-2381

Regional Consultant  
 Lynn Schnitzer  
 Phone: (678) 717-5720  
 Fax: (770) 344-5683  
 lynn.schnitzer@decal.ga.gov

**Mailing Address**  
 Same

**Quality Rated:** ★ ★

| <b>Compliance Zone Designation</b> |                  |               | <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. |
|------------------------------------|------------------|---------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 12/09/2025                         | Monitoring Visit | Good Standing |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| 06/05/2025                         | TA Follow Up     | NA            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| 05/06/2025                         | TA Follow Up     | NA            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |

**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     | 1L-Older Ones              | One Year Olds and Two Year Olds    | 1     | 8        | C    | 8          | C            | NA         | NA           | Transitioning              |
| Main     | 1R-Infant                  | Infants                            | 2     | 6        | C    | 9          | C            | NA         | NA           | Floor Play, Diapering, Nap |
| Main     | 2L-Two Year old            | Two Year Olds                      | 2     | 10       | C    | 10         | C            | NA         | NA           | Story, Transitioning       |
| Main     | 2R-Infant                  | Infants and One Year Olds          | 1     | 6        | C    | 9          | C            | NA         | NA           | Floor Play                 |
| Main     | 3L-Older Two Year old      |                                    | 0     | 0        | C    | 10         | C            | NA         | NA           |                            |
| Main     | 3R-Younger 1               | One Year Olds                      | 1     | 5        | C    | 9          | C            | NA         | NA           | Transitioning, Lunch       |
| Main     | 4L-Pr-K 1 (Annex)          | GA PreK                            | 2     | 13       | C    | 20         | C            | NA         | NA           | Centers                    |
| Main     | 4R-Three and Four          | Three Year Olds                    | 1     | 9        | C    | 16         | C            | NA         | NA           | Centers                    |
| Main     | 5L-GA Pre-K (Annex)        |                                    | 0     | 0        | C    | 23         | C            | NA         | NA           |                            |
| Main     | 5R-Three and Four Year Old | Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds | 1     | 10       | C    | 15         | C            | NA         | NA           | Outside, Transitioning     |
| Main     | 6R-Pre-K (2)m (Annex)      |                                    | 0     | 0        | C    | 20         | C            | NA         | NA           |                            |
| Main     | 7R-Pre-K (3) (Annex)       |                                    | 0     | 0        | C    | 20         | C            | NA         | NA           |                            |

Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 169

Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0

Total # Children this Date: 67

Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 169

Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0

| <b>Building</b> | <b>Playground</b> | <b>Playground<br/>Occupancy</b> | <b>Playground<br/>Compliance</b> |
|-----------------|-------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Main            | L1-Playground     | 5                               | C                                |
| Main            | L2-Playground     | 14                              | C                                |
| Main            | R1-Playground     | 11                              | C                                |
| Main            | R2-Playground     | 18                              | C                                |
| Main            | Rear Playground   | 30                              | C                                |

| <b>Enrolled Children</b> |                |                |                |                |                           |                          |
|--------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| <b>Under 1 years</b>     | <b>1 years</b> | <b>2 years</b> | <b>3 years</b> | <b>4 years</b> | <b>5 years (Prekonly)</b> | <b>5 years and older</b> |
| 14                       | 14             | 11             | 10             | 11             | 16                        | 16                       |

### **Comments**

The consultant discussed the visit report with the Assistant Director, Marie Cruse, on December 9, 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](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!**



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

Summary Report

Date: 12/9/2025 VisitType: Monitoring Visit

Arrival: 10:45 AM Departure: 3:00 PM

CCLC-58424

Storybrook Academy of Jefferson

1988 Washington Street Jefferson, GA 30549 Jackson County  
(706) 708-2381

Regional Consultant

Lynn Schnitzer

Phone: (678) 717-5720

Fax: (770) 344-5683

lynn.schnitzer@decals.ga.gov

Mailing Address

Same

The following information is associated with a Monitoring Visit:

Activities and Equipment

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

Met

Comment

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

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)

Not Met

Finding

591-1-1-.25(11) requires that floor coverings be tight, smooth, free of odors and washable or cleanable. It was determined based on observation that there was a piece of laminate missing by the sink in classroom 4R and cracked and broken laminate in the front entryway.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

Floors will be maintained to be safe and sanitary.

Correction Deadline: 1/8/2026

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 there were diapering ointments, sunscreen, and baby wipes stored accessible to children in classroom 1L. Additionally, there were Lysol wipes and sanitizer spray stored in an unlocked cabinet in classroom 3L and baby oil in an unlocked cabinet in classroom 7R, but the classrooms were not in use at the time.

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: 12/9/2025

**Finding**

591-1-1-.25(3) requires the Center and surrounding premises to be kept clean, free of debris and in good repair. Hygienic measures such as, but not limited to, screened windows and proper waste disposal procedures shall be utilized to minimize the presence of rodents, flies, roaches and other vermin at the Center. It was determined based on observation that the baseboard was loose in the restroom between classrooms 6R and 7R.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

The Center will have the Center and surrounding areas cleaned, make repairs where needed, and remove all debris is removed. The Center will implement a plan to keep areas clean and in good repair that includes regular monitoring.

**Correction Deadline: 12/9/2025**

---

**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 bottom of the fence was not anchored on playground L1, there was a gap measuring approximately 3.5 inches in the gate from playground L2, a 4-inch gap between the wall of the building and the fence on playground R2, and a 6-inch gap under the gate between playground R2 and Rear Playground.

**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: 12/9/2025**

**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 a tricycle with missing pedals on the Rear Playground.

**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: 12/19/2025**

---

**Health and Hygiene****591-1-1-.10 Diapering Areas & Practices(CR)****Technical Assistance****Technical Assistance**

591-1-1-.10(1) -Consultant discussed with the director to ensure that staff have the exhaust fan on in the classrooms.

**Correction Deadline: 12/9/2025**

---

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

Proper hand washing observed throughout the center on this date.

---

**591-1-1-.20 Medications(CR)****Technical Assistance****Comment**

Documentation for medication dispensing observed completed on this date.

**Technical Assistance**

591-1-1-.20(5) - Consultant discussed with director to ensure that unused medication is returned to the family.

**Correction Deadline: 12/9/2025**

## 591-1-1-.21 Operational Policies &amp; Procedures

Technical Assistance

**Technical Assistance**

591-1-1-.21(2)(r) - New - 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.decal.ga.gov/CCS/RulesAndRegulations.aspx> or through the Center on Shaken Baby Syndrome found at: <https://dontshake.org/>.

**Correction Deadline: 12/14/2025**

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

Met

**Comment**

Age-appropriate discussion and/or redirection observed.

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

Not Met

**Comment**

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

**Comment**

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

**Finding**

591-1-1-.36(7)(d)2. requires that the second designated Staff person conduct a check of the vehicle immediately upon the completion of the first check of the vehicle. The responsible person shall physically walk through the entire vehicle; visually inspect all seat surfaces, under all seats and in all compartments or recesses in the vehicle's interior; and sign the passenger transportation checklist(s), indicating all of the children have exited the vehicle. There shall be continuous watchful oversight of the vehicle between the first check and second check. It was determined based on review of records that center staff did not document a second check of the vehicle after morning transportation routes from Jefferson Elementary School and Jefferson Academy on December 4, 2025, and December 5, 2025.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

The Center will train Staff who are or may be involved in transporting children in how to thoroughly inspect a vehicle and properly complete transportation documentation. The Center will review and monitor.

**Correction Deadline: 12/9/2025**

**Sleeping & Resting Equipment****591-1-1-.30 Safe Sleeping and Resting Requirements(CR)**

Met

**Comment**

Staff stated knowledge of infant safe sleep requirements.

**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 nine files for employees hired since last visit. April 11, 2025.

Correction Deadline: 5/11/2025

Corrected on 12/9/2025

.14(2) - The previous citation was observed corrected on this date. The Consultant observed 100 percent of staff to have certification in first aid and CPR.

---

**591-1-1-.33 Staff Training****Technical Assistance****Technical Assistance**

591-1-1-.33(3)(a)-(k) - New - Consultant discussed with director that newly hired staff who completed Health and Safety Orientation training more than 12-months prior to their hire date need to retake the course within 90 days of their hire date.

Correction Deadline: 1/8/2026

**Technical Assistance**

591-1-1-.33(5)(b)1. - New - 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: 1/8/2026

---

**591-1-1-.31 Staff(CR)****Met****Comment**

Staff observed to be compliant with applicable laws and regulations.

|                                 |
|---------------------------------|
| <b>Staffing and Supervision</b> |
|---------------------------------|

---

**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.