



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: 4/27/2026 **VisitType:** Licensing Study

Arrival: 11:10 AM **Departure:** 3:00 PM

CCLC-28747

"In His Arms" Educational Center

7816 Hwy 80 East Savannah, GA 31410 Chatham County
(912) 897-6826

Regional Consultant

Rebecca Owsley

Phone: (229) 238-2130

Fax:

rebecca.owsley@decal.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.
04/27/2026	Licensing Study	Good Standing	
11/12/2025	Monitoring Visit	Good Standing	
06/05/2025	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	PreK back	GA PreK	2	15	C	15	C	21	C	Centers
Main	Pre-K front	Four Year Olds	1	10	C	21	C	30	C	Outside
Main	RM 1:1st Left	One Year Olds and Two Year Olds	1	10	C	15	C	NA	NA	Transitioning,Lunch
Main	RM 2: 2nd Left	One Year Olds	1	8	C	15	C	NA	NA	Lunch,Transitioning
Main	RM 3	Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds	1	13	C	15	C	NA	NA	Outside
Main	RM 4: Infant	Infants and One Year Olds	1	5	C	8	C	NA	NA	Floor Play,Feeding,Nap
Main	Room 6	Two Year Olds	1	8	C	14	C	NA	NA	Transitioning,Lunch

Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 103

Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 118

Total # Children this Date: 69

Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 103

Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 118

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	PGD 1-Right	97	C
Main	PGD 2-Middle	30	C
Main	PGD 3-Left	133	C

Enrolled Children						
Under 1 years	1 years	2 years	3 years	4 years	5 years (Prekonly)	5 years and older
3	12	17	13	24	10	14

Comments

The Consultant conducted the exit conference with the Director on this date.

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.state.ga.us/CCS/RulesAndRegulations.aspx>.

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.state.ga.us/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 Licensing Study:

Activities and Equipment

591-1-1-.03 Activities

Technical Assistance

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.03(2) - Please ensure posted lesson plans reflect the current dates.

Correction Deadline: 4/27/2026

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

Not Met

Finding

591-1-1-.12(2) requires that all equipment and furniture be free from hazardous conditions such as, but not limited to, sharp rough edges or toxic paint; and be kept clean. It was determined based on observation that the children's furniture in the Main Pre-K front classroom and the Main RM 3 classroom had tears in the vinyl.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will ensure that equipment and furniture are used by the age-appropriate group of children.

Correction Deadline: 4/27/2026

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)

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 in the Main RM 1:1st Left classroom that the cabinet under the sink in the bathroom was unlocked and had grocery bags stored in it accessible to 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: 4/27/2026

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 in the Main Pre-K front classroom there was peeling drywall on the wall in the corner near the bathroom and peeling drywall around the piping from the toilet in the children's restroom.

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: 5/4/2026

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

Correction Deadline: 11/19/2025

Corrected on 4/27/2026

.26(9) - The previous citation was observed corrected on this date. The Consultant did not observe exposed landscape paper in the mulch on the playgrounds and there was no longer an extension cord present on the playground.

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

Correction Deadline: 11/19/2025

Corrected on 4/27/2026

.15(4) - The previous citation was observed corrected on this date. The Consultant did not observe any missing safety straps in the feeding table in the Main Rm: 2nd Left classroom.

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

Proper diapering procedures observed.

Comment

Staff stated proper knowledge of diapering procedures.

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.

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

Age-appropriate discussion and/or redirection observed.

Comment

Staff were observed to maintain a positive learning environment on this date.

591-1-1-.36 Transportation(CR)**Not Met****Finding**

591-1-1-.36(4)(a) requires an annual safety check for each vehicle. The annual safety check, completed by a trained individual, should include a check of the: tires, headlights, horn, taillights, turn signals, brake lights, brakes, suspension, exhaust system, steering, windows, windshields and windshield wipers. A copy of the annual safety check will be kept in the Center or on the vehicle and should include evidence of any repairs and/or replacements that were identified as needed on the inspection report. It was determined based on a review of records that the Center did not have a current annual safety check for the vehicle.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will obtain the annual vehicle inspection.

Sleeping & Resting Equipment

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

Not Met

Finding

591-1-1-.30(1)(a)3 requires that each crib shall have only an individual, tight-fitting sheet which is changed daily or more often as needed and prior to a change of occupant. It was determined based on Staff statements that the crib sheets are changed once a week instead of daily as required in the Main RM 4: Infant classroom.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The center will ensure that each crib has an individual, tight-fitting sheet which is changed daily or more often as needed and prior to a change of occupant.

Correction Deadline: 4/27/2026

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.30(4) - Please ensure mats are made inaccessible to children that are stored in the classroom with a cover.

Correction Deadline: 4/27/2026

Staff Records

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

Met

Correction Deadline: 11/12/2025

Corrected on 4/27/2026

.09(1)(a) - The previous citation was observed corrected on this date. A review of records showed that Staff #5 had submitted Fingerprints to an authorized fingerprinting site as required.

Correction Deadline: 11/12/2025

Corrected on 4/27/2026

.09(1)(c) - The previous citation was observed corrected on this date. A review of records showed that all Staff had a did not have a valid and current satisfactory Comprehensive Records Check Determination on file as required.

591-1-1-.14 First Aid & CPR(CR)

Met

Comment

Evidence observed of 100% of center Staff certified in First Aid and CPR containing emergency care for infants and children on this date.

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.

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 in the Main RM 4: Infant classroom that the Staff Member was not within an arm's length away from one infant child seated in a highchair with food when she changed another child's diaper with her back turned away from the infant child eating lunch.

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: 4/27/2026