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: 8/24/2026 **VisitType:** Licensing Study **Arrival:** 9:30 AM **Departure:** 12:30 PM

CCLC-51064
Appling County Head Start
22 Junior High Drive Baxley, GA 31513 Appling County
(912) 367-4321

Regional Consultant
Connie Boatright
Phone: (404) 947-1033
Fax:
connie.boatright@decal.ga.gov

Mailing Address
Same

Quality Rated: ★ ★ ★

Compliance Zone Designation		
08/24/2026	Licensing Study	Good Standing
01/16/2026	Licensing Study	Good Standing
08/26/2025	Monitoring Visit	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

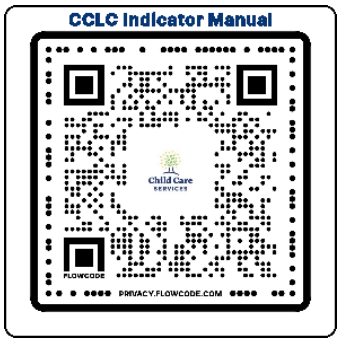
Building	Room	Age Group	Staff	Children	NC/C	Max 35 SF.	35 SF. Comp.	Max 25 SF.	25 SF. Comp.	Notes
Main	3 (C)	Infants and One Year Olds and Two Year Olds	2	7	C	20	C	NA	NA	Centers,Outside ,Not In Use,Lunch
Main	A (1)	Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds	2	12	C	20	C	NA	NA	Centers,Outside ,Transitioning,Lu nch
Main	B (2)	Infants and One Year Olds and Two Year Olds	2	7	C	20	C	NA	NA	Free Play,Lunch,Outs ide,Transitioning
Main	D (EHS)	One Year Olds and Two Year Olds	2	6	C	20	C	NA	NA	Transitioning,Ou tside,Free Play,Lunch
		Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 80				Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0				
Total # Children this Date: 32		Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 80				Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0				

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	A (EHS)	69	C
Main	B (HS)	143	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	22	12	0	3	0

Comments
The Consultant discussed the findings with the Center Director.

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.decal.ga.gov/CCS/RulesAndRegulations.aspx.



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-.03 Activities **Met**

Comment
Lesson Plans were observed to be posted and reflected the current weeks activities in each classroom.

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

Comment
Toys and equipment was observed to be clean and in good repair.

Correction Deadline: 1/26/2026

Corrected on 8/24/2026
.12(2) - The previous citation was observed to be corrected.

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/completed.

Comment
Parent authorizations obtained/completed.

Comment
Records were observed to be complete and well organized.

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 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 that the following hazards were observed:
Classsroom A (1) - The Consultant observed a black plastic garbage bag in the Dramatic play area and accessible to the 3 and 4-year-old children. Additionally, there was a pack of Cuties Wipes, a pack of McKesson Toddler Training Pants, and plastic bags with a warning to avoid danger of suffocation, keep this and any plastic bags away from children located in the girls bathroom accessible to the 3 and 4-year-old children. Furthermore, there was 2 packs of McKesson Toddler Training Pants and plastic bags with a warning to avoid danger of suffocation, keep this and any plastic bags away from children located in the boys bathroom and accessible to the 3 and 4-year-old children.

Classroom B (2) - The Consultant observed a pack of McKesson Toddler Training Pants with a warning to avoid danger of suffocation, keep this and any plastic bags away from children located in the bathroom and accessible to 1 and 2-year-old children.

Classroom C (3) - The Consultant observed a pack of McKesson Toddler Training Pants and plastic bags with a warning to avoid danger of suffocation, keep this and any plastic bags away from children located in the bathroom and accessible to 1 and 2-year-old 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: 8/24/2026

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

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

Correction Deadline: 1/26/2026

Corrected on 8/24/2026
.26(6) - The previous citation was observed to be corrected.

Correction Deadline: 1/26/2026

Corrected on 8/24/2026
.26(9) - The previous citation was observed to be corrected.

Food Service

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

Comment
CACFP Meal Pattern Requirements effective October 1, 2017 will be implemented October 1, 2018: 3 Components for breakfast: Grains, Vegetables, Fruits or both, Milk
5 Components for lunch – Grains, Meat/Meat alternates, Fruits, Vegetable, and Milk OR Grains, Meat/Meat alternates, 2 different types of vegetables, and Milk
2 of 5 Components for snack

Provided Updated CACFP Infant Meal pattern and Child/Adult Meal pattern flyers.

The Crediting Handbook for the CACFP can be located on DECAL and USDA's website:
DECAL
http://decal.ga.gov/CACFP/Handbook.aspx
USDA
http://www.fns.usda.gov/cacfp/cacfp-handbooks

Comment
591-1-1-.15(2)(f) - Discussed that food for infants or children less than one (1) year of age be cut into pieces one-quarter inch or smaller and food for toddlers shall be cut into pieces one-half inch or smaller to prevent choking.

Correction Deadline: 8/24/2026

Correction Deadline: 1/26/2026

Corrected on 8/24/2026
.15(5) - The previous citation was observed to be clean and in good repair.

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
Proper hand washing observed throughout the center on this date.

591-1-1-.20 Medications(CR) **Met**

Comment
Documentation for medication dispensing observed completed on this date.

Correction Deadline: 1/16/2026

Corrected on 8/24/2026
.20(1) - The previous citation was observed to be corrected.

Policies and Procedures

591-1-1-.21 Operational Policies & Procedures **Met**

Comment
Program observed complete emergency drills

591-1-1-.27 Posted Notices **Met**

Comment
Observed all required posted notices.

591-1-1-.29 Required Reporting **Met**

Comment
Thank you for reporting as required.

Safety

591-1-1-.05 Animals **Met**

Comment
Center does not keep animals on premises.

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-.13 Field Trips(CR) **Met**

Comment
Center does not participate in field trips at this time.

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

Comment
Center does not provide routine transportation.

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.

Correction Deadline: 1/26/2026

Corrected on 8/24/2026
.30(1)(b)3 - The previous citation was observed to be corrected.

Correction Deadline: 1/26/2026

Corrected on 8/24/2026
.30(4) - The previous citation was observed to be corrected.

Staff Records

Records Reviewed: 19 **Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 1**

Staff # 2 Not Met

Date of Hire: 06/17/2024

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

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

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

Comment
Criminal record checks were observed to be complete.

Comment
Director provided 3 file(s) for employees hired since last visit.

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

Comment
Please be mindful of training expiration dates.

Comment
Please replace/add missing/expired item(s) in first aid kit(s) (First Aid / Burn Cream expired August 2024).

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

Comment
Documentation observed of required staff training.

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) **Met**

Comment
Staff observed to provide direct supervision and be attentive to children's needs.