



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: 1/6/2026 **VisitType:** Complaint Investigation Follow Up **Arrival:** 10:15 AM **Departure:** 2:30 PM

CCLC-53180

Reach for the Stars of Rome

201 E. 19th Street Rome, GA 30161 Floyd County
(762) 370-7508

Regional Consultant

Randy Gaytan

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randy.gaytan@dec.al.ga.gov

Mailing Address

Same

Quality Rated: No

<u>Compliance Zone Designation</u>			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.
01/06/2026	Complaint Investigation Follow Up	Good Standing	
08/28/2025	Monitoring Visit	Good Standing	
02/27/2025	Licensing Study	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 Preschool-School Age-Entrance Classroom	Two Year Olds and Three Year Olds	1	11	C	14	C	NA	NA	Centers
Main	B- Birth-2 Yrs-1L	One Year Olds	1	7	C	9	C	NA	NA	Centers
Main	Back Room-Infant	Infants	1	5	C	4	NC	NA	NA	Nap,Feeding,Flo or Play
			Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 27		Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0					
Total # Children this Date: 23			Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 27		Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0					

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	Left Side Playground	9	C
Main	Right Side Playground	15	C

Comments

The purpose of this visit was to conduct a complaint investigation and a follow up visit.

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.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 Complaint Investigation Follow Up:

	Facility
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591-1-1-.19 License Capacity(CR)	Not Met
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Finding

591-1-1-.19(1) requires a Center to provide 35 square feet of usable space per child, which will determine the Center's License capacity. It was determined based on observation that there were five children present in Back Room - Infant which has a maximum capacity of four.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will limit the number of children in this space to the licensed capacity.

Correction Deadline: 1/6/2026

	Food Service
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591-1-1-.15 Food Service & Nutrition	Not Met
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Finding

591-1-1-.15(2)(a) requires Center Personnel to hold and feed infants less than six months of age and older children who cannot hold their own bottles or sit alone. Baby bottles shall never be propped; the infant's head shall be elevated while feeding. It was determined based on observation that one infant out of five was in a bouncy chair with a bottle propped on a blanket.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will train Staff to hold infants less than six months old or who can not hold their own bottle, to never prop bottles and to elevate infant's heads during feeding. The director will monitor Staff to ensure appropriate feeding procedures are followed.

Correction Deadline: 1/6/2026

Finding

591-1-1-.15(7) requires that food be served according to manufacturer's instructions and recommendations. Foods that are associated with young children's choking incidents, such as, but not limited to, peanuts, hot dogs, raw carrots, popcorn, fish with bones, cheese cubes, grapes and any other food that is of similar shape and size of the trachea/windpipe shall not be served to the children less than four (4) years of age. Children older than four (4) years of age may be served these foods provided that the foods are cut in such a way as to minimize choking. Food shall not be accessible or served to children until it has been chopped, diced, cut or mashed and is appropriate for each child's age and individual eating, chewing and swallowing ability. It was determined based on observation that the fish sticks and tater tots that were served to the 1, 2, and 3-year-olds were not cut.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will train Staff and monitor food served and accessible to children to ensure that the food does not present a choking hazard.

Health and Hygiene

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 no children washed their hands before or after eating.

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: 1/6/2026

Staff Records

Records Reviewed: 8**Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 3**

Staff # 3

Not Met

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.09-Criminal Records Check Missing

Staff # 5

Not Met

Date of Hire: 04/01/2020

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.09-Criminal Records Check Missing

Staff # 6

Not Met

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.09-Criminal Records Check Missing

591-1-1-.09 Criminal Records and Comprehensive Background Checks(CR)**Not Met****Finding**

591-1-1-.09(1)(j) requires that for portability for Directors, Employees and Provisional Employees, excluding Students-in-Training, only the most recently issued determination letter is eligible for portability and must be ported electronically. A Center may accept a satisfactory Fingerprint Records Check Determination letter or a satisfactory Comprehensive Records Check Determination letter issued by the Department if the Records Check Clearance Date is within the preceding 12 months from the hire date, the individual has not had a lapse of employment from the child care industry that lasted for 180 days (6 months) or longer, and the Center does not know or reasonably should not know that the individual's satisfactory status has changed. It was determined based on a review of records that staff #3, #5, and #6 had current satisfactory Comprehensive Records Check Determination letters That had not been ported. Staff #3 who had an expiration date of December 2, 2030, and a portability deadline of December 3, 2026 was a therapist observing a child in the Back Room - Infant room. Staff #5 who had an expiration date of July 31, 2030, and a portability deadline of August 1, 2026, arrived to speak with the Consultant regarding the complaint visit. Staff #6 who had an expiration date of October 22, 2030, and a portability deadline of October 23, 2026, was covering the kitchen and breaks.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

IMMEDIATE CORRECTION - The Center will regularly ensure all staff are ported to both centers to ensure that only the most recently issued determination letter is electronically ported for Directors, Employees and Provisional Employees, excluding Students-in-Training. A Center may accept a satisfactory Fingerprint Records Check Determination letter or a satisfactory Comprehensive Records Check Determination letter issued by the Department if the Records Check Clearance Date is within the preceding 12 months from the hire date, the individual has not had a lapse of employment from the child care industry that lasted for 180 days (6 months) or longer, and the Center does not know or reasonably should not know that the individual's satisfactory status has changed. The program's owner or an officer/member of the corporation must view the A to Z Background Check video units pertaining to this records check rule and return the signed affidavit within one week from this visit date. The Center will follow the procedures presented in the training videos to ensure CRC rules are maintained.

Correction Deadline: 1/6/2026

Staffing and Supervision

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 due to lack of staff the teacher in the Infant room was also cooking lunch and making the plates, and the teacher in Room A was taking the plates from the kitchen and delivering them to the rooms. Additionally, no staff was seated within an arm's length from the children in Room A and Room B.

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: 1/6/2026