



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: 3/4/2025

VisitType: Complaint Investigation & Monitoring Visit

Arrival: 8:30 AM

Departure: 12:00 PM

CCLC-56596

A Step Above Preparatory South

4195 Welcome All Rd SW Atlanta, GA 30349 Fulton County
(260) 760-4679 astepaboveprepsouth@gmail.com

Regional Consultant

Shameka Dozier

Phone: (770) 857-7010

Fax: (770) 357-7009

shameka.dozier@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.
03/04/2025	Complaint Investigation & Monitoring Visit	Deficient	
01/06/2025	Complaint Investigation & Licensing Study	Support	
01/06/2025	Complaint Closure	Support	

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	AL-Infant		0	0	C	10	C	NA	NA	
Main	Back F-Private Pre-K		0	0	C	16	C	NA	NA	
Main	BL-One and Two	Infants and One Year Olds and Two Year Olds	1	8	C	21	C	NA	NA	Free Play
Main	CL-Three year old	Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds and Six Year Olds and Over	1	18	C	18	C	NA	NA	Free Play
Main	DL-Four year old		0	0	C	11	C	NA	NA	
Main	EL-Afterschool		0	0	C	63	C	NA	NA	
Main	HR-One year Old		0	0	C	12	C	NA	NA	
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.:			151			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.:		0		
Total # Children this Date: 26			Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.:		151		Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.:		0	

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	Afterschool	55	C
Main	Infant	13	C
Main	Toddler	7	C

Enrolled Children						
Under 1 years	1 years	2 years	3 years	4 years	5 years (Prekonly)	5 years and older
1	8	12	14	2	0	16

Comments

The purpose of this visit is to conduct a monitoring visit and to follow up from the previous visit.

Plan of Improvement: To Be Submitted 03/18/2025

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.decga.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:

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 CAPS/ QR Provisional Status, allowing for scholarships while working toward an initial star rating. Provisional Status eligibility will be determined at the time of CAPS enrollment as part of the CAPS application process.

Contact the Quality Rated help desk at 855-800-7747 or qualityrated@decga.gov for more information. Free technical assistance is available!



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(Findings Report)

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The following information is associated with a Monitoring Visit:

Activities and Equipment

Records Reviewed: 10

Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 1

Staff # 7

Not Met

Date of Hire: 01/13/2025

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.24(1)-No Record

591-1-1-.03 Activities

Not Met

Finding

591-1-1-.03(1) requires the Center to provide a daily planned program of varied and developmentally appropriate activities to promote social, emotional, physical, cognitive, language and literacy growth. Center Staff shall use a variety of teaching methods to accommodate the needs of the children's different learning styles. It was determined based on observation that a daily planned program of varied and developmentally appropriate activities was not provided as the children were observed climbing on furniture, running around the classroom, and throwing toys in classroom CL. Consultant also observed children in classroom BL were walking around with no activities provided for over ten minutes.

Correction Deadline: 3/4/2025

Recited on 3/4/2025

Finding

591-1-1-.03(2) requires the Center to keep current lesson plans on site that reflect appropriate instruction practices and activities to support children's development. The Center shall have sufficient and varied play and learning equipment and materials to support the above program of activities in all developmental areas. It was determined based on observation that classroom CL did not have an updated lesson plan posted. Consultant observed the lesson plan was dated as week four of February 2025.

Correction Deadline: 3/4/2025

Recited on 3/4/2025

Finding

591-1-1-.03(5)(a-k) requires the Center to provide a variety of activities that allow for: indoor and outdoor play; quiet and active periods; free choice and directed activities; individual and group activities; large and small muscle activities; language experiences; arts and crafts; dramatic play; music and movement; and nature and science. It was determined based on observation that a variety of activities such as arts and crafts; dramatic play materials; music and movement; nature and science, and manipulatives were not present in classroom CL, as the shelves were empty with the exception of one shelf located at the back door that had a few blocks. Consultant also observed that there was not a variety of activities offered in classroom BL, as only one shelf had blocks.

Correction Deadline: 3/4/2025

Recited on 3/4/2025

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

Met

Correction Deadline: 1/6/2025

Corrected on 3/4/2025

.12(4) - Previous citation of classroom CL having two sets of ten chairs that were stacked high as the chairs were taller than the children, accessible, and was not secure was observed to be corrected on this date.

591-1-1-.35 Swimming Pools & Water-related Activities(CR)

N/A

Comment

Swimming activities provided off site.

Facility

Records Reviewed: 10

Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 1

Staff # 7

Not Met

Date of Hire: 01/13/2025

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.24(1)-No Record

591-1-1-.06 Bathrooms

Met

Comment

Bathrooms observed to be clean and well maintained.

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

Licensed capacity observed to be routinely met by center.

591-1-1-.25 Physical Plant - Safe Environment(CR)	Met
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Correction Deadline: 1/6/2025

Corrected on 3/4/2025

.25(13) - Previous citation of two aerosol disinfectant spray cans stored in the corner and on the edge of the counter in classroom BL was accessible, and disinfectant wipes and hand sanitizer that was accessible on the left cubby shelf in classroom CL were observed to be corrected on this date.

Correction Deadline: 1/6/2025

Corrected on 3/4/2025

.25(3) - Previous citation of classrooms HR and Back F having blinds that were torn was observed to be corrected on this date.

591-1-1-.26 Playgrounds(CR)	Met
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Correction Deadline: 1/17/2025

Corrected on 3/4/2025

.26(4) - Previous citation of the black gate that connects the playground having fence metal wires on the bottom middle of the gate that were not connected to the pole and were torn, and the black gates surrounding both of the air conditioning units had torn fence metal wires on the top right side was observed to be corrected on this date.

Food Service

Records Reviewed: 10

Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 1

Staff # 7

Not Met

Date of Hire: 01/13/2025

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.24(1)-No Record

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

591-1-1-.15(5) requires that the Center provide a menu listing all meals and snacks to be served during the current week except for School-age Centers where the food may be provided by the Parent(s) by agreement between the School-age Center and the Parent(s). Substitutions shall be recorded on the posted menu and menus shall be retained at the Center for six (6) months. It was determined based on observation there was no current food menu posted for the current week as consultant observed a posted menu for January 2025.

Correction Deadline: 3/4/2025

Recited on 3/4/2025

591-1-1-.18 Kitchen Operations	Met
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Comment

Kitchen appears clean and well organized.

Health and Hygiene

Records Reviewed: 10

Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 1

Staff # 7

Not Met

Date of Hire: 01/13/2025

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.24(1)-No Record

591-1-1-.10 Diapering Areas & Practices(CR)

Met

Comment

Hand washing requirements for diapering were discussed with the director on this date.

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

Met

Correction Deadline: 1/7/2025

Corrected on 3/4/2025

.17(6) - Previous citation of the trash can in classroom BL being filled with trash and did not have a lid to cover the trash can was observed to be corrected on this date.

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

N/A

Comment

Per the provider, the center currently does not dispense/administer medication.

Safety

Records Reviewed: 10

Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 1

Staff # 7

Not Met

Date of Hire: 01/13/2025

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.24(1)-No Record

591-1-1-.05 Animals

N/A

Comment

Center does not keep animals on premises.

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

Met

Comment

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

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)

N/A

Comment

Per the director, the center has not provide routine transportation due to the vehicles being in a repair shop.

Sleeping & Resting Equipment

Records Reviewed: 10

Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 1

Staff # 7

Not Met

Date of Hire: 01/13/2025

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.24(1)-No Record

591-1-1-.30 Safe Sleeping and Resting Requirements(CR)**Met****Correction Deadline: 1/6/2025****Corrected on 3/4/2025**

.30(1)(d) - Previous citation of cots in classroom BL not having the minimum of twelve inches (12") between each piece of sleeping or resting equipment, and three children laying/ sleeping on mats that were close together with no spacing between them was observed to be corrected on this date.

Staff Records

Records Reviewed: 10**Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 1**

Staff # 7

Not Met

Date of Hire: 01/13/2025

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.24(1)-No Record

591-1-1-.09 Criminal Records and Comprehensive Background Checks(CR)**Met****Correction Deadline: 1/6/2025****Corrected on 3/4/2025**

.09(1)(a) - Previous citation of staff #5 with a hire date of 01/06/2025 was observed supervising children in classrooms, preparing food, and did not submit both a Records Check Application to the Department and Fingerprints to an authorized fingerprinting site was observed to be corrected. Per the director the staff is no longer employed at the facility.

Correction Deadline: 1/6/2025**Corrected on 3/4/2025**

.09(1)(c) - Previous citation of staff #5 with a hire date of 01/06/2025 was observed supervising children in classrooms, preparing food, and did not have a valid and current satisfactory Comprehensive Records Check Determination on file prior to being present at the Center while children were present was observed to be corrected on this date. Per the director, the staff is no longer employed at the facility.

591-1-1-.24 Personnel Records**Not Met****Finding**

591-1-1-.24(1) requires the center to maintain a personnel file on the Director, all Employees, Provisional Employees, Personnel, Staff, Students-in-Training, Volunteers, Clerical, Housekeeping, Maintenance, and other Support Staff for the duration of the term of employment plus one calendar year, and it shall contain the following: identifying information to include: name, date of birth, social security number, current address and current telephone number; employment history; as applicable to the position held: evidence of education and qualifying work experience; evidence of all training required by these rules which shall include: title of training, date of training, trainer's signature, location of training and number of clock hours obtained; a statement completed by the staff member that the information provided is true and accurate; any other records required by these rules; and as applicable to the position held, evidence of required orientation including date and signature of person providing the orientation; It was determined based on review of records that there was no personnel file for staff #7.

Correction Deadline: 3/4/2025**Recited on 3/4/2025**

Defer

591-1-1-.33(5)-Previous citation of staff #7 having zero of ten annual hours for the year 2024 will be deferred until next visit date.

Correction Deadline: 2/5/2025

591-1-1-.31 Staff(CR)**Not Met****Finding**

591-1-1-.31(11) requires the Center to have qualified and sufficient direct-care, clerical, housekeeping, maintenance and other employees to ensure full compliance with these rules without neglecting the supervision of children. It was determined based on observation that there was no sufficient direct-care to ensure full compliance as only two teachers were observed at the facility for over an hour. Consultant observed a staff member having to leave the classroom to open the front door for parents who were dropping off their children.

Correction Deadline: 3/4/2025

Correction Deadline: 1/6/2025

Corrected on 3/4/2025

.31(5)(h) - Previous citation of staff #10 who is listed as an ABA therapist was observed supervising three school aged children in classroom Back F was observed to be corrected as the staff was not present on this date.

Staffing and Supervision**Records Reviewed: 10****Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 1**

Staff # 7

Not Met

Date of Hire: 01/13/2025

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.24(1)-No Record

591-1-1-.32 Staff:Child Ratios and Group Size(CR)**Not Met****Finding**

591-1-1-.32(2) requires the Center maintain Staff:child ratios in mixed-age groups based on the age of the youngest group of children that includes more than twenty percent of the total number of children in the mixed-age group. It was determined based on observation in classroom CL, the ratio was 1:18 when the required ratio is 1:15. Consultant observed more than twenty percent of the total number of children as there were (8) three-year-olds, (9) four-year-olds, and (1) six-year-old observed.

Correction Deadline: 3/4/2025

Correction Deadline: 1/6/2025

Corrected on 3/4/2025

.32(4) - Previous citation of one five-year-old was housed with eight one-year-olds in classroom HR was observed to be corrected on this date.

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 in classroom BL, a child ran out of the classroom into the hallway for less than one minute and the teacher was unaware.

Correction Deadline: 3/4/2025

Recited on 3/4/2025

The following information is associated with a Complaint Investigation Visit:

Policies and Procedures

Records Reviewed: 10

Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 1

Staff # 7

Not Met

Date of Hire: 01/13/2025

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.24(1)-No Record

Correction Deadline: 1/6/2025

Corrected on 3/4/2025

.29(1) - Previous citation of an incident not reported to the department within the required twenty-four hours was observed to be corrected as this finding was associated with a complaint.