



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: 11/10/2025 **VisitType:** Licensing Study

Arrival: 9:50 AM **Departure:** 5:00 PM

CCLC-58140

Cornerstone Children's Center

209 Church Street Vidalia, GA 30474 Toombs County
(912) 535-7521

Regional Consultant

Connie Boatright

Phone: (912) 544-9701

Fax: (912) 544-9700

connie.boatright@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.
11/10/2025	Licensing Study	Good Standing	
06/05/2025	Monitoring Visit	Good Standing	
10/15/2024	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-B23 - Colts		0	0	C	18	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
Main	B - B22 - Lambs Infants	Infants and One Year Olds	2	2	C	15	C	NA	NA	Centers,Floor Play,Feeding,Nap
Main	C - B16 Cubs - Older Infants	One Year Olds and Two Year Olds	3	10	C	13	C	NA	NA	Centers,Nap,Outside,Transitioning,Lunch
Main	D - C5 Owls	Two Year Olds and Three Year Olds	2	11	C	18	C	NA	NA	Centers,Lunch,Outside,Transitioning,Nap
Main	E-C8 HORSES	Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds	2	14	C	18	C	NA	NA	Transitioning,Outside,Nap,Lunch,Centers
Main	F C6 - BEARS	Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds	1	11	C	20	C	NA	NA	Lunch,Centers,Nap
Main	G C9-GAZELLES	Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds	2	12	C	20	C	NA	NA	Centers,Lunch,Nap
Main	H C17 LIONS	Two Year Olds and Three Year Olds	2	9	C	22	C	NA	NA	Nap,Lunch
Main	I B18 Colt's 2		0	0	C	10	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
Main	J B23 COLTS	Infants and One Year Olds	2	6	C	18	C	NA	NA	Lunch,Nap,Centers

	Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 172	Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0
Total # Children this Date: 75	Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 172	Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	A-FR-0-4 YRS	53	C
Main	B - B22 Lambs (Infants)	63	C

Enrolled Children						
Under 1 years	1 years	2 years	3 years	4 years	5 years (Prekonly)	5 years and older
13	10	15	37	13	0	37

Comments

The CCS Consultant discussed and left a copy of the updated Child Care Weather Watch Chart with the program today. Weather does not permit outdoor play when there is active precipitation or when weather advisories are in effect. Consult the Child Care Weather Watch Chart resource. A 1-day letter and affidavit was left with the center director for a Criminal Records Check citation.

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.dec.al.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@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: 11/10/2025 VisitType: Licensing Study

Arrival: 9:50 AM Departure: 5:00 PM

CCLC-58140

Cornerstone Children's Center

209 Church Street Vidalia, GA 30474 Toombs County
(912) 535-7521

Regional Consultant

Connie Boatright

Phone: (912) 544-9701

Fax: (912) 544-9700

connie.boatright@dec.al.ga.gov

Mailing Address

Same

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 were observed to be clean and in good repair.

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

Met

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)

Technical Assistance

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.25(3) - The center will ensure that the small electrical box located by the TV stand, in the hall way leading to the outside playground is covered.

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 twenty-three bolts located on the black chain link fence dividing playgrounds were protruding more than two threads.

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: 11/20/2025**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 the following playground hazards were observed:

Hall:

---One of two red wagons were missing two seat safety straps. Additionally, two of four corners that joins a shade tarp were broken leaving rough edges.

---One of two red Little Tikes Coupe car was missing the steering wheel leaving a hole the size of a quarter, posing an entrapment or cutting hazard.

---One of three bye-bye buggies were missing two of six seat safety straps, and one of three bye-bye buggies were missing one of six seat safety straps.

Playground:

---One green tarp that covers the sand box was ripped on four of four corners exposing threads and posing as a choking hazard.

---Fourteen of twenty-four black plastic borders surrounding the swing set area was cracked exposing rough edges.

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: 11/20/2025**Food Service****591-1-1-.15 Food Service & Nutrition****Technical Assistance****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://dec.al.ga.gov/CACFP/Handbook.aspx>

USDA

<http://www.fns.usda.gov/cacfp/cacfp-handbooks>

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.15(2)(f) - The center will ensure 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: 11/10/2025

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**

Proper diapering procedures observed.

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.

Policies and Procedures

591-1-1-.21 Operational Policies & Procedures**Technical Assistance****Technical Assistance**

591-1-1-.21(1)(a-o) - 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.

Correction Deadline: 11/15/2025

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.21(1)(r) - New - 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.dec.state.ga.us/CCS/RuleAndRegulations.aspx> or through the Center on Shaken Baby Syndrome found at: <https://dontshake.org/>.

Correction Deadline: 11/15/2025

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

Please make sure that all required signs are posted and up to date (Communicable Disease).

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**

Field trip documentation observed to be complete on this date.

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

Complete documentation of transportation observed on this date.

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

Discussed SIDS and infant sleeping position.

Comment

Pleasant naptime environment observed.

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.

Staff Records**Records Reviewed: 26****Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 5**

Staff # 5

Not Met

Date of Hire: 08/22/2016

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.31(2)(b)2.-Staff Qualifications-Education Missing

Staff # 17

Not Met

Date of Hire: 08/19/2019

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.31(2)(b)2.-Staff Qualifications-Education Missing

Staff # 19

Not Met

Date of Hire: 02/10/2016

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.31(2)(b)2.-Staff Qualifications-Education Missing

Staff # 20

Not Met

Date of Hire: 07/29/2025

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.09-Criminal Records Check Missing

Staff # 22

Not Met

Date of Hire: 01/27/2025

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

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

Comment

Director provided 4 file(s) for employees hired since last visit.

Finding

591-1-1-.09(1)(a) requires that a Center ensure that every actual and potential Director, Employee and Provisional Employee of a Child Care Learning Center submit both a Records Check Application to the Department and Fingerprints to an authorized fingerprinting site. It was determined based on a review of records, Koala Outback, and the Director's statement that Staff #20 was present with children on July 29, 2025, August 13, 2025, September 4, 2025, September 19, 2025, and October 2, 2025 without submitting both a Records Check Application to the Department and Fingerprints to an authorized fingerprinting site as required. A 1-day letter and affidavit was left with the center director.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

IMMEDIATE CORRECTION - The Center will immediately ensure that every actual and potential Director, Employee and Provisional Employee of a Child Care Learning Center submit both a Records Check Application to the Department and Fingerprints to an authorized fingerprinting site as required. 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 immediately ensure the CRC rules are maintained.

Correction Deadline: 11/10/2025

Finding

591-1-1-.09(1)(c) requires the Center to ensure that every Employee has a valid and current satisfactory Comprehensive Records Check Determination on file prior to being present at the Center while any child is present for care or before an individual age 17 or older resides in the Center. The Comprehensive Records Check Determination must have a Records Check Clearance Date that is no older than the preceding 12 months of the hire date; provided, however, if the Employee has had a lapse of employment from the child care industry that lasted for 180 days (6 months) or longer, a new satisfactory Comprehensive Records Check Determination is required. It was determined based on a review of records, Koala Outback, and the Director's statement that Staff #20 was present on July 29, 2025, August 13, 2025, September 4, 2025, September 19, 2025, and October 2, 2025 without a satisfactory Comprehensive Records Check Determination as required. A 1-day letter and affidavit was left with the center director.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

IMMEDIATE CORRECTION - The Center will immediately ensure that every Employee has a valid and current satisfactory Comprehensive Records Check Determination on file prior to being present at the Center while any child is present for care or before an individual age 17 or older resides in the Center. The Comprehensive Records Check Determination must have a Records Check Clearance Date that is no older than the preceding 12 months of the hire date; provided, however, if the Employee has had a lapse of employment from the child care industry that lasted for 180 days (6 months) or longer, a new satisfactory Comprehensive Records Check Determination is required. 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 immediately ensure that the CRC rules are maintained.

Correction Deadline: 11/10/2025

591-1-1-.14 First Aid & CPR(CR)**Not Met****Comment**

Evidence observed of 50% of center Staff certified in First Aid and CPR.

Comment

Please anti-bacterial ointment, antiseptic, and insect sting preparation to the first aid kit on the van.

Finding

591-1-1-.14(1)(a) requires all Staff who provide direct care to children must obtain certification in a biennial training program in pediatric cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and a triennial training program in pediatric first aid within the first 45 days of employment. Current and valid evidence of the successful completion of such training shall be maintained on the Center's premises. The hours obtained completing this certification will not count towards the required annual training hours. It was determined based on review of staff records that staff # 22 has been hired more than forty-five days and does not have proof of completion of pediatric cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and a triennial training program in pediatric first aid as required.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

All caregiver Staff will complete the required training. The Director will send copies via email verification of completed CPR/First Aid certification to the consultant upon completion and will develop a plan to ensure all caregiver Staff have completed this training within the first 45 days of employment and that evidence of successful completion of the training is on file available for inspection.

Correction Deadline: 11/20/2025

591-1-1-.33 Staff Training

Technical Assistance

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.33(1) - Discussed that all Employees, including volunteers, independent contractors, students-in-training, etc. should have a completed initial program orientation form on file.

Correction Deadline: 11/10/2025

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: 12/10/2025

591-1-1-.31 Staff(CR)

Not Met

Finding

591-1-1-.31(2)(b)2. requires teachers and lead caregivers to meet minimum academic requirements and qualifying experience at the time of employment. It was determined based on review of staff records that staff # 5 and 19 serve as lead teachers and have educational credentials which have expired, and staff # 16 serves as a lead teacher and does not have required educational credentials and is not enrolled in a program to obtain educational credentials.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

A teacher/lead caregiver will be hired that meets the minimum academic requirements and qualifying work experience.

Correction Deadline: 12/31/2025

Finding

591-1-1-.31(2)(b)3.(ii)(I)-(VIII) requires the Center develop a written plan for newly hired teacher's who do not possess the educational credential or degree listed in 591-1-1-.31(2)(b)2.(i) through (xii). It was determined based on review of staff records that staff # 17 serves as a lead teacher, does not have the required educational credentials, and does not have a professional learning plan on file as required.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will develop a written plan for newly hired teacher's and ensure that the teacher's follow the plan.

Correction Deadline: 11/20/2025

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.