



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: 2/9/2026 VisitType: Monitoring Visit

Arrival: 9:15 AM Departure: 10:20 AM

CCLC-51917
Smart Start Pre-School Learning Academy
505 Bartow Street Thomasville, GA 31792 Thomas County
(229) 225-1122

Regional Consultant
Angela Williams-Jackson
Phone: (404) 710-3984
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angela.williams-jackson@dec.al.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.
02/09/2026	Monitoring Visit	Good Standing	
11/25/2025	Complaint Closure	Good Standing	
11/24/2025	Complaint Investigation Follow Up	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	Room A - Infants	Infants and One Year Olds	1	4	C	14	C	NA	NA	Feeding, Floor Play
Main	Room B - 1 to 2 yr olds		0	0	C	13	C	NA	NA	
Main	Room C - Older 2's	Two Year Olds and Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds	2	10	C	20	C	NA	NA	Breakfast
Main	Room D - 5 to 12 yr olds		0	0	C	19	C	26	C	
Main	Room E - 3 to 4 yr olds		0	0	C	20	C	27	C	
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 86			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0							
Total # Children this Date: 14			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0							

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	Playground A	21	C
Main	Playground B	48	C

Enrolled Children						
Under 1 years	1 years	2 years	3 years	4 years	5 years (Prekonly)	5 years and older
1	5	8	6	2	0	0

Comments

The Center was left with repeat citations on this date. The Consultant discussed with the Director to ensure that the transportation vehicle and documents are on the premises during the next regulatory 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.decgal.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@decgal.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 Monitoring Visit:

Activities and Equipment

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

Comment

A variety of equipment and toys were observed throughout the center on this date.

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

Comment

Center does not provide swimming activities.

Evening Care

591-1-1-.32 Staffing/Supervision(CR) N/A

Comment

No evening care hours provided.

Facility

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

Comment

Licensed capacity observed to be routinely met by the center on this date.

591-1-1-.25 Physical Plant - Safe Environment(CR) Not Met

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 the following areas were not clean and in need of repair that posed a health and safety hazard:

Main Room C

- The ceiling vents in both bathrooms had dust and debris

Main Room E

- The vent fan in the first bathroom to the left was not working.

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: 2/23/2026

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

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

Health and Hygiene

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

Staff stated proper knowledge of diapering procedures.

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

Staff were observed to remind children to wash hands on this date.

591-1-1-.20 Medications(CR)	N/A
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Comment

The Provider currently does not dispense or administer medication.

Safety

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

Age-appropriate discussion and redirection observed.

591-1-1-.36 Transportation(CR)	Not Evaluated
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Comment

The vehicle and documentation were not observed because they were not on the premises.

Sleeping & Resting Equipment

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

Discussed SIDS and infant sleeping position.

Staff Records

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

Consultant requested to view all Criminal Record checks for employees hired after the last visit. Director stated that there have been no new hires since the last visit.

591-1-1-.14 First Aid & CPR(CR)	Met
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Correction Deadline: 12/29/2025

Corrected on 2/9/2026

The previous citation was observed corrected on this date. The employee had CPR and First Aid training on file on this date.

591-1-1-.24 Personnel Records	Met
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Correction Deadline: 11/29/2025

Corrected on 2/9/2026

The previous citation was observed corrected on this date. The employees had orientation on file on this date.

591-1-1-.33 Staff Training	Not Met
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Correction Deadline: 12/24/2025

Corrected on 2/9/2026

The previous citation was observed corrected on this date. The employee had health and safety orientation training on file on this date.

Finding

591-1-1-.33(5)(a) requires that every calendar year after the first year of employment, all supervisory and caregiver Personnel, except independent contractors, Students-in-Training and volunteers, shall attend ten (10) clock hours of diverse training which is offered by an accredited college, university or vocational program or other Department-approved source. It was determined based on a review of records that Staff member #2 did not have evidence of 10 hours of annual training for the year 2025 as required.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will plan and schedule the required 10 hours of annual training each year and follow up to ensure the training is completed.

Correction Deadline: 3/10/2026

Recited on 2/9/2026

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)

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 that Room C - Older 2's had five 2-year-olds mixed with one 4-year-old.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will provide adequate staff when there is a mixed-age group.

Correction Deadline: 2/9/2026

591-1-1-.32 Supervision(CR)

Met

Comment

Adequate supervision observed on this date.