



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: 9/15/2025 **VisitType:** Monitoring Visit

Arrival: 11:50 AM **Departure:** 5:00 PM

CCLC-53686
International Preparatory Academy
4138 Snapfinger Woods Dr. Decatur, GA 30035 DeKalb County
(404) 288-7992

Regional Consultant
Jessica Johnson
Phone: (770) 357-5090
Fax:
jessica.johnson@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.
09/15/2025	Monitoring Visit	Good Standing	
03/25/2025	Complaint Closure	Good Standing	
03/17/2025	Complaint Investigation & 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 (1L) Pre-K 1		0	0	C	19	C	NA	NA	
Main	B -(B) Pre-K 2	Three Year Olds and GA PreK	4	30	NC	25	NC	NA	NA	Nap,Free Play
Main	C- (BR) 3's		0	0	C	12	C	NA	NA	
Main	D- (MR)- 4- 13 yr		0	0	C	21	C	NA	NA	
Main	E (FR) - 1's & 2's	One Year Olds and Two Year Olds	1	8	C	21	C	NA	NA	Nap
Main	F (1R) 6wks- 18 mths	Infants and One Year Olds	2	8	C	14	C	NA	NA	Floor Play,Nap
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 112			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0							
Total # Children this Date: 46			Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 112							
			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0							

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
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Enrolled Children						
Under 1 years	1 years	2 years	3 years	4 years	5 years (Prekonly)	5 years and older
4	8	11	13	23	0	43

Comments

On this date, Jessica Johnson (JJ), Consultant, reviewed the visit report with Owner Nicole Teklemariam.

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!



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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)

Met

Comment

Center does not provide swimming activities.

Children's Records

591-1-1-.08 Children's Records

Met

Correction Deadline: 3/18/2025

Corrected on 9/15/2025

.08(1) - The previous citation was corrected as the children enrollment forms were observed completed.

Facility

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

Not Met

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 that 30 children were observed in classroom B-(B) Pre-K2. The license capacity for this classroom was 25.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

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

Correction Deadline: 9/15/2025

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 based on observation that the following hazards were observed:

Classroom B- Pre-K

- A hanging cord from the top of the white cabinet.

Classroom E (FR)

- Diaper wipes observed in the cubbies in the front left and back right.

- Diaper wipes in an unlocked cabinet under the diapering table.

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: 9/15/2025

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 there was a four and a half inch gap at the bottom of the fence on the front left side of the preschool playground. It was further determined that the fence was disconnected at the top left side of the preschool playground.

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: 10/15/2025

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.26(6) - Please ensure all broken toys are removed from the Toddler playground.

Correction Deadline: 9/25/2025

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.26(9) - Discussed spray painting drainage pipes for the preschool playground.

Correction Deadline: 9/15/2025

Finding

591-1-1-.26(9) requires the playground to be kept clean, free from litter and free of hazards, such as but not limited to rocks, exposed tree roots and exposed sharp edges of concrete. It was determined based on that the following hazards were observed:

Preschool Playground

- A red/yellow tarp on the right side of the playground.

- A broken wooden post at the top of the playground.

- Thorny vines at the top of the playground.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will remove any litter and fix or remove hazards from the playground and will routinely monitor the playground and remove litter and hazards.

Correction Deadline: 10/6/2025

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

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

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

Comment

The Provider currently does not dispense/administer medication.

Policies and Procedures

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

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.21(4) - 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.

Also 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/Regulations.aspx> or through the Center on Shaken Baby Syndrome found at: <https://dontshake.org/>.

Correction Deadline: 9/20/2025

591-1-1-.22 Parental Access **Technical Assistance**

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.22 - Please ensure that the Center permits the custodial Parent(s) of the child access to all child care areas of the Center at any time the child is in attendance. The custodial Parent(s) shall make his or her presence known to Center Staff prior to removing the child from the Center.

Correction Deadline: 9/15/2025

Safety

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

Comment

Age-appropriate discussion and/or redirection observed.

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) **Not Met**

Correction Deadline: 3/22/2025

Corrected on 9/15/2025

.36(4)(a) - The previous citation was corrected as the annual safety check was observed completed.

Correction Deadline: 3/17/2025

Corrected on 9/15/2025

.36(4)(c) - The previous citation was corrected as the fire extinguisher was observed on the vehicle on this date.

Finding

591-1-1-.36(4)(f)1. requires that all transported children be secured in a child passenger restraining system or seat safety belt in accordance with current state and federal laws and regulations and according to manufacturer's directions. It was determined based on observation that children were not transported in accordance with current state and federal laws and regulations on this date.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will ensure that manufacturer directions and state and federal laws are met when using child passenger restraining systems and seat safety belts.

Correction Deadline: 9/20/2025

Correction Deadline: 3/18/2025

Corrected on 9/15/2025

.36(7)(b) - The previous citation was corrected as the Consultant observed the emergency medical forms on file on this date.

Correction Deadline: 3/18/2025

Corrected on 9/15/2025

.36(7)(c)5. - The previous citation was corrected on this date as the transportation log was observed completed.

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.

Staff Records

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

Met

Comment

Criminal record checks were observed to be complete.

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

Technical Assistance

Correction Deadline: 4/16/2025

Corrected on 9/15/2025

.14(1) - The previous citation was corrected on this date as Staff # 17 documentation was observed on this date.

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.14(1)(a) - 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: 10/15/2025

591-1-1-.24 Personnel Records

Met

Correction Deadline: 3/22/2025

Corrected on 9/15/2025

.24(1) - The Previous citation was corrected on this date as Staff files were observed.

591-1-1-.33 Staff Training

Defer

Defer

591-1-1-.33(4)- Evaluation of the previous citation was deferred on this date to the next regulatory visit.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will schedule food preparation training, as required, and follow up to ensure the training is completed.

Correction Deadline: 4/16/2025

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.33(5)(a) - 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: 10/15/2025

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.33(6) - Discussed that all Employees, including volunteers, independent contractors, students-in-training, etc. should have a completed initial program orientation form on file.

Correction Deadline: 9/25/2025

591-1-1-.31 Staff(CR)**Met****Comment**

Discussed that all lead staff must enroll in an approved education program within 6 months of hire and complete degree within 18 months.

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**

Adequate supervision observed on this date.