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: 4/10/2026 **VisitType:** Licensing Study **Arrival:** 12:20 PM **Departure:** 6:00 PM

CCLC-58424
Storybrook Academy of Jefferson
1988 Washington Street Jefferson, GA 30549 Jackson County
(706) 708-2381

Regional Consultant
Lynn Schnitzer
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Mailing Address
Same

Quality Rated: ★ ★

Compliance Zone Designation		
04/10/2026	Licensing Study	Good Standing
12/09/2025	Monitoring Visit	Good Standing
06/05/2025	TA Follow Up	NA

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.

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	1L-Older Ones	One Year Olds	1	4	C	8	C	NA	NA	Nap
Main	1R-Infant	Infants and One Year Olds	1	6	C	9	C	NA	NA	Floor Play,Nap
Main	2L-Two Year old	Two Year Olds	1	4	C	10	C	NA	NA	Nap
Main	2R-Infant		0	0	C	9	C	NA	NA	
Main	3L-Older Two Year old		0	0	C	10	C	NA	NA	
Main	3R-Younger 1	One Year Olds	1	6	C	9	C	NA	NA	Nap
Main	4L-Pr-K 1 (Annex)	Four Year Olds	1	9	C	20	C	NA	NA	Nap
Main	4R-Three and Four		0	0	C	16	C	NA	NA	
Main	5L-GA Pre-K (Annex)	Six Year Olds and Over	1	17	NC	23	C	NA	NA	Transitioning
Main	5R-Three and Four Year Old	Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds	1	15	C	15	C	NA	NA	Nap
Main	6R-Pre-K (2)m (Annex)		0	0	C	20	C	NA	NA	
Main	7R-Pre-K (3) (Annex)		0	0	C	20	C	NA	NA	
		Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 169			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0					
Total # Children this Date: 61		Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 169			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0					

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	L1-Playground	5	C
Main	L2-Playground	14	C
Main	R1-Playground	11	C
Main	R2-Playground	18	C
Main	Rear Playground	30	C

Enrolled Children						
Under 1 years	**1 years**	**2 years**	**3 years**	**4 years**	**5 years (Prekonly)**	**5 years and older**
12	16	8	14	25	7	22

Comments

The consultant discussed the visit report with the Director, Marie Cruse, on April10, 2026.

Plan of Improvement: Developed This Date

CCLC Indicator Manual

For additional information regarding any licensing topics discussed during this visit, please consult the Rules and Regulations Indicator Manual. This manual provides comprehensive clarification of each rule, including evaluation indicators, related best practices, and relevant considerations to support your program's continued and sustained compliance.

To access the Indicator Manual, please scan the QR code below or visit our website at https://www.decal.ga.gov/CCS/RulesAndRegulations.aspx.

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

You have received permission to operate and the form received with this report is intended to serve as a temporary license which is **valid for thirty(30) days**. Your actual license/ will be emailed to you upon receipt of the licensing fee. You may pay the licensing fee either online at http://www.decal.ga.gov/ or by certified check or money order mailed to: Bright from the Start, 2 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive SE, Suite 670 East Tower, Atlanta, GA 30334

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

Date: 4/10/2026 **VisitType:** Licensing Study **Arrival:** 12:20 PM **Departure:** 6:00 PM

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The following information is associated with a Licensing Study:

Activities and Equipment

591-1-1-.03 Activities **Met**

Comment
Age-appropriate activities observed throughout the center.

Comment
Lesson Plans were observed to be posted and reflected the current weeks activities in each classroom.

591-1-1-.12 Equipment & Toys(CR) **Technical Assistance**

Comment
Equipment and furniture observed to be properly secured, as applicable.

Technical Assistance
591-1-1-.12(2) - Consultant discussed with the director to ensure that the torn vinyl furniture is replaced in classroom 3R and 4L and to replace the child proof latches on the right side of the changing tables classrooms 3L and 4R.

Correction Deadline: 4/10/2026

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

Comment
Center does not provide swimming activities.

Children's Records

591-1-1-.08 Children's Records **Technical Assistance**

Comment
Parent authorizations obtained/completed.

Technical Assistance
591-1-1-.08(1) - Consultant discussed with the director to ensure that children's enrollment record includes the parents' work addresses and phone numbers, the name and phone number of the child's physician, and information regarding allergies, medications, or special needs.

Correction Deadline: 4/10/2026

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) **Not Met**

Finding
591-1-1-.25(11) requires that floor coverings be tight, smooth, free of odors and washable or cleanable. It was determined based on observation that there was a piece of laminate missing by the sink in classroom 4R and cracked and broken laminate in the front entryway.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
Floors will be maintained to be safe and sanitary.

Correction Deadline: 4/24/2026

Recited on 4/10/2026

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 there was a tape dispenser with a serrated edge on a shelf and adult scissors in an unlocked cabinet in classroom 5L

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: 4/10/2026

Recited on 4/10/2026

Correction Deadline: 12/9/2025

Corrected on 4/10/2026
.25(3) - The previous citation was observed corrected on this date. The Consultant observed that the baseboard had been repaired n the restroom between classrooms 6R and 7R.

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 the bottom of the fence was not anchored on playground L1, there was a gap measuring approximately 3.5 inches in the gate from playground L2, and a 6-inch gap under the gate between playground R2 and Rear 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: 4/17/2026

Recited on 4/10/2026

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 there was a tricycle with missing pedals on the Rear Playground.

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: 4/10/2026

Recited on 4/10/2026

Technical Assistance
591-1-1-.26(9) - Consultant discussed with the director to remove the exposed landscaping tarp on the Rear Playground.

Correction Deadline: 4/10/2026

Food Service

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

Comment
Center menu meets USDA guidelines.

Finding
591-1-1-.15(3) requires baby bottles and formula to be labeled with the individual child's name; supplied by the Parent daily in bottles; and refrigerated at a temperature of forty (40) degrees Fahrenheit or less. Only the current day's formula or breast milk shall be served. If formula must be provided by the Center, only commercially prepared, ready-to-feed formula shall be used. Refrigerated or frozen breast milk shall only be heated or thawed under warm running water or in a container of warm water. It was determined based on observation that one of six children's bottles were not labeled and one of six children's bottles did not have the child's full name in classroom 1R.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
The Center will train Staff to follow the required procedures, ensure that parents are fully informed, and will review and monitor regularly.

Correction Deadline: 4/10/2026

591-1-1-.18 Kitchen Operations **Technical Assistance**

Technical Assistance
591-1-1-.18(8) - Consultant discussed with the director to ensure that food is stored in non -porous containers with lightly fitting lids.

Correction Deadline: 4/10/2026

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) **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 the children did not wash hands when re-entering the classroom after returning from a field trip in classroom 5L.

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: 4/10/2026

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

Comment
The Provider currently does not dispense/administer medication.

Policies and Procedures

591-1-1-.21 Operational Policies & Procedures **Met**

Comment
Program observed complete emergency drills

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

Comment
Observed all required posted notices.

Safety

591-1-1-.05 Animals **N/A**

Comment
Center does not keep animals on premises.

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

Comment
Age-appropriate discussion and/or redirection observed.

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
A current/completed inspection was observed for all vehicles used in transporting children this date.

Comment
Complete documentation of transportation observed on this date.

Comment
The vehicles had an approved fire extinguisher and first aid kit on this date.

Correction Deadline: 12/9/2025

Corrected on 4/10/2026
.36(7)(d)2. - The previous citation was observed corrected on this date. The Consultant observed documentation of the second check of the vehicle.

Sleeping & Resting Equipment

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

Comment
Staff stated knowledge of infant safe sleep requirements.

Staff Records

Records Reviewed: 19 **Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 4**

Staff # 3 Not Met

Date of Hire: 10/16/2023

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training

Staff # 7 Not Met

Date of Hire: 09/18/2023

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training

Staff # 11 Not Met

Date of Hire: 11/06/2023

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training

Staff # 13 Not Met

Date of Hire: 10/06/2023

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training,.14(2)-CPR missing,.14(2)-First Aid Missing

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

Comment
Criminal record checks were observed to be complete.

Comment
Director provided six files for employees hired since last visit December 9, 2026..

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

Comment
Complete first aid kits observed in center and on vehicles on this date.

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 records that staff #13, date of hire October 6, 2023, did not have evidence of current certification in pediatric CPR/first aid on file.

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: 4/10/2026

591-1-1-.33 Staff Training **Not Met**

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 review of records that the following staff did not have ten (10) clock hours of diverse annual training on file:
Staff #3, date of hire October 16, 2023,
Staff #7, date of hire September 18, 2023,
Staff #11, date of hire November 6, 2023,
Staff #13, date of hire October 6, 2023.

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: 5/10/2026

Comment
Complete documentation of health and safety training observed. on this date.

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) **Met**

Comment
Center observed to maintain appropriate staff:child ratios.

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

Comment
Adequate supervision observed on this date.