



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: 1/29/2026 **VisitType:** Licensing Study **Arrival:** 9:20 AM **Departure:** 11:50 AM

CCLC-36027
Stepping Stones Academy
 9835 Old Dogwood Rd. Roswell, GA 30075 Fulton County
 (770) 518-8333

Regional Consultant
 Marlene Emelle
 Phone: (912) 544-9594
 Fax: (404) 656-0351
 marlene.emelle@dec.al.ga.gov

Mailing Address
 Same

Quality Rated: No

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.
01/29/2026	Licensing Study	Good Standing	
06/25/2025	Monitoring Visit	Good Standing	
05/30/2025	Incident Investigation Closure	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	Upstairs:Birds: Back Left	Infants	2	3	C	12	C	NA	NA	Nap
Main	Elephants: Upstairs R Hall 2R	Infants	3	8	C	13	C	NA	NA	Free Play,Nap
Main	Foxes: Upstairs R Hall 1L	Two Year Olds	3	15	C	17	C	NA	NA	Centers
Main	Koalas: Downstairis 1R	Four Year Olds	2	21	C	23	C	NA	NA	Centers
Main	Lambs: R Hall 1R	Infants	2	8	C	14	C	NA	NA	Nap,Free Play
Main	Monkeys: Upstairs R Hall 2L	Two Year Olds	3	16	C	18	C	NA	NA	Music,Circle Time
Main	Owls: Downstairs 1R- Right Hall	Four Year Olds	2	14	C	14	C	NA	NA	Centers
Main	Pandas: Downstairs R Hall Back L	Three Year Olds	2	18	C	22	C	NA	NA	Circle Time
Main	Zebras: Downstairs 1L	Four Year Olds	1	14	NC	20	C	NA	NA	Centers
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 153					Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0					
Main Left	1L- Bunnies	Infants	3	8	C	14	C	NA	NA	Nap
Main Left	1R- Penguins	Two Year Olds	3	15	C	19	C	NA	NA	Music
Main Left	2L- Rhino	Four Year Olds	3	13	C	18	C	NA	NA	Circle Time
Main Left	2R- Lions	Three Year Olds	2	17	C	18	C	NA	NA	Music
Main Left	3L- Hippos	Two Year Olds	3	17	C	17	C	NA	NA	Music
Main Left	3R- Giraffes	Four Year Olds	2	19	C	20	C	NA	NA	Circle Time

Main Left	4L-Ducks	One Year Olds	3	16	C	18	C	NA	NA	Story,Circle Time
Main Left	4R- Turtles	Two Year Olds	3	15	C	18	C	NA	NA	Circle Time,Music
		Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 142			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0					
Total # Children this Date: 237		Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 295			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0					

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	PG C: Upstairs Infant	5	C
Main	PG: A Downstairs	6	C
Main	PG: B Right Front	45	C
Main Left	Left PG A	14	C
Main Left	Left PG B	15	C
Main Left	Left PG C	16	C

Enrolled Children						
Under 1 years	1 years	2 years	3 years	4 years	5 years (Prekonly)	5 years and older
28	64	48	52	49	0	0

Comments

The purpose of this visit was to conduct a Licensing Study and Follow up.

Plan of Improvement: No Plan Developed

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.state.ga.us/CCS/Regulations.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 Licensing Study:

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.

Facility

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)

Met

Comment

The Center appeared clean and well maintained on this date.

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

Met

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

Comment

Staff stated proper knowledge of diapering procedures.

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

Consultant reviewed documentation for medication dispensing completed on this date.

Safety

591-1-1-.05 Animals	Met
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Comment

Animals maintained clean and appropriately caged.

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

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

591-1-1-.36 Transportation(CR)	Met
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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 vehicle had an approved fire extinguisher and first aid kit on this date.

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.

Comment

Pleasant naptime environment observed.

Staff Records

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

Consultant reviewed criminal record checks were to be complete.

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

Consultant reviewed evidence of 100% of center Staff certified in First Aid and CPR containing emergency care for infants and children on this date.

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

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

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
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Comment

Center observed to maintain appropriate staff:child ratios.

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

Adequate supervision observed on this date.