



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: Licensing Study

Arrival: 9:10 AM

Departure: 5:00 PM

CCLC-2211

Towne Square Academy

480 Racetrack Rd. McDonough, GA 30252 Henry County
(770) 914-0093

Regional Consultant

Dyneshia Lynn

Phone: ()

Fax:

dyneshia.lynn@dec.al.ga.gov

Joint with: Yolanda Marable

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	Licensing Study	Support	
09/29/2025	Monitoring Visit	Good Standing	
06/18/2025	Complaint 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	A/1	Infants and One Year Olds	1	5	C	13	C	NA	NA	Floor Play
Main	B/2		0	0	C	14	C	NA	NA	
Main	C/3	One Year Olds	1	8	C	16	C	NA	NA	Free Play
Main	D/4		0	0	C	21	C	29	C	
Main	E/5	Four Year Olds	1	15	C	20	C	NA	NA	Centers
Main	F/6	GA PreK	2	18	C	22	C	NA	NA	Centers
Main	G/7		0	0	C	14	C	NA	NA	
Main	H/8		0	0	C	16	C	NA	NA	
Main	I/9	Two Year Olds	2	13	C	19	C	NA	NA	Centers
Main	J/10	Three Year Olds	1	15	C	17	C	NA	NA	Transitioning, Outside
Main	K/School Age		0	0	C	20	C	28	C	
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 192					Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 192					
Total # Children this Date: 74					Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 192					
					Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 192					

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	Infant/Toddler Playground	13	C
Main	Left back playground	59	C
Main	Rear Left Playground	17	C
Main	Rear Playground	59	C

Enrolled Children						
Under 1 years	1 years	2 years	3 years	4 years	5 years (Prekonly)	5 years and older
5	12	15	24	29	6	56

Comments

The requested documents were observed on this date.
A plan of improvement was left on this date and the date that it is due is February 23,2026.

Plan of Improvement: To Be Submitted 02/23/2026



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!



Summary Report

Date: 2/9/2026 VisitType: Licensing Study

Arrival: 9:10 AM Departure: 5:00 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.

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

Not Met

Finding

591-1-1-.12(6) requires that a variety of age-appropriate toys and play materials be available, stored on low, open shelves accessible to children in each room or assigned area. It was determined based on observation that in Room I/9, three out of seven shelves were empty without toys or books.

Correction Deadline: 2/28/2026

Recited on 2/9/2026

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

Met

Comment

Pool not in use at this time, gates observed locked.

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.

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

591-1-1-.25 Physical Plant - Safe Environment(CR)

Not Met

Technical Assistance

The Consultant discussed with the Director to ensure hazards are not accessible to children.

Correction Deadline: 2/9/2026

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 items are in need of repair

Room I9

*The toilet screw needs to be capped.

Room K After school

*The edge of the carpet is missing the rubber.

*The bookshelf by the window was broken.

*Room A1 Infant

*The round cushion pool had a tear inside.

Correction Deadline: 2/9/2026

Technical Assistance

The Consultant discussed with the provider to ensure room I9 and K Afterschool has covered electrical outlets.

Correction Deadline: 2/9/2026

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 threads on the bolts of the gate separating the left back playground from the rear playground measured longer than two thread lengths. It was further determined that the fencing throughout the front left playground, rear left playground, and rear playground were in need of repair due to gaps at the bottom of the fence, the wood fence warping, and disconnected poles on the top of the fencing, posing an entrapment hazard.

Correction Deadline: 2/28/2026

Recited on 2/9/2026

Correction Deadline: 10/9/2025

Corrected on 2/9/2026

The previous citation was observed corrected on this date. Eight out of eight swings on the back playground were not rusted.

Finding

591-1-1-.26(8) requires climbing and swinging equipment to have a resilient surface beneath the equipment and the fall zone from such equipment must be adequately maintained by the Center to assure continuing resiliency. It was determined based on observation that the resilient surfacing on the front left playground, rear left playground, and rear playground measured 1 inch and not the 3 inches that is required by the Department for equipment measuring less than 5 feet tall in height.

Correction Deadline: 2/28/2026

Recited on 2/9/2026

Technical Assistance

The Consultant discussed with the provider to ensure to cover metal pipe openings on playgrounds walls to prevent entrapment hazards.

Correction Deadline: 2/9/2026

Food Service

591-1-1-.15 Food Service & Nutrition

Not Met

Finding

591-1-1-.15(7) requires that food be served according to manufacturer's instructions and recommendations. Foods that are associated with young children's choking incidents, such as, but not limited to, peanuts, hot dogs, raw carrots, popcorn, fish with bones, cheese cubes, grapes and any other food that is of similar shape and size of the trachea/windpipe shall not be served to the children less than four (4) years of age. Children older than four (4) years of age may be served these foods provided that the foods are cut in such a way as to minimize choking. Food shall not be accessible or served to children until it has been chopped, diced, cut or mashed and is appropriate for each child's age and individual eating, chewing and swallowing ability. It was determined based on observation that the center's February Menu had meatballs, raw carrots, blueberries, boiled eggs and string cheese, presenting a choking hazards for weeks, one, two, three and four.

Correction Deadline: 2/9/2026

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

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 room E5, a child was observed to not wash their hands after using the restroom. It was further determined that room C3, a child was observed to not wash their hands after cleaning their nose.

Correction Deadline: 2/9/2026

Finding

591-1-1-.17(8) requires staff to wash their hands with liquid soap and warm running water upon arrival for the day, when moving from one child care group to another, upon re-entering the child care area after outside play, before and after diapering each child, dispensing medication, applying topical medications, handling and preparing food, eating, drinking, preparing bottles, feeding each child, assisting children with eating and drinking, after toileting or assisting children with toileting, using tobacco products, handling garbage and organic waste, touching animals or pets, handling bodily fluids and after contamination by any means. It was determined based on observation that the staff in Room I9 did not complete hand washing after wiping a child's nose. It was further determined that a staff in Room A1 was observed to not complete hand washing prior to feeding an infant.

Correction Deadline: 2/9/2026

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****Not Met****Finding**

591-1-1-.21(1)(r) requires Center policies and procedures include 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. It was determined based on observation that the center did not revise their policies and procedures to include the description of center practices for Shaken Baby Syndrome and abusive head trauma in children up to 5-years of age.

Correction Deadline: 2/14/2026

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

Observed all required posted notices.

591-1-1-.29 Required Reporting**Met****Comment**

Discussed reporting requirements.

Safety

591-1-1-.05 Animals	Met
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Comment

Center does not keep animals on premises.

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-.13 Field Trips(CR)	Met
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Comment

Center does not participate in field trips at this time.

591-1-1-.36 Transportation(CR)	Not Met
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Finding

591-1-1-.36(4)(b) requires that the interior of a transportation vehicle be clean, in safe repair and free of hazardous items, objects and/or other non-essential items which could cause injury. It was determined based on observation that the center's three vans (Tag #AAN5628, Tag #ABJ2032 ,Tag #BNW0654) observed to have two missing panels underneath the window of the second row for each vehicle. It was further determined that trash and debris were observed throughout the floor of each van.

Correction Deadline: 2/28/2026

Recited on 2/9/2026

Finding

591-1-1-.36(7)(c)2. requires that the driver or other designated person shall immediately document in writing, with a check or other mark/symbol to account for each child listed on the passenger transportation checklist each time a child enters and exits the vehicle. The driver or other designated staff person shall document in writing with a different mark/symbol to account for each child listed on the passenger transportation checklist who was not present on the vehicle for any reason. An explanation shall be documented in writing whenever a child is transported to a field trip site but is not present on the return trip to the Center. It was determined based on a review of records that the center's transportation checklist on February 5, 2026 to Tussahaw Elementary, did not include the load and unload mark for 11 out of 11 children.

Correction Deadline: 2/10/2026

Finding

591-1-1-.36(7)(d)2. requires that the second designated Staff person conduct a check of the vehicle immediately upon the completion of the first check of the vehicle. The responsible person shall physically walk through the entire vehicle; visually inspect all seat surfaces, under all seats and in all compartments or recesses in the vehicle's interior; and sign the passenger transportation checklist(s), indicating all of the children have exited the vehicle. There shall be continuous watchful oversight of the vehicle between the first check and second check. It was determined based on observation that the center director was observed to sign the second check signature for transportation on February 6, 2026 to Tussahaw Elementary, while consultant was present on February 9, 2026. It was further determined that transportation to Tussahaw Elementary for the week of January 19, 2026, the second check signature was not documented for morning and evening transportation.

Correction Deadline: 2/9/2026

Sleeping & Resting Equipment

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

Not Met

Technical Assistance

The Consultant discussed with the director to ensure crib sheets are tight fitted.

Correction Deadline: 2/9/2026

Finding

591-1-1-.30(4). requires that if cots and mats are stored in the children's activity room or area, they shall be stored to prevent children's access to them and to allow maximum use of play space. When storage is available and used for the storage of cots and mats that allows the cots, mats and any bedding to be stored without touching any other cots, mats or bedding, the bedding may be left on the cot or mat. When such storage is not available for the cots and mats, each child's bedding shall be kept separate from other children's bedding and stored in containers marked for individual use, such as, but not limited to, bins, cubbies, or bags. It was determined based on observation that the storage of cots and mats are accessible to children without the required covering, posing a hazard.

Correction Deadline: 2/9/2026

Staff Records

Staff # 1	Not Met
Date of Hire: 10/16/2023	
<u>"Missing/Incomplete Components"</u>	
.14(2)-CPR missing,.14(2)-First Aid Missing,.33(3)-Health & Safety Certificate	
Staff # 2	Not Met
Date of Hire: 01/18/2023	
<u>"Missing/Incomplete Components"</u>	
.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training	
Staff # 3	Not Met
Date of Hire: 11/20/2024	
<u>"Missing/Incomplete Components"</u>	
.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training	
Staff # 4	Not Met
Date of Hire: 08/10/2023	
<u>"Missing/Incomplete Components"</u>	
.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training	
Staff # 5	Not Met
Date of Hire: 01/13/2025	
<u>"Missing/Incomplete Components"</u>	
.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training	
Staff # 6	Not Met
Date of Hire: 06/10/2024	
<u>"Missing/Incomplete Components"</u>	
.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training	
Staff # 7	Not Met
Date of Hire: 08/05/2025	
<u>"Missing/Incomplete Components"</u>	
.33(3)-Health & Safety Certificate,.14(2)-First Aid Missing,.14(2)-CPR missing	
Staff # 8	Not Met
Date of Hire: 07/26/2022	
<u>"Missing/Incomplete Components"</u>	
.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training	
Staff # 9	Not Met
Date of Hire: 10/23/2013	
<u>"Missing/Incomplete Components"</u>	
.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training	
Staff # 10	Not Met
Date of Hire: 06/19/2023	

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training

Staff # 11

Not Met

Date of Hire: 02/04/2025

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training

Staff # 12

Not Met

Date of Hire: 09/28/2018

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training

Staff # 13

Not Met

Date of Hire: 07/02/2024

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training

Staff # 14

Not Met

Date of Hire: 06/23/2025

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training

Staff # 15

Not Met

Date of Hire: 07/14/2025

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training

Staff # 16

Not Met

Date of Hire: 10/03/2025

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.14(2)-CPR missing,.14(2)-First Aid Missing,.33(3)-Health & Safety Certificate

Staff # 17

Not Met

Date of Hire: 12/11/2023

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training

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

Director provided three files for employees hired since the last visit.

591-1-1-.09 Criminal Records Check(CR)**Met****Comment**

Director provided three files for employees hired since the last visit.

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

Finding

Previously Cited: 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 a review of records that center staff #1, staff #7 and staff #16 were observed to be without evidence of CPR/First Aid certification.

Correction Deadline: 2/28/2026

Recited on 2/9/2026

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 staff#2,3,5,14 and 15 did not have evidence of ten hour annual ongoing training for 2025.

Correction Deadline: 3/11/2026

Finding

591-1-1-.33(5)(b)1. requires the annual ten (10) clock hours of training shall include at least two (2) hours in evidence based, developmentally appropriate language and literacy practices. It was determined based on a review of records that all 17 staff employed at the center were observed to be without two hours of language and literacy training for 2025.

Correction Deadline: 3/11/2026

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

Staff observed to be compliant with applicable laws and regulations.

Staffing and Supervision

Comment

Center observed to maintain appropriate staff:child ratios.

591-1-1-.32 Supervision(CR)**Not Met****Finding**

591-1-1-.32(7) requires that children be supervised at all times appropriate to the individual age, needs and capabilities of each child. Such supervision must include, but not be limited to, indoor and outdoor activities, mealtimes, naptime, transportation, field trips, and transitions between activities. "Supervision" means that the appropriate number of Staff members are physically present in the area where children are being cared for and are providing watchful oversight to the children, volunteers and Students-in-Training. The persons supervising in the child care area must be alert, positioned to maximize their ability to hear and see the children at all times, and able to respond promptly to the needs and actions of the children being supervised, as well as the actions of the volunteers and Students-in-Training, and provide timely attention to the children's actions and needs. Staff shall be attentive and participating with all children during mealtimes and shall be seated within an arm's length away from children thirty-six (36) months of age and younger. It was determined based on observation that staff on the left back and rear left playground were observed to be sitting on a wooden bench having conversations and not providing watchful oversight to children during outside play. It was further determined based on observation that a school-age child was observed to be unsupervised in the hallway during the after-school transportation transition to their classroom.

Correction Deadline: 2/9/2026