



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: 9/30/2025 **VisitType:** Monitoring Visit

Arrival: 11:40 AM **Departure:** 2:15 PM

CCLC-34766

The Bright Futures Academy

3602 Highlands Pkwy Smyrna, GA 30082 Cobb County
(678) 424-1076

Lead Consultant

Neli Todorova

Phone: (770) 359-5167

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neli.todorova@dec.al.ga.gov

Mailing Address

Same

Quality Rated: No

<u>Compliance Zone Designation</u>			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.
09/30/2025	Monitoring Visit	Good Standing	
02/25/2025	Licensing Study	Good Standing	
12/20/2024	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 1st Left	Infants and One Year Olds	1	5	C	7	C	NA	NA	Nap,Feeding
Main	B 2nd Left		0	0	C	8	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
Main	C 3rd Left	One Year Olds and Two Year Olds	2	15	C	15	C	NA	NA	Nap
Main	D Right Room	Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds	1	10	C	10	C	NA	NA	Transitioning,Na p

Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 40

Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0

Total # Children this Date: 30

Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 40

Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	Playground	15	C

Enrolled Children						
Under 1 years	1 years	2 years	3 years	4 years	5 years (Prekonly)	5 years and older
1	5	15	5	1	0	0

Comments

Discussed rules changes effective July 1, 2025.

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

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

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

Please be mindful to keep items that pose a hazard inaccessible to children.

Correction Deadline: 3/4/2025

Corrected on 9/30/2025

.25(3) - Previous citation was corrected as the light bulbs were replaced and there was no peeling paint observed.

Correction Deadline: 2/25/2025

Corrected on 9/30/2025

.25(8) - Previous citation was corrected as no cords were observed.

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

Defer

Defer

591-1-1-.26(6)-The citation was deferred as the program had made the structure inaccessible to the children by adding caution tape around it and the structure will be removed from the play area. Compliance will be determined at next visit.

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: 2/26/2025

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.26(7) - Discussed that the arch climber needs to be anchored and have the appropriate fall zones that do not overlap with the fall zones of the rest of the equipment.

Correction Deadline: 10/10/2025

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.26(8) - Discussed with the provider that the astro turf that was installed under the regular swings, the Mary-Go-round and the five feet high slide needed to have at least six inches of resiliency in the fall zones. Test data must be obtained from the manufacturer of the material when it is used. The test data should include the ASTM International (ASTM) Standard Specifications and should be maintained on file at the center.

The "fall zone" from a piece of equipment is the area in which any activity or movement can be expected to take place around the equipment and includes the area under and around the equipment where a child might fall. The extension of a fall zone is determined by the type of equipment (i.e., stationary climber, slide, or swing) and the entire fall zone area must be covered with protective surfacing material to protect children from injury. Equipment must be arranged so that there is no overlap of fall zones except those which are acceptable based on national safety standards.

Fall zones for slides, either free-standing or part of a multi-climber, would need to extend four (4) feet in all directions from the base of the steps and five (5) feet from the end of the slide and should extend out into a semi-circle shaped area.

Fall zones for swings should measure the length of the swing chain plus an additional seven (7) feet. For example, with a swing chain measuring 5'9", the fall zone would need to extend 12'9" forwards and backwards from the swings resting position.

Correction Deadline: 10/10/2025

Health and Hygiene**591-1-1-.10 Diapering Areas & Practices(CR)****Met****Comment**

Hand washing requirements for diapering were discussed with the director on this date.

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)**N/A****Comment**

The Provider currently does not dispense/administer medication.

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

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

591-1-1-.13 Field Trips(CR)**N/A****Comment**

Center does not participate in field trips at this time.

591-1-1-.36 Transportation(CR)**N/A****Comment**

Center does not provide routine transportation.

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

Discussed SIDS and infant sleeping position.

Correction Deadline: 2/25/2025

Corrected on 9/30/2025

.30(2) - Previous citation was corrected as staff stated proper knowledge of Safe Sleep.

Staff Records

Records Reviewed: 4

Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 1

Staff # 2

Not Met

Date of Hire: 06/25/2020

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.09-Criminal Records Check Missing

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

Not Met

Finding

591-1-1-.09(1)(c) requires the Center to ensure that every Employee has a valid and current satisfactory Comprehensive Records Check Determination on file prior to being present at the Center while any child is present for care or before an individual age 17 or older resides in the Center. The Comprehensive Records Check Determination must have a Records Check Clearance Date that is no older than the preceding 12 months of the hire date; provided, however, if the Employee has had a lapse of employment from the child care industry that lasted for 180 days (6 months) or longer, a new satisfactory Comprehensive Records Check Determination is required. It was determined based on review of records that Staff #2, with date of hire June 29, 2020 had a Satisfactory Comprehensive Background Check determination that expired on June 18, 2025. Staff was present and caring for children in room C 3rd Left on the day of the visit.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

IMMEDIATE CORRECTION - The Center will ensure that every Employee has a valid and current satisfactory Comprehensive Records Check Determination on file prior to being present at the Center while any child is present for care or before an individual age 17 or older resides in the Center. The Comprehensive Records Check Determination must have a Records Check Clearance Date that is no older than the preceding 12 months of the hire date; provided, however, if the Employee has had a lapse of employment from the child care industry that lasted for 180 days (6 months) or longer, a new satisfactory Comprehensive Records Check Determination is required. The program's owner or an officer/member of the corporation must view the A to Z Background Check video units pertaining to this records check rule and return the signed affidavit within one week from this visit date. The center will ensure the CRC rules are maintained.

Correction Deadline: 9/30/2025

Finding

591-1-1-.09(1)(I)3. requires the Center to immediately require a new Comprehensive Records Check Determination for a Director, Employee or Provisional Employee at least once every five years. It was determined based on review of records that Staff #2, with date of hire June 29, 2020 had a Satisfactory Comprehensive Background Check determination that expired on June 18, 2025. There was no new application submitted. Staff was present and caring for children in room C 3rd Left on the day of the visit.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

IMMEDIATE CORRECTION - The Center will ensure that each Director, Employee and Provisional Employee has a Comprehensive Records Check Determination on file that has been issued within the past five years. The program's owner or an officer/member of the corporation must view the A to Z Background Check video units pertaining to this records check rule and return the signed affidavit within one week from this visit date. The Center will ensure CRC rules are maintained.

Correction Deadline: 9/30/2025

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

Technical Assistance

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.14(2)(b) - New - : Discussed that effective July 1, 2025, new staff are required to obtain pediatric First Aid and pediatric CPR training within 45 days of employment. It was further discussed that programs must have at least one person with current pediatric First Aid and pediatric CPR training in each classroom at all times.

Correction Deadline: 9/30/2025

Comment

Staff observed to be compliant with applicable laws and regulations.

Staffing and Supervision

Comment

Center observed to maintain appropriate staff:child ratios.

Comment

Adequate supervision observed on this date.