



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: 2/7/2025 **VisitType:** Complaint Investigation & Licensing **Arrival:** 9:30 AM **Departure:** 12:30 PM
 Study POI Follow Up

CCLC-62918

Early Childhood Academy

323 Church Street Thomson, GA 30824 McDuffie County
 (706) 595-0403 Kendyl@thomsonfirst.org

Regional Consultant

Rebekah Mullinax

Phone: (770) 357-7056

Fax: (770) 357-7055

rebekah.mullinax@decal.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.
02/07/2025	Complaint Investigation & Licensing Study POI Follow Up	Good Standing	
01/08/2025	Incident Investigation Closure	Good Standing	
12/11/2024	Incident Investigation & Follow Up	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	Room A 1st R Hall 1st R Room	Two Year Olds	2	10	C	17	C	NA	NA	Story
Main	Room B 1st R Hall 2nd R Room	Two Year Olds	2	12	C	17	C	NA	NA	Free Play
Main	Room C 1st R Hall 3rd R Room	Infants and One Year Olds	2	8	C	16	C	NA	NA	Diapering, Floor Play
Main	Room D 1st R Hall 4th R Room	Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds	2	9	C	18	C	NA	NA	Centers, Art
Main	Room E Back Hall Right		0	0	C	15	C	NA	NA	
Main	Room F Back Hall Left	One Year Olds	1	8	C	15	C	NA	NA	Story
Main	Room G 2nd R Hall 4th L Room	One Year Olds	2	9	C	18	C	NA	NA	Free Play
Main	Room H 2nd R Hall 3rd L Room	Infants	1	4	C	17	C	NA	NA	Feeding
Main	Room I 2nd R Hall 2nd L Room	Two Year Olds	2	12	C	17	C	NA	NA	Outside
Main	Room J 2nd R Hall 1st L Room	Three Year Olds	2	12	C	17	C	NA	NA	Art
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 167					Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0		Building @35 capacity limited by Centers Request			

Total # Children this Date: 84

Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 167

Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	1 Preschool (left)	58	C
Main	2 Toddler (middle)	20	C
Main	3 Infants/Ones/Twos (Right)	20	C

Comments

The purpose of this visit was a Licensing Study and POI 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.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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(Findings Report)

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The following information is associated with a Complaint Investigation & Licensing Study POI Follow Up:

Activities and Equipment

591-1-1-.03 Activities

Met

Correction Deadline: 1/8/2025

Corrected on 2/7/2025

.03(8) - Previous citation corrected in that the center staff had a Best Practices and Guidelines for Reflective Supervision training on January 21, 2025.

Correction Deadline: 1/8/2025

Corrected on 2/7/2025

.03(9) - Previous citation corrected in that the center staff had a Best Practices and Guidelines for Reflective Supervision training on January 21, 2025.

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

Met

Comment

A variety of equipment and toys were observed throughout the center.

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.

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

Met

Comment

No hazards observed accessible to children on this date.

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

Met

Comment

Playground observed to be clean and in good repair.

Health and Hygiene

591-1-1-.10 Diapering Areas & Practices(CR)

Met

Comment

Proper diapering procedures observed.

591-1-1-.17 Hygiene(CR)

Met

Comment

Proper hand washing observed throughout the center.

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

N/A

Comment

The Provider currently does not dispense/administer medication.

Safety

591-1-1-.05 Animals

N/A

Comment

Center does not keep animals on premises.

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.

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.

Comment

Director provided three files for employees hired since last visit.

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**

Staff observed to provide direct supervision and be attentive to children's needs.

Correction Deadline: 1/21/2025

Corrected on 2/7/2025

.32(7) - Previous citation corrected in that the staff were immediately terminated. Additionally, all staff are enrolled in Supervision: Counting Children three part training.