



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: 9/4/2025 **VisitType:** Complaint Investigation & Initial Licensing Study **Arrival:** 9:15 AM **Departure:** 3:30 PM

CCLC-67010
Stepping Stones Academy
3740 Flat Shoals Road Union City, GA 30291 Fulton County
(770) 707-3955
Temporary License

Application Services Unit Coordinator
Twylah Tyner
Phone: (478) 599-9822
Fax: (478) 314-5868
twylah.tyner@decal.ga.gov

Mailing Address
Same

Quality Rated: ★ ★

Compliance Zone Designation		
09/04/2025	Complaint Investigation & Initial Licensing Study	Good Standing
09/04/2025	Complaint Closure	Good Standing

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	1st Left - Tots 1	One Year Olds	1	6	C	14	C	NA	NA	Transitioning
Main	1st Right - Infants & 1's	Infants and One Year Olds	1	4	C	14	C	NA	NA	Floor Play
Main	2nd Left - Toddlers	One Year Olds and Two Year Olds	2	15	C	20	C	NA	NA	Transitioning
Main	2nd Right - Tots 2	One Year Olds	1	8	C	15	C	NA	NA	Transitioning
Main	Down Front - Ga Pre-K	GA PreK	1	10	C	26	C	NA	NA	Nap
Main	Down Rear		0	0	C	19	C	NA	NA	
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 108					Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0					
Total # Children this Date: 43					Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0					

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	Large Playground	91	C
Main	Side Playground	23	C

Comments

A final license was not issued on this date based on documents needed. The Consultant will follow up with next steps. A temporary license was issued this date. The facility does not carry Liability Insurance.

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 user id 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!



Summary Report

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The following information is associated with a Complaint Investigation & Initial Licensing Study:

Activities and Equipment

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

Met

Comment

Discussed adding equipment and toys to enhance variety.

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. No pool observed on site.

Children's Records

591-1-1-.08 Children's Records

Met

Comment

Ensure enrollment forms contain all required information.

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)

Not Met

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.25(11) - Ensure all floor coverings are tight, smooth, in good repair and able to be disinfected.

Correction Deadline: 10/4/2025

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 hand sanitizer was located in a bookbag that was accessible to children in the 1st Left classroom. Additionally, Lysol All Purpose cleaner was located in an unlocked cabinet and accessible to children in the 2nd Left classroom and a mop bucket was located in an unlocked closet and accessible to children in the bathroom adjacent to the 2nd Right classroom.

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: 9/4/2025

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.25(6) - Ensure classrooms have accessible storage available for each child.

Correction Deadline: 10/4/2025

591-1-1-.26 Playgrounds(CR)**Technical Assistance****Comment**

Discussed maintenance of resilient surface. Please fluff and redistribute.

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.26(7) - Ensure no hazards accessible on the playgrounds.

Correction Deadline: 9/14/2025

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

Staff stated proper diapering procedures. Sinks with warm running water were observed adjacent to proper diapering surfaces in all classrooms approved for diapering.

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)**Met****Comment**

Discussed proper medication documentation and procedures.

Policies and Procedures**591-1-1-.21 Operational Policies & Procedures****Technical Assistance****Technical Assistance**

591-1-1-.21(1)(a-o) - Discussed updating the Center's policies and procedures to include the program's practices regarding the expulsion and suspension of children enrolled for care within the description of behavior management and discipline actions used by the Center.

Also discussed to ensure 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.

Additional information can be found in the CCLC Indicator Manual found on DECAL's website at: <https://www.dec.al.gov/CCS/RulesAndRegulations.aspx> or through the Center on Shaken Baby Syndrome found at: <https://dontshake.org/>.

Correction Deadline: 9/9/2025

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

Age-appropriate discussion and/or redirection observed.

Comment

Center does not provide routine transportation or field trips. Consultant discussed transportation requirements if/when the facility decides to incorporate transportation. The center will contact their regional consultant and complete the required two (2) hours transportation training prior to transporting children.

Sleeping & Resting Equipment**591-1-1-.30 Safe Sleeping and Resting Requirements(CR)****Not Met****Comment**

Discussed SIDS and infant sleeping position.

Comment

Twelve cribs were present meeting safety compliance with Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) and American Society of Testing and Materials International (ASTM) safety standards.

Finding

591-1-1-.30(1)(a)2 requires that a crib mattress is firm, tight-fitting without gaps, at least 2 inches thick and covered with a waterproof, washable material. Before a change of occupant, each mattress shall be cleaned with a disinfectant. It was determined based on observation that six of 12 crib mattresses were not covered with a waterproof, washable material.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The center will ensure that all crib mattresses are covered in a waterproof, washable material.

Correction Deadline: 9/4/2025

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

Criminal record checks were observed to be complete.

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

591-1-1-.14(1)(a) - 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: 10/4/2025

591-1-1-.33 Staff Training**Technical Assistance****Technical Assistance**

591-1-1-.33(2)(a)-(n) - Discussed that all Employees, including volunteers, independent contractors, students-in-training, etc. should have a completed initial program orientation form on file.

Correction Deadline: 9/5/2025

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.33(5)(a) - New - Discussed that effective July 1, 2025, all staff are required to obtain at least two hours in evidence based, developmentally appropriate language and literacy practices and at least two hours in on-going child development and health and safety related topics as part of their 10 hours of annual training.

Correction Deadline: 10/4/2025

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

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

Staffing and Supervision**591-1-1-.32 Staff:Child Ratios and Group Size(CR)****Met****Comment**

Center observed to maintain appropriate staff:child ratios.

Comment

A supervision plan was created on this date for classrooms 1st Left, 2nd Left, 2nd Right, Down Front, Down Rear and Large Playground due to the shape. Additionally a diapering supervision plan was created for classrooms 1st Left, 2nd Left and 2nd Right.