



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: 3/24/2025 **VisitType:** POI Follow Up

Arrival: 11:05 AM **Departure:** 11:30 AM

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

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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.
03/24/2025	POI Follow Up	Good Standing	
02/13/2025	Complaint Closure	Deficient	
02/07/2025	Complaint Investigation & Licensing Study POI Follow Up	Good Standing	
			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	Room A 1st R Hall 1st R Room	Two Year Olds	2	15	C	17	C	NA	NA	Free Play
Main	Room B 1st R Hall 2nd R Room	Two Year Olds	2	15	C	17	C	NA	NA	Free Play
Main	Room C 1st R Hall 3rd R Room	Infants	2	11	C	16	C	NA	NA	Floor Play
Main	Room D 1st R Hall 4th R Room	Four Year Olds	1	14	C	18	C	NA	NA	Transitioning
Main	Room E Back Hall Right		0	0	C	15	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
Main	Room F Back Hall Left	One Year Olds	1	8	C	15	C	NA	NA	Transitioning
Main	Room G 2nd R Hall 4th L Room	One Year Olds	3	15	C	18	C	NA	NA	Lunch
Main	Room H 2nd R Hall 3rd L Room	Infants	1	2	C	17	C	NA	NA	Floor Play
Main	Room I 2nd R Hall 2nd L Room	Three Year Olds	1	13	C	17	C	NA	NA	Transitioning
Main	Room J 2nd R Hall 1st L Room	Three Year Olds	1	14	C	17	C	NA	NA	Lunch
		Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 167			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0			Building @35 capacity limited by Centers Request		
Total # Children this Date: 107		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 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.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 POI Follow Up:

Activities and Equipment

591-1-1-.03 Activities

Met

Correction Deadline: 2/13/2025

Corrected on 3/24/2025

.03(9) - Previous citation corrected in that the center staff had a Best Practices and Guidelines for Reflective Supervision training on January 21, 2025 and an all staff meeting on activities on March 6, 2025.