



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: 9/11/2025 **VisitType:** Licensing Study

Arrival: 11:00 AM **Departure:** 3:30 PM

CCLC-117

Phoenix School

415 E. Lake Dr. Decatur, GA 30030 DeKalb County
(404) 687-9010

Regional Consultant

Maryn Accord

Phone: (404) 591-6031

Fax:

maryn.accord@decal.ga.gov

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.
09/11/2025	Licensing Study	Good Standing	
07/08/2025	Incident Investigation Closure	Good Standing	
05/30/2025	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	A- front	Infants and One Year Olds	2	6	C	8	C	NA	NA	Nap
Main	Afterschool		0	0	C	11	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
Main	B - 2nd right	Two Year Olds and Three Year Olds	3	15	C	16	C	NA	NA	Outside
Main	C - 3rd right	Two Year Olds	3	10	C	13	C	NA	NA	Outside
Main	D - 4th right	One Year Olds	3	10	C	11	C	NA	NA	Outside
Main	E - Pre-K	GA PreK	2	18	C	18	C	NA	NA	Outside

Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 77

Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0

Total # Children this Date: 59

Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 77

Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	A	31	C
Main	B	26	C

Enrolled Children						
Under 1 years	1 years	2 years	3 years	4 years	5 years (Prekonly)	5 years and older
5	11	12	15	18	0	0

Comments

The Consultant discussed and left a copy of the updated Child Care Weather Watch Chart with the program today. Weather does not permit outdoor play when there is active precipitation or when weather advisories are in effect. Consult the Child Care Weather Watch Chart resource for further guidance, considering specific weather conditions. The Consultants discussed 2025 updates made to the CCLC Rules & Regulations.

Plan of Improvement: Developed This Date

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!



**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

Summary Report

Date: 9/11/2025 **VisitType:** Licensing Study

Arrival: 11:00 AM **Departure:** 3:30 PM

CCLC-117

Phoenix School

415 E. Lake Dr. Decatur, GA 30030 DeKalb County
(404) 687-9010

Regional Consultant

Maryn Accord

Phone: (404) 591-6031

Fax:

maryn.accord@dec.al.ga.gov

Mailing Address

Same

The following information is associated with a Licensing Study:

Activities and Equipment

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

Met

Comment

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

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)

Technical Assistance

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.25(13) requires that potentially hazardous equipment, materials, and supplies be stored in a locked area inaccessible to children. The Consultant discussed with the Director to ensure grocery bags were stored to be inaccessible to children as required. The Consultant further discussed that resealable plastic bags may be used in place of grocery bags for storage.

Correction Deadline: 9/11/2025

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

Not Met

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 14 bolts extended past two threads on the entrance gate of playground Main B.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will routinely check the fence to determine if it is in good repair and remains at least 4 feet high, and will repair any hazards. The Center will train Staff to identify and report any fence hazards and to keep the fence gates closed when not in use.

Correction Deadline: 9/30/2025

Recited on 9/11/2025

Finding

591-1-1-.26(9) requires the playground to be kept clean, free from litter and free of hazards, such as but not limited to rocks, exposed tree roots and exposed sharp edges of concrete. It was determined based on observation that there were exposed tree roots located in the back left hill on playground Main A, causing a potential tripping hazard. It was further determined that the ungrassed area located in the back left hill on playground Main A had a sloped ditch causing uneven surfacing and a potential tripping hazard.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will remove any litter and fix or remove hazards from the playground and will routinely monitor the playground and remove litter and hazards.

Correction Deadline: 9/30/2025

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 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-.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

Pleasant naptime environment observed.

Staff Records

Records Reviewed: 17

Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 15

Staff # 1

Not Met

Date of Hire: 08/02/2024

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.24(1)-Evidence of Orientation Missing

Staff # 2

Not Met

Date of Hire: 01/02/2001

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.24(1)-Evidence of Orientation Missing

Staff # 3

Not Met

Date of Hire: 01/15/2014

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(4)-Food Prep Training Missing 4 hrs.,.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training

Staff # 4	Not Met
Date of Hire: 08/06/2021	
<u>"Missing/Incomplete Components"</u>	
.24(1)-Evidence of Orientation Missing,.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training	
Staff # 5	Not Met
Date of Hire: 08/06/2021	
<u>"Missing/Incomplete Components"</u>	
.24(1)-Evidence of Orientation Missing	
Staff # 7	Not Met
Date of Hire: 10/02/2007	
<u>"Missing/Incomplete Components"</u>	
.24(1)-Evidence of Orientation Missing,.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training	
Staff # 8	Not Met
Date of Hire: 01/02/2025	
<u>"Missing/Incomplete Components"</u>	
.24(1)-Evidence of Orientation Missing	
Staff # 9	Not Met
Date of Hire: 10/01/2003	
<u>"Missing/Incomplete Components"</u>	
.24(1)-Evidence of Orientation Missing	
Staff # 10	Not Met
Date of Hire: 06/26/2021	
<u>"Missing/Incomplete Components"</u>	
.24(1)-Evidence of Orientation Missing	
Staff # 11	Not Met
Date of Hire: 10/03/2016	
<u>"Missing/Incomplete Components"</u>	
.24(1)-Evidence of Orientation Missing,.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training	
Staff # 12	Not Met
Date of Hire: 08/01/2022	
<u>"Missing/Incomplete Components"</u>	
.24(1)-Evidence of Orientation Missing,.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training	
Staff # 13	Not Met
Date of Hire: 07/22/2024	
<u>"Missing/Incomplete Components"</u>	
.24(1)-Evidence of Orientation Missing	
Staff # 14	Not Met
Date of Hire: 10/28/2016	

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.24(1)-Evidence of Orientation Missing,.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training

Staff # 15

Not Met

Date of Hire: 07/22/2024

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.24(1)-Evidence of Orientation Missing

Staff # 16

Not Met

Date of Hire: 05/18/2021

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.24(1)-Evidence of Orientation Missing,.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training

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)**Met****Comment**

Complete first aid kit observed in the Center on this date.

591-1-1-.33 Staff Training**Not Met****Finding**

591-1-1-.33(2)(a)-(n) requires the initial Center orientation to include the following subjects: a) the Center's policies and procedures; b) the portions of these rules dealing with the care, health and safety of children; c) the Staff person's assigned duties and responsibilities; d) reporting requirements for suspected cases of child abuse, neglect or deprivation; e) communicable diseases and serious injuries; f) emergency weather plans; g) the program's emergency preparedness plan; h) childhood injury control; i) the administration of medicine; j) reducing the risk of Sudden Unexpected Infant Death (SUID), which includes Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS); k) hand washing; l) fire safety; m) water safety; and n) prevention of HIV/AIDS and blood borne pathogens. It was determined based on a review of records that the initial Center orientation on file was missing the following subjects:

- Reporting requirements for suspected cases of child abuse, neglect or deprivation
- Communicable diseases and serious injuries
- Emergency weather plans
- The Center's emergency preparedness plan
- Reducing the risk of Sudden Unexpected Infant Death (SUID), including Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS)
- Prevention of HIV/AIDS and blood borne pathogens
- The administration of medicine

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will provide orientation in all missing subjects to the employee(s) and will take steps to provide a complete orientation to new Employees in the future.

Correction Deadline: 9/30/2025**Finding**

591-1-1-.33(4) requires within the first year of employment, the Director and person with primary responsibility for food preparation shall have four clock hours of training in food nutrition planning, preparation, serving, proper dish washing and food storage. It was determined based on a review of records that Staff #3, hired January 15, 2014, did not have four clock hours of training in food nutrition planning, preparation, serving, proper dish washing and food storage on file as required.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will schedule food preparation training, as required, and follow up to ensure the training is completed.

Correction Deadline: 10/11/2025

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 a review of records that the following Staff did not complete their 2024 ten (10) clock hours of diverse training as required:

- Staff #3, hired January 15, 2014
- Staff #4, hired August 6, 2021
- Staff #7, hired October 2, 2007
- Staff #11, hired October 3, 2016
- Staff #12, hired August 1, 2022
- Staff #14, hired October 28, 2016
- Staff #16, hired May 18, 2021

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will plan and schedule the required 10 hours of annual training each year and follow up to ensure the training is completed.

Correction Deadline: 12/31/2025

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.