



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: 1/30/2025 **VisitType:** ILS Follow Up

Arrival: 3:00 PM **Departure:** 6:00 PM

CCLC-63224

ASTEAM CHILDCARE ACADEMY INC.

6224 Hillandale Dr. Lithonia, GA 30058 DeKalb County
(470) 607-2337 josh@asteamchildcareacademy.com
Temporary License

Application Services Unit Consultant

Margaret Pringle

Phone: (404) 985-6259

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Mailing Address

Same

Quality Rated: ★ ★

<u>Compliance Zone Designation</u>		
01/30/2025	ILS Follow Up	Deficient
07/23/2024	Initial Licensing Study	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	A-1st Right Frnt- 3 y/o		0	0	C	13	C	NA	NA	
Main	Bldg-II-Pre-K-House		0	0	C	25	C	NA	NA	
Main	C-Mid Frnt- Office		0	0	C	9	C	NA	NA	
Main	D-2nd Left Back Room- 0-12 mos	Infants	1	2	C	18	C	NA	NA	Floor Play
Main	F - lower level- Downstairs-4+	Six Year Olds and Over	1	17	C	25	C	NA	NA	Outside
Main	Room B 4th Left- 3 y/o	Three Year Olds	1	8	C	21	C	NA	NA	Outside,Circle Time
Main	Room E 2nd Right Rear - 1 y/o	Two Year Olds	1	4	C	13	C	NA	NA	Circle Time
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 124					Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0					
Total # Children this Date: 31					Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0					

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	Playground A	19	C
Main	Playground B	62	C

Comments

A follow-up monitoring visit was conducted on this date. Required certificate of occupancy has not been issued by Dekalb county until their requirements are met.

Plan of Improvement: To Be Submitted 02/13/2025

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.decal.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:

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 CAPS/ QR Provisional Status, allowing for scholarships while working toward an initial star rating. Provisional Status eligibility will be determined at the time of CAPS enrollment as part of the CAPS application process.

Contact the Quality Rated help desk at 855-800-7747 or qualityrated@decal.ga.gov for more information. Free technical assistance is available!



(Findings Report)

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The following information is associated with a ILS Follow Up:

Activities and Equipment

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)

Met

Comment

Center does not provide swimming activities.

Facility

591-1-1.06 Bathrooms

Not Met

Comment

Please monitor bathrooms for necessary supplies.

Correction Deadline: 8/22/2024

Corrected on 1/30/2025

.06(4) - Previous citation were corrected except in one of the restroom in room E.

Finding

591-1-1-.06(4) requires a Center first licensed after March 1, 1991, and Centers that remodel or add to existing plumbing facilities, to have the bathroom area fully enclosed and ventilated to the outside of the building with either an open screened window or functioning exhaust fan and duct system and requires Centers without fully enclosed bathrooms to ensure there is adequate ventilation to control odors and adequate sanitation measures to prevent the spread of contagious diseases. It was determined based on observation that the exhaust fan in the restroom on the left in room E was inoperable.

Correction Deadline: 3/1/2025

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)**Not Met****Comment**

Please secure cleaning tools (i.e., broom, plunger) out of reach of children.

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 the following hazards accessible to the children in room B:

- disinfectant wipes
- staples/staple gun
- permanent markers
- hole puncher
- equate sanitizer
- sanitation bucket with bleach solution and other cleaning agents

Room E

- lysol spray
- GermX sanitizer
- toilet brush
- top for toilet tank missing

Correction Deadline: 1/30/2025

Finding

591-1-1-.25(6) requires each child's personal items to be kept in individually labeled cubbies, lockers or racks separated from articles used by other children. The spaces shall be accessible to the children to whom they are assigned. It was determined based on observation that the cubbies in room D, E and Pre-K (building two) were too high for the intended ages of the classrooms.

Correction Deadline: 2/14/2025

Recited on 1/30/2025

591-1-1-.25 Physical Plant-Structural/Mechanical

Not Met

Finding

591-1-1-.25(10) requires the Center to be in compliance with applicable laws and regulations issued by the state fire marshal, the proper local fire marshal or state inspector, including a certificate of occupancy if required prior to receiving any children for care. It was determined based on review of records, Dekalb County has inspected and approved the facilities that will be used for the day care at 6224 Hillandale over two weeks ago however they have not issued the certificate of occupancy due to a delay in reclassifying an additional building that was previously used for elderly care on the property that will not be used for child care services.

Correction Deadline: 2/14/2025

Recited on 1/30/2025

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 playground A had rust on the fence, top poles and fence panels and there was vegetation growing from the bottom of the fencing. Additionally, the front fencing measured at 3 feet 8 inches and the back fencing measured at 3 feet 9 inches and the front fencing had screws protruding on the gate and corner poles. It was further determined that Playground B was observed to have rust on the back fencing, the top poles had screws protruding on the fence gate.

Correction Deadline: 2/14/2025

Recited on 1/30/2025

Correction Deadline: 8/22/2024

Corrected on 1/30/2025

.26(5) - Previous citation was corrected on this date. Soft tile was placed over the concrete.

Correction Deadline: 8/2/2024

Corrected on 1/30/2025

.26(6) - Previous citation was corrected.

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.26(6) - - Please ensure regular swings are replaced with bucket swings. Regular swings will not be used for toddlers.

Correction Deadline: 2/9/2025

Finding

591-1-1-.26(6) requires that playground equipment provide an opportunity for the children to engage in a variety of experiences and shall be age-appropriate. For example, toddlers shall not be permitted to swing in swings designed for School-age Children. The outdoor equipment shall be free of lead-based paint, sharp corners and shall be regularly maintained in such a way as to be free of rust and splinters that could pose significant safety hazard to the children. All equipment shall be arranged so as not to obstruct supervision of children. It was determined based on observation that the following hazards were present on the equipment:

Playground A:

-Rust on the top pole swing structure and on "S' hooks

Correction Deadline: 2/9/2025

Finding

591-1-1-.26(8) requires climbing and swinging equipment to have a resilient surface beneath the equipment and the fall zone from such equipment must be adequately maintained by the Center to ensure continuing resiliency. It was determined based on observation that the swings on playground B only had 1 inch of resilient surface under the swings, six inches was required.

Correction Deadline: 2/7/2025

Recited on 1/30/2025

Correction Deadline: 7/23/2024

Corrected on 1/30/2025

.26(9) - Previous citation corrected on this date.

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 the following hazards were observed on playground B:

- Deteriorated wood on the playground, creating a tripping hazard.
- Paper debris
- Stacked equipment that has not been put together accessible to children in care
- Large concrete blocks accessible to children in care

Correction Deadline: 2/14/2025

	Food Service
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Finding

591-1-1-.18(2) requires the Center to have a designated space for food preparation separate from rooms used by children and in an area not used for diaper changing. The area shall be kept clean and free of accumulation of dust, dirt, food particles and grease deposits. Food preparation surface areas shall be nonporous with no unsealed cracks or seams. It was determined based on observation that the counter area surrounding the kitchen area measured at 3 feet 1 inch, causing the kitchen appliances (stove, microwave, etc.) to be accessible to children.

Correction Deadline: 2/14/2025

Recited on 1/30/2025

Health and Hygiene

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

Technical Assistance

Correction Deadline: 7/23/2024

Corrected on 1/30/2025

.10(1) - Previous citation was corrected on this date. Exhaust fans were added in each room.

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.10(4) - Please ensure diapers are changed on a diaper changing surface, the surface shall be smooth, nonporous, and or disposable paper is used to cover the surface being used. Also the diaper table is positioned near a sink in each diapering room.

Correction Deadline: 1/30/2025

Correction Deadline: 7/23/2024

Corrected on 1/30/2025

.10(9) - Previous citation was corrected on this date.

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

Met

Comment

Proper hand washing of children and staff was discussed with the director on this date.

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

Met

Comment

Consultant will discuss proper medication documentation and procedures during the reviewing of the report.

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)

Met

Comment

Center does not participate in field trips at this time.

Comment

Center does not provide routine transportation.

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

Not Met

Correction Deadline: 7/23/2024

Corrected on 1/30/2025

.30(1)(a)3 - Previous citation was corrected on this date.

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.30(1)(d) - Please ensure there is a minimum of twelve inches (12") between each piece of sleeping or resting equipment in each row of equipment. in the infant room. The cribs were positioned correctly by the consultant on this date.

Correction Deadline: 1/30/2025

Finding

591-1-1-.30(4). requires that if cots and mats are stored in the children's activity room or area, they shall be stored to prevent children's access to them and to allow maximum use of play space. When storage is available and used for the storage of cots and mats that allows the cots, mats and any bedding to be stored without touching any other cots, mats or bedding, the bedding may be left on the cot or mat. When such storage is not available for the cots and mats, each child's bedding shall be kept separate from other children's bedding and stored in containers marked for individual use, such as, but not limited to, bins, cubbies, or bags. It was determined based on observation cots were accessible to the children in room B, E and in PreK room.

Correction Deadline: 1/30/2025

Staff Records

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

Criminal record checks were observed to be complete.

591-1-1-.09 Criminal Records Check(CR)	Met
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Comment

Criminal records checks were observed to be complete.

591-1-1-.14 First Aid & CPR	Met
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Comment

Evidence observed of 50% of center staff certified in First Aid and CPR.

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

Center observed to maintain appropriate staff:child ratios.

591-1-1-.32 Supervision(CR)	Not Met
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Finding

591-1-1-.32(7) requires that children be supervised at all times appropriate to the individual age, needs and capabilities of each child. Such supervision must include, but not be limited to, indoor and outdoor activities, mealtime, nap time, transportation, field trips, and transitions between activities. "Supervision" means that the appropriate number of Staff members are physically present in the area where children are being cared for and are providing watchful oversight to the children, volunteers and Students-in-Training. The persons supervising in the child care area must be alert, positioned to maximize their ability to hear and see the children at all times, and able to respond promptly to the needs and actions of the children being supervised, as well as the actions of the volunteers and Students-in-Training, and provide timely attention to the children's actions and needs. Staff shall be attentive and participating with all children during mealtimes and shall be seated within an arm's length away from children thirty-six (36) months of age and younger. It was determined based on observation during outside play on playground B, (2) two preschool students left the playground area upon seeing the arrival of their parent to the center, they headed thru the school age classroom unsupervised by their teacher. Consultant also observed (2) two preschool students at the other end of the playground unsupervised by the same teacher.

Correction Deadline: 2/14/2025