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: 5/1/2026 **VisitType:** Licensing Study **Arrival:** 10:15 AM **Departure:** 3:30 PM

CCLC-57614
Riverstones Academy - Douglasville
4773 Chapel Hill Rd. Douglasville, GA 30135 Douglas County
(770) 284-8889

Regional Consultant
Kara Williams
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Fax:
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Mailing Address
Same

Quality Rated: ★ ★

Compliance Zone Designation		
05/01/2026	Licensing Study	Good Standing
01/20/2026	TA Follow Up	NA
12/17/2025	TA Follow Up	NA

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-3L		0	0	C	12	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
Main	B-2L	Infants	2	6	C	12	C	NA	NA	Nap,Feeding,Floor Play
Main	C-1L	One Year Olds	1	6	C	12	C	NA	NA	Free Play
Main	D-1R	One Year Olds	1	8	C	15	C	NA	NA	Free Play
Main	E-2R	Two Year Olds	1	10	C	20	C	NA	NA	Circle Time
Main	F-2BR	Two Year Olds	2	18	C	25	C	NA	NA	Centers
Main	G-1BR	Three Year Olds	1	15	C	24	C	NA	NA	Centers
Main	H-BM	Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds	1	18	C	31	C	NA	NA	Circle Time
Main	I-2L	GA PreK	2	16	C	25	C	NA	NA	Music
Main	J-BL	Three Year Olds	2	15	C	22	C	NA	NA	Outside
		Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 196			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0			Building @35 capacity limited by Fire Marshall Limitations		
Total # Children this Date: 112		Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 196			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0					

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	A-Infant	15	C
Main	B-Schoolage	54	C
Main	C-3's	48	C
Main	D-Toddlers	29	C

Enrolled Children						
Under 1 years	1 years	2 years	3 years	4 years	5 years (Prekonly)	5 years and older
7	15	32	36	38	0	0

Comments
Discussed compliance with State rules and regulations to support ongoing health and safety of children in care.

Plan of Improvement: Developed This Date

CCLC Indicator Manual

For additional information regarding any licensing topics discussed during this visit, please consult the Rules and Regulations Indicator Manual. This manual provides comprehensive clarification of each rule, including evaluation indicators, related best practices, and relevant considerations to support your program's continued and sustained compliance.

To access the Indicator Manual, please scan the QR code below or visit our website at https://www.decal.ga.gov/CCS/RulesAndRegulations.aspx.

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:

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@decal.ga.gov **for more information. Free technical assistance is available!**

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Summary Report

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The following information is associated with a Licensing Study:

Activities and Equipment

591-1-1-.03 Activities — **Met**

Comment
Lesson Plans were observed to be posted and reflected the current weeks activities in each classroom.

591-1-1-.12 Equipment & Toys(CR) — **Met**

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.

Children's Records

591-1-1-.08 Children's Records — **Met**

Comment
Records were observed to be complete and well organized.

Facility

591-1-1-.06 Bathrooms — **Met**

Comment
Bathrooms observed to be clean and well maintained.

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**

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 that the following hazards were observed;
Main F-2BR: Two plungers were left accessible to children in the bathroom on the far right. Additionally, a black electric floor cleaner was left accessible to children in the bathroom on the left side near the sink.
Main G-1BR: The cabinet under the sink was left unlocked with two buckets of cleaning supply accessible to children. In the yellow bucket a bottle of Clorox Bleach, Dawn dish soap and two bottles of unlabeled cleaning solutions were left accessible, in the blue bucket a bottle of Clorox toilet cleaner and 4 bottles of unlabeled cleaning solutions were left accessible to children. Additionally, a green bottle of Mr. Clean "clean freak" and Wizard liquid air freshener with warning label "keep out of reach of children" were left on top of the sink adjacent to the bathroom accessible to children and the drawer above the cabinet was left unlocked with thumb tacks accessible to children.
Main I-2L:The cabinet under the sink was left unlocked with unlabeled cleaning solution in clear bottles with yellow tops, a blue toilet bowl brush, and empty plastic bags accessible to children.

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: 5/1/2026

591-1-1-.26 Playgrounds(CR) **Not Met**

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 assure continuing resiliency. It was determined based on observation that on Main B-Schoolage playground 1.5 inches of resilient surfacing was measured under the 5 feet and 9 inches blue and green climbing equipment when at least 6 inches of mulch was required.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
The Center will add additional resilient surfacing to the fall zones where needed and check daily, adding resilient surfacing as needed to maintain adequate resiliency.

Correction Deadline: 5/15/2026

Food Service

591-1-1-.15 Food Service & Nutrition **Met**

Comment
Please ensure that bottles are covered and fully labeled with child's full name.

Comment
Please ensure that infant feeding forms are updated regularly.

591-1-1-.18 Kitchen Operations **Met**

Comment
Kitchen appears clean and well organized on this date.

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
Please ensure lids remain on trash containing organic waste.

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.

Policies and Procedures

591-1-1-.21 Operational Policies & Procedures **Not Met**

Finding
591-1-1-.21(3) requires that the Center conduct drills for fire, tornado and other emergency situations. The fire drills will be conducted monthly and tornado and other emergency situation drills will be conducted every six months. The Center shall maintain documentation of the dates and times of these drills for two years. It was determined based on a review of records that the Center did not document and conduct tornado and lockdown drills every six months as required. Additionally, the last tornado drill was conducted on August 1, 2026 and the last lockdown drill was documented on July 31, 2025.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
The Center will hold the drills as required and keep the documentation of the drills on file for two years.

Correction Deadline: 5/8/2026

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) **Met**

Comment
Center does not provide routine transportation.

Sleeping & Resting Equipment

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

Finding

591-1-1-.30(2) requires the Center to provide a safe sleep environment in accordance with American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) and American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) recommendations as listed in these rules for all infants. Center Staff shall place an infant to sleep on the infant's back in a crib unless the Center has been provided a physician's written statement authorizing another sleep position for that particular infant that includes how the infant shall be placed to sleep and a time frame that the instructions are to be followed. When an infant can easily turn over from back to front and back again, Staff shall continue to put the infant to sleep initially on the infant's back but allow the infant to roll over into his or her preferred position and not re-position the infant. Sleepers, sleep sacks and wearable blankets that fit according to the commercial manufacturer's guidelines and will not slide up around the infant's face may be used when necessary for the comfort of the sleeping infant. Swaddling shall not be used unless the Center has been provided a physician's written statement authorizing its use for a particular infant that includes instructions and a time frame for swaddling the infant. Center Staff shall not place objects or allow objects to be placed in or on the crib with an infant such as but not limited to toys, pillows, quilts, comforters, bumper pads, sheepskins, stuffed toys, or other soft items and shall not attach objects or allow objects to be attached to a crib with a sleeping infant, such as, but not limited to, crib gyms, toys, mirrors and mobiles. It was determined based on observation that in Main B-2L classroom three cribs had bibs attached to the side of them that presented a suffocation hazard. Additionally, infants were asleep in the cribs.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
The Center will take all steps necessary to provide a safe sleep environment for infants as listed in these rules; will train Staff to follow these rules; and will monitor for compliance.

Correction Deadline: 5/1/2026

Staff Records

Staff # 3 Not Met

Date of Hire: 10/20/2025

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training

Staff # 6 Not Met

Date of Hire: 10/19/2022

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.09-Criminal Records Check Missing,.09-Criminal Records Check Dissatisfied

591-1-1-.09 Criminal Records and Comprehensive Background Checks(CR) **Not Met**

Finding

591-1-1-.09(1)(c) requires the Center to ensure that every Employee has a valid and current satisfactory Comprehensive Records Check Determination on file prior to being present at the Center while any child is present for care or before an individual age 17 or older resides in the Center. The Comprehensive Records Check Determination must have a Records Check Clearance Date that is no older than the preceding 12 months of the hire date; provided, however, if the Employee has had a lapse of employment from the child care industry that lasted for 180 days (6 months) or longer, a new satisfactory Comprehensive Records Check Determination is required. It was determined based on a review of records that Staff #6 hired October 19, 2022 did not have a current satisfactory Comprehensive Records Check Determination on file prior to being present at the Center with children.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

IMMEDIATE CORRECTION - The Center will keep a log of staff background checks to ensure that every Employee has a valid and current satisfactory Comprehensive Records Check Determination on file prior to being present at the Center while any child is present for care or before an individual age 17 or older resides in the Center. The Comprehensive Records Check Determination must have a Records Check Clearance Date that is no older than the preceding 12 months of the hire date; provided, however, if the Employee has had a lapse of employment from the child care industry that lasted for 180 days (6 months) or longer, a new satisfactory Comprehensive Records Check Determination is required. The program's owner or an officer/member of the corporation must view the A to Z Background Check video units pertaining to this records check rule and return the signed affidavit within one week from this visit date. The center will review state rules and regulations to ensure the CRC rules are maintained.

Correction Deadline: 5/1/2026

Finding

591-1-1-.09(1)(l)3. requires the Center to immediately require a new Comprehensive Records Check Determination for a Director, Employee or Provisional Employee at least once every five years. It was determined based on a review of records that Staff #6 hired October 19, 2022 did not maintain a Comprehensive Records Check Determination at least once every five years as required.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

IMMEDIATE CORRECTION - The Center will maintain a record of staff background checks to ensure that each Director, Employee and Provisional Employee has a Comprehensive Records Check Determination on file that has been issued within the past five years. The program's owner or an officer/member of the corporation must view the A to Z Background Check video units pertaining to this records check rule and return the signed affidavit within one week from this visit date. The Center will review state rules and regulations to ensure CRC rules are maintained.

Correction Deadline: 5/1/2026

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

Comment

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

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

Finding
591-1-1-.33(5)(b)1. requires the annual ten (10) clock hours of training shall include at least two (2) hours in evidence based, developmentally appropriate language and literacy practices. It was determined based on a review of records that the Director hired October 10, 2025 did not have ten (10) clock hours of annual training that included at least two (2) hours in evidence based, developmentally appropriate language and literacy practices as required.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
The Center will plan and schedule the required 10 hours of annual training each year to include a least two (2) hours in evidence based, developmentally appropriate language and literacy practices and follow up to ensure the training is completed.

Correction Deadline: 5/31/2026

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.

591-1-1-.32 Supervision(CR) **Met**

Comment
Adequate supervision observed on this date.