



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: 2/17/2025 **VisitType:** Complaint Investigation & Licensing Study **Arrival:** 7:40 AM **Departure:** 11:00 AM

CCLC-28751
Stepping Stones Early Development Center
 305 West White Road Byron, GA 31008 Peach County
 (478) 956-2510 stepstones956@hotmail.com

Regional Consultant
 Brandi Mangino
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Mailing Address
 Same

Quality Rated: ★ ★

Compliance Zone Designation		
02/17/2025	Complaint Investigation & Licensing Study	Good Standing
11/14/2024	Monitoring Visit	Good Standing
04/30/2024	Incident Investigation 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	A	Infants	1	2	C	17	C	NA	NA	Floor Play
Main	B	Infants	2	4	C	14	C	NA	NA	Floor Play
Main	C	One Year Olds	1	4	C	14	C	NA	NA	Breakfast
Main	D	One Year Olds	1	3	C	13	C	NA	NA	Breakfast
Main	E	One Year Olds	1	2	C	12	C	NA	NA	Breakfast
Main	F	Two Year Olds and Three Year Olds	1	6	C	15	C	NA	NA	Breakfast
Main	G	Two Year Olds	1	3	C	15	C	NA	NA	Breakfast
Main	H	Three Year Olds	1	5	C	17	C	NA	NA	Breakfast, Centers
Main	I	Three Year Olds	1	6	C	17	C	NA	NA	Transitioning
Main	J	Three Year Olds	1	6	C	20	C	28	C	Centers
Main	K	Four Year Olds and Five Year Olds and Six Year Olds and Over	1	27	C	26	NC	36	C	Centers
Main	L	Four Year Olds and Five Year Olds	1	11	C	25	C	35	C	Centers
Main	M	Two Year Olds and Three Year Olds	1	7	C	13	C	NA	NA	Breakfast
Main	N	Two Year Olds	1	6	C	10	C	NA	NA	Centers
Main	O	Six Year Olds and Over	1	10	C	32	C	45	C	Centers
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 260						Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 301				

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	Playground E	58	C
Main	Playground A	12	C
Main	playground B	44	C
Main	playground C	50	C
Main	playground D	50	C

Enrolled Children						
Under 1 years	1 years	2 years	3 years	4 years	5 years (Prekonly)	5 years and older
15	32	27	44	28	30	60

Comments

Plan developed on this date.

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.decgal.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 Licensing Study Visit:

Activities and Equipment

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

Technical Assistance

Technical Assistance

Consultant discussed the shelf in Room C with stuffed animals needs to be secured.

Correction Deadline: 2/17/2025

591-1-1-.35 Swimming Pools & Water-related Activities(CR)

Met

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.

591-1-1-.25 Physical Plant - Safe Environment(CR)

Not Met

Technical Assistance

Consultant discussed the one ceiling idle in Room J needs replaced due to staining.

Correction Deadline: 3/19/2025

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 the following hazards were accessible to children in care:

Room C:

paper clips and stapler in an unlocked drawer

Room E:

rubber gloves in an unlocked drawer

Room G:

vacuum, broom and dust pan in an unlocked closet door

CLorox and lysol in and open cabinet under the diapering sink

Room K:

Odo Ban eipes on a shelf

toilet brush in the restroom

Room N:

trash bags and rubber gloves in an unlocked drawer

toilet brush in the restroom

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: 2/17/2025

591-1-1-.26 Playgrounds(CR)**Met****Comment**

Discussed maintenance of resilient surface. Please fluff and redistribute.

Food Service

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

Please ensure that infant feeding forms are updated regularly.

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.

591-1-1-.20 Medications(CR)**Met****Comment**

Documentation for medication dispensing observed complete.

Safety

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

Age-appropriate discussion and/or redirection observed.

591-1-1-.36 Transportation(CR)**Met****Comment**

Complete documentation of transportation observed.

Sleeping & Resting Equipment

591-1-1-.30 Safe Sleeping and Resting Requirements(CR)**Met****Comment**

Discussed SIDS and infant sleeping position.

Comment

The correct number of mats, sheets and blankets were observed on this date. Cleaning and disinfecting of mats was discussed with the director on this date.

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-.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)**Not Met****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, naptime, 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 mealtime 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 that in classrooms thorough out with children under the age of three that staff member was not seated within arms length but were observed to be standing. It was further determined that in Room C a one-year-old child was eating and the staff member walked off from the area.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will train Staff and monitor to ensure they are providing supervision and watchful oversight to the children at all times.

Correction Deadline: 2/17/2025