



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: 12/16/2025 **VisitType:** Complaint Investigation & Licensing Study **Arrival:** 9:35 AM **Departure:** 6:00 PM

CCLC-15140
Joyland Christian Academy
1301 Cross Street Fort Oglethorpe, GA 30742 Catoosa County
(706) 866-1926

Lead Consultant
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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.
12/16/2025	Complaint Investigation & Licensing Study	Good Standing	
12/30/2024	Licensing Study	Good Standing	
09/17/2024	Complaint Closure	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
KK	Far Left Back	GA PreK	2	10	C	18	C	NA	NA	Outside
KK	Far Left Front	GA PreK	2	0	C	18	C	NA	NA	Outside
KK	Far Left Middle		0	0	C	33	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
KK	Right	GA PreK	2	9	C	25	C	NA	NA	Outside
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 94			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0							
Main	Front Left	One Year Olds	1	8	C	28	C	NA	NA	Circle Time, Free Play
Main	Front right	Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds	1	11	C	30	C	NA	NA	Free Play
Main	Left Back Back	Infants	2	7	C	10	C	NA	NA	Free Play, Feeding
Main	Left Back Front	One Year Olds and Two Year Olds	2	10	C	16	C	NA	NA	Free Play
Main	Right Back	Two Year Olds and Three Year Olds	1	7	C	30	C	NA	NA	Free Play
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 114			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0							
Total # Children this Date: 62			Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 208			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0				

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	Joyland Playground	186	C

Main	Playground-Kids Castle	259	C
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Enrolled Children						
Under 1 years	1 years	2 years	3 years	4 years	5 years (Prekonly)	5 years and older
9	13	19	14	32	19	37

Comments

Be sure to enter all temporary closures by 7 a.m. (vacation, emergencies, school closures, inclement weather, holidays etc...) in DECAL KOALA at all times under the Required Report tab whenever your facility is closed temporarily because you are not caring for children for one or more days. SAVE the report before exiting.

All amendments are required to be electronically submitted in DECAL KOALA.

Please be sure to hide staff who are no longer employed in your DECAL KOALA account. Please reach out for help with this, if needed.

Please ensure that the director and staff responsible for food preparation completes the four (4) hours of nutrition training as soon as possible but within the first year of employment. (if applicable)

Please remember that the transportation training certificates must be completed prior to participating in transportation and renewed every two years for anyone checking the vehicle, chaperoning on a trip, and signing the checklist, including the director. Please ensure that directors complete the transportation training upon being hired at the center. Please ensure to contact your consultant for guidance if you have not been conducting transportation before you plan to conduct transportation in the future. (if applicable)

**There is a free Transportation Training available on OLLI in Georgia PDS (GaPDS). Health and Safety Orientation Training 15-hour course is available free online in OLLI (staff must successfully complete all three trainings to meet licensing requirements). PLEASE NOTE: If the Health & Safety Orientation Training date is outside of the previous 12 months, the training was not approved for 10 credit hours, or the training certificate is not documented in the employee's GaPDS account, the Staff person will be required to take this training again, within their first 90 days of employment at a new facility. Reminder: Health and Safety Orientation Training can only be taken once every five years.

Talk about updated orientation checklist.

Indicator manual and utilizing it.

Discussed updated Transportation forms including sample as of October 1, 2023, use immediately (if applicable).

Discussed regarding ensuring to complete rechecks for Criminal Records checks at least 90 days before the five-year expiration. Suggestion: Check monthly or sooner to ensure that staff's criminal records checks are not expiring.

Don't forget to post a new license annually.

Discussed regarding nap mats regarding not using tape to repair; must replace.

Recent Changes/Updates: Core Rule: CPR and First Aid will be due within 45 days. 2 hours of Language and Literacy/2 hours of Health and Safety training annually beginning July 1, 2025, a required for all staff. Also, SUID (Sudden Unexpected Infant Death Syndrome formerly SIDS) must be included on the orientation checklist along with abusive head trauma. **Please don't forget to add to your childcare policies and procedures concerning expulsion, suspension, and practices followed to prevent shaken baby syndrome and abusive head trauma.

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.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 user id 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!



Summary Report

Date: 12/16/2025 **VisitType:** Complaint Investigation & Licensing **Arrival:** 9:35 AM **Departure:** 6:00 PM
Study

CCLC-15140

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The following information is associated with a Licensing Study Visit:

Activities and Equipment

591-1-1-.03 Activities

Technical Assistance

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.03(1) - Please ensure that all lesson plans are available with the current date at all times.

Correction Deadline: 12/16/2025

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

Not Met

Finding

591-1-1-.12(2) requires that all equipment and furniture be free from hazardous conditions such as, but not limited to, sharp rough edges or toxic paint; and be kept clean. It was determined based on observation that the equipment in the following classrooms were observed to be torn:

-KK Far Left Back: There was a torn blue chair and the vinyl was peeling on the blue couch in the pretend play area.

-KK Far Left Front: There was a torn blue chair observed.

-KK Right: There was a torn blue chair and couch observed.

-Main Front Right: There was a torn red chair near the area with the phone and a blue torn chair in the pretend play area. There was a light blue seating with peeling vinyl in the library area.

-Main Left Back Front: There was a light blue couch with peeling vinyl where books are stored.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will ensure that equipment and furniture are used by the age-appropriate group of children.

Correction Deadline: 12/16/2025

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

Met

Comment

Center does not provide swimming activities.

Children's Records

591-1-1-.08 Children's Records

Technical Assistance

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.08(1) - Please ensure that children's file has the parent's work address completed.

Correction Deadline: 12/16/2025

Facility

Finding

591-1-1-.06(6) requires Center Staff to equip bathrooms with soap, toilet tissue and single-use towels or cloth towels used only once between launderings. It was determined based on observation that all the stalls in the boys bathroom did not have tissue.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will provide all required supplies and will train and monitor Staff to ensure that supplies are available in bathrooms. Cloth towels will be used only once between laundering. Tissue was added during the visit.

Correction Deadline: 12/16/2025

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****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:

-KK Far Left Middle: The screws on the toilet bowls were observed to be uncovered in the boys and girls bathroom and were more than two threads.

-KK Right: Hand sanitizer was observed in a child's bag located in the cubbies.

-Right Back: The screws on the toilet bowls were observed to be uncovered and more than two threads.

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: 12/16/2025

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.25(8) - Please ensure that all outlets are covered at all times.

Correction Deadline: 12/16/2025

591-1-1-.26 Playgrounds(CR)**Not Met****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 four swings on the KK playground were observed to be cracked on the right.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will provide a variety of age-appropriate equipment that is arranged so as not to obstruct supervision of children. Staff will check the equipment daily to ensure that the equipment is free of hazards, rust and splinters.

Correction Deadline: 12/26/2025

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 assure continuing resiliency. It was determined based on observation that there was three inches of resilient surface on the KK building playground at the side of the green slide between the swing areas and the swings where six were needed. On the KK building playground, there was less than one inch of resilient surface at the side of the tan curved slide where six inches were needed. On the KK building In the area with the three swings, there was less than one inch of mulch where six inches were needed.

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: 12/26/2025

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 on the KK building playground, a screw on the wooden border at the front near fence by the double gate was observed. On the KK building playground split wood near the back fence on the wooden border was observed to be sharp and accessible to the children and on the edge of the wooden border in the swing area facing the parking lot.

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: 12/16/2025

Health and Hygiene

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

Not Met

Comment

Staff stated proper knowledge of diapering procedures.

Finding

591-1-1-.10(4) requires that if diapers are changed on a diaper changing surface, the surface shall be smooth, nonporous, and equipped with a guard or rails to prevent falls. Between each diaper change, the diaper changing surface shall be cleaned with a disinfectant and dried with a single-use disposable towel. It was determined based on observation that the changing pad in the Left Back Front classroom was torn.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will ensure there is a smooth, nonporous changing surface that has a guard or rails for safety in each classroom that houses children wearing diapers. Center Staff will be trained and have adequate supplies to properly clean the diaper changing surface between each diaper change. The director removed the torn diaper pad and a new pad has been ordered.

Correction Deadline: 12/16/2025

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

Met

Comment

Proper hand washing observed throughout the center on this date.

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

Met

Comment

The Provider currently does not dispense/administer medication.

Policies and Procedures

591-1-1-.21 Operational Policies & Procedures

Technical Assistance

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.21(2)(r) - New - Discussed updating the Center's policies and procedures to include the program's practices regarding the expulsion and suspension of children enrolled for care within the description of behavior management and discipline actions used by the Center.

Also discussed to ensure a description of the practices followed by the Center to prevent shaken baby syndrome and abusive head trauma in children up to five years of age that includes the following information: how to recognize, respond to, and report the signs and symptoms of shaken baby syndrome and abusive head trauma; strategies to assist staff members in understanding how to care for infants and how to cope with a crying, fussing, or distraught child; strategies to ensure staff members understand the brain development of children up to five years of age; and a list of prohibited behaviors when dealing with children.

Additional information can be found in the CCLC Indicator Manual found on DECAL's website at:

<https://www.dec.ga.gov/CCS/RulesAndRegulations.aspx> or through the Center on Shaken Baby Syndrome found at: <https://dontshake.org/>.

Correction Deadline: 12/21/2025

Safety

Comment

Age-appropriate discussion and/or redirection observed.

591-1-1-.36 Transportation(CR)

Not Met

Finding

591-1-1-.36(4)(f)1. requires that all transported children be secured in a child passenger restraining system or seat safety belt in accordance with current state and federal laws and regulations and according to manufacturer's directions. It was determined based on observation that the seat belts on the first through fourth left rows on the right were observed to be twisted on vehicle tag EHP 511 and the seat belts on the first, third, fourth right, first and third left were twisted on vehicle tag number RPY 0400.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will ensure that manufacturer directions and state and federal laws are met when using child passenger restraining systems and seat safety belts.

Correction Deadline: 12/17/2025

Finding

591-1-1-.36(6) requires written Parental authorization for routine transportation provided by or on behalf of the Center. Written authorization must include the routine pick-up location, routine pick-up time, routine delivery location, routine delivery times and the name of any person authorized to receive the child. It was determined based on a review of records that 11 of 35 children did not have the pick-up time recorded on their transportation agreement forms.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will obtain the required written parental authorization.

Correction Deadline: 12/17/2025

Sleeping & Resting Equipment

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

Not Met

Finding

591-1-1-.30(1)(b)1 requires that cots and mats are of sound construction and of sufficient size to accommodate comfortably the size and weight of the child; and that mats are in good repair, washable, covered with a waterproof material and at least two inches (2") thick. It was determined based on observation that several mats in the Front Right, Left Back Front, and Front Left were observed to be torn.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will ensure that cots and mats are of sound construction and of sufficient size to accommodate the size and weight of the child and mats are in good repair, washable, covered with a waterproof material and is at least two inches thick.

Correction Deadline: 12/16/2025

Staff Records

Records Reviewed: 28

Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 5

Staff # 3

Not Met

Date of Hire: 12/10/2025

Reminder - Health & Safety training is required within 90 calendar days of hired

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.14(2)-CPR missing,.14(2)-First Aid Missing

Staff # 4

Not Met

Date of Hire: 01/21/2019

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(3)-Health & Safety Certificate

Staff # 14

Not Met

Date of Hire: 08/11/2025

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.09-Criminal Records Check Missing,.14(2)-First Aid Missing

Staff # 18

Not Met

Date of Hire: 11/09/2023

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.14(2)-CPR missing,.14(2)-First Aid Missing

Staff # 22

Not Met

Date of Hire: 08/08/2024

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(3)-Health & Safety Certificate

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

591-1-1-.09(1)(a) requires that a Center ensure that every actual and potential Director, Employee and Provisional Employee of a Child Care Learning Center submit both a Records Check Application to the Department and Fingerprints to an authorized fingerprinting site. It was determined based on a review of records that staff #14 hired on August 11, 2025, did not have evidence of having submitted a Records Check Application to the Department.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

IMMEDIATE CORRECTION - The Center will ensure to complete a fingerprint application for staff prior to them being present at the center to ensure that every actual and potential Director, Employee and Provisional Employee of a Child Care Learning Center submit both a Records Check Application to the Department and Fingerprints to an authorized fingerprinting site as 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 director and/or staff responsible for staffing will review the CRC modules regarding criminal records to ensure the CRC rules are maintained. The owner director and/or staff responsible for staffing will review the CRC modules regarding criminal records to ensure the CRC rules are maintained.

Correction Deadline: 12/16/2025**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 #14, hired on August 11, 2025, did not have evidence of a satisfactory records check in that the records check on file was longer than 12 months of the hire date and expired on June 21, 2025.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

IMMEDIATE CORRECTION - The Center will ensure to receive a completed a records check determination for staff prior to them being present at 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 childcare 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 director and/or staff responsible for staffing will review the CRC modules regarding criminal records to ensure the CRC rules are maintained.

591-1-1-.14 First Aid & CPR(CR)**Not Met****Comment**

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

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.14(2)(b) - Discussed that effective July 1, 2025, new staff are required to obtain pediatric First Aid and pediatric CPR training within 45 days of employment. It was further discussed that programs must have at least one person with current pediatric First Aid and pediatric CPR training in each classroom at all times.

Correction Deadline: 12/16/2025**Finding**

591-1-1-.14(2)(b) requires that there must always be one staff person present in each classroom where children are present that has current and valid pediatric cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and pediatric first aid training. It was determined based on a review of records that staff #3, hired on December 10, 2025, did not have evidence of CPR and First Aid training and was by themselves in the classroom. Also, staff #14, hired on August 11, 2025, did not have current evidence of CPR and was by themselves in the classroom. The course was completed online.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Director will schedule and/or position caregiver Staff throughout the Center to ensure at least one currently pediatric CPR and First Aid trained Staff person is present in each classroom where children are present.

Correction Deadline: 12/16/2025

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

591-1-1-.33(1) - Discussed that all Employees, including volunteers, independent contractors, students-in-training, etc. should have a completed initial program orientation form on file.

Correction Deadline: 12/16/2025**Finding**

591-1-1-.33(3)(a)-(k) requires each Staff member with direct care responsibilities to complete health and safety orientation training within the first 90 days of employment. The state-approved training hours obtained will count toward required first year training hours. The training must address the following health and safety topics: a) prevention and control of infectious diseases (including immunizations); b) prevention of sudden infant death syndrome and use of safe sleeping practices; c) administration of medication, consistent with standards for parental consent; d) prevention of and response to emergencies due to food and allergic reactions; e) building and physical premises safety, including identification of and protection from hazards that can cause bodily injury such as electrical hazards, bodies of water, and vehicular traffic; f) prevention of shaken baby syndrome, abusive head trauma and child maltreatment; g) emergency preparedness and response planning for emergencies resulting from a natural disaster or a human-caused event (such as violence at a child care facility); h) handling and storage of hazardous materials and the appropriate disposal of bio contaminants; i) precautions in transporting children; j) recognition and reporting of child abuse and neglect; and k) child development to include all major domains: cognitive; social and emotional; physical development and motor skills; communication, language, and literacy; and approaches to play and learning. It was determined based on a review of records that the following staff did not have evidence of Health and Safety Orientation Training on file:

-Staff #4, hired on January 21, 2019.

-Staff #22, hired on August 8, 2024.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will develop and implement a plan to schedule and track this training for all employees based on their hire dates and will ensure that the training includes all required components as required.

Correction Deadline: 1/15/2026**Technical Assistance**

591-1-1-.33(5)(b)1. - New - Discussed that effective July 1, 2025, all staff are required to obtain at least two hours in evidence based, developmentally appropriate language and literacy practices and at least two hours in on-going child development and health and safety related topics as part of their 10 hours of annual training.

Correction Deadline: 1/15/2026

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

Comment

Center observed to maintain appropriate staff:child ratios.

Comment

Adequate supervision observed on this date. Discussed the supervision rule during mealtimes which states: 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.