



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: 2/27/2026 VisitType: Licensing Study

Arrival: 9:45 AM Departure: 12:50 PM

CCLC-35001

Tara Academy

2326 Bouldercrest Road Atlanta, GA 30316 DeKalb County
(404) 381-9300

Regional Consultant

Jessica Johnson

Phone: (770) 357-5090

Fax:

jessica.johnson@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.
02/27/2026	Licensing Study	Good Standing	
12/15/2025	Complaint Closure	Good Standing	
12/02/2025	Complaint Investigation Follow Up	Support	
			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 Left		0	0	C	11	C	NA	NA	
Main	B 1st Right		0	0	C	13	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
Main	C 2nd Left	Two Year Olds	1	8	C	22	C	NA	NA	Centers
Main	D 2nd Right		0	0	C	20	C	NA	NA	
Main	E 3rd Left	Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds	2	16	C	22	C	NA	NA	Centers
Main	F 3rd Right		0	0	C	16	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
Main	G 4th Left		0	0	C	11	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
Main	H 5th Left		0	0	C	26	C	NA	NA	
Main	I 4th Right	GA PreK	2	11	C	26	C	NA	NA	Centers
			Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 167			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0				
Total # Children this Date: 35			Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 167			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0				

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	PG Preschool	24	C
Main	PG School Age	125	C
Main	PG Toddler	18	C

Enrolled Children						
Under 1 years	1 years	2 years	3 years	4 years	5 years (Prekonly)	5 years and older
0	1	8	11	15	8	24

Comments

On this date, Jessica Johnson (JJ), Consultant, reviewed the visit report with Director Cynthia Wright.

Plan of Improvement: Developed This Date



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

You have received permission to operate and the form received with this report is intended to serve as a temporary license which is **valid for thirty(30) days**. Your actual license/ will be emailed to you upon receipt of the licensing fee. You may pay the licensing fee either online at <http://www.decal.ga.gov/> or by certified check or money order mailed to: Bright from the Start, 2 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive SE, Suite 670 East Tower, Atlanta, GA 30334

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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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

Discussed adding equipment and toys to enhance variety in classroom E 3rd Left.

Comment

Equipment and furniture observed to be properly secured, as applicable.

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

Met

Comment

Center does not provide swimming activities.

Children's Records

Records Reviewed: 5

Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 3

Child # 2

Not Met

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.08(1)(a)-Work Number Missing

Child # 4

Not Met

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.08(1)(a)-Work Number Missing

Child # 5

Not Met

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.08(1)(a)-Work Number Missing

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

Technical Assistance

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.08(1) - Please ensure to add the parents work contact information to children's files. Discussed not leaving any blank spaces on the children enrollment forms.

591-1-1-.06 Bathrooms

Technical Assistance

Comment

Please monitor bathrooms for necessary supplies.

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.06(7) - Please ensure that the paper towels are cleaned off the floor in the 2nd restroom.

Correction Deadline: 2/27/2026

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(12) requires heating and cooling equipment to be protected to prevent children from touching it. Fans, space heaters, etc. shall be positioned or installed so as to be inaccessible to the children. It was determined based on observation that a heater was observed on top of the cubbies on the left side of the classroom accessible to children in care.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will re-position or re-install equipment, as needed, and will make all such equipment inaccessible to children.

Correction Deadline: 2/27/2026

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:

Classroom C 2nd Left

- Bleach was observed in the bottom of an unlocked cabinet on the right side of the classroom.
- Cleaning solution was observed on the top of the cabinet on the right side of the classroom.
- Gloves were observed in the restroom on top of the cabinet accessible to children in care.

Classroom E-3rd Left

- Gloves were observed on the top of the sink cabinet on the left side of the classroom.

Classroom D 2nd Right

- A empty black grocery bag was observed in the cubby on the right side.

Classroom H 5th Left

- Adult Scissors, a letter opener, and cleaning solution, were observed on the top of the right cabinets.

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: 2/27/2026

Recited on 2/27/2026

Finding

591-1-1-.25(3) requires the Center and surrounding premises to be kept clean, free of debris and in good repair. Hygienic measures such as, but not limited to, screened windows and proper waste disposal procedures shall be utilized to minimize the presence of rodents, flies, roaches and other vermin at the Center. It was determined based on observation that a hole was observed on the bottom of the restroom door in classroom D 2nd Right. It was further determined that chipped paint was observed throughout classroom D 2nd Right.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will have the Center and surrounding areas cleaned, make repairs where needed, and remove all debris is removed. The Center will implement a plan to keep areas clean and in good repair that includes regular monitoring.

Correction Deadline: 3/13/2026

Recited on 2/27/2026

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.25(8) - Please ensure that protective caps are on all unused electrical outlets within children's reach in classroom H 5th Left.

Correction Deadline: 2/27/2026

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

591-1-1-.26(4) - Please ensure to remove the rust chain from the gate near the road on Playground Toddler.

Correction Deadline: 2/27/2026

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.26(4) - Please monitor the 3 and a half inch gap at the gate on the fence around the air conditioner unit on the concrete in the School Age Playground.

Correction Deadline: 2/27/2026

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 rust was observed on the handle bar of the white air plane on Playground Toddler.

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: 3/13/2026

Recited on 2/27/2026

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.26(8) - Please ensure that the appropriate amount of mulch is maintained around the slide, swings, and stairs on the large playground equipment.

Correction Deadline: 3/9/2026

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:

Playground School Age

- A torn screen was observed on the right side window near classroom B 1st Right.
- Gum ball were observed throughout the playground.
- A disconnected PVC pipe was observed in front of the swing area that posed a tripping hazards.
- Two open pipes were observed on the left and right side of the maintenance door.
- Mop handles were observed hanging over the fence.
- Exposed concrete was observed on the red/blue/ yellow play equipment that posed a tripping hazard.
- Exposed concrete was observed near the yellow tunnel that posed a possible tripping hazard.
- Trash was observed throughout the playground area.

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: 3/20/2026

Health and Hygiene

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

Met

Comment

Staff stated proper knowledge of diapering procedures.

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

The Provider currently does not dispense/administer medication.

Policies and Procedures

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

Met

Comment

Program observed complete emergency drills and emergency preparedness form.

Safety

591-1-1-.05 Animals

Met

Comment

Center does not keep animals on premises.

591-1-1-.11 Discipline(CR)

Met

Comment

Age-appropriate discussion and/or redirection observed.

591-1-1-.13 Field Trips(CR)

Met

Comment

Center does not participate in field trips at this time.

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

Not Met

Comment

A current/completed inspection was observed for all vehicles used in transporting children this date.

Comment

The vehicle had an approved fire extinguisher and first aid kit on this date.

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.36(4)(b) - Please ensure that the fire extinguisher is mounted in the vehicle. Discussed stored items that can be a hazard in a large tote.

Correction Deadline: 2/28/2026

Correction Deadline: 12/3/2025

Corrected on 2/27/2026

.36(4)(f)1. - The previous citation was observed corrected on this date as car seats were observed in the vehicle.

Correction Deadline: 12/3/2025

Corrected on 2/27/2026

.36(4)(g) - The previous citation was observed corrected on this date. Per the Director children are not allowed to seat in the front seat.

Finding

591-1-1-.36(7)(d)2. requires that the second designated Staff person conduct a check of the vehicle immediately upon the completion of the first check of the vehicle. The responsible person shall physically walk through the entire vehicle; visually inspect all seat surfaces, under all seats and in all compartments or recesses in the vehicle's interior; and sign the passenger transportation checklist(s), indicating all of the children have exited the vehicle. There shall be continuous watchful oversight of the vehicle between the first check and second check. It was determined based on a review of records that the following was observed missing from the transportation log:

- It was determined based on a review of records that there was no evidence that a second check of the vehicle was conducted after the afternoon route to Flat Shoals Elementary on February 6, 2026.
- It was determined based on a review of records that there was no evidence that a second check of the vehicle was conducted after the afternoon route to Oakview Elementary on February 6, 2026.
- It was determined based on a review of records that there was no evidence that a second check of the vehicle was conducted after the afternoon route to Cedar Grove Elementary on February 6, 2026.
- It was determined based on a review of records that there was no evidence that a second check of the vehicle was conducted after the afternoon route to Obama Elementary on February 6, 2026.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will train Staff who are or may be involved in transporting children in how to thoroughly inspect a vehicle and properly complete transportation documentation. The Center will review and monitor.

Correction Deadline: 2/27/2026

Sleeping & Resting Equipment

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

Met

Comment

Per the Director, no infants were enrolled in the program.

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.

Correction Deadline: 12/2/2025

Corrected on 2/27/2026

.09(1)(c) - The previous citation was observed corrected on this date as all criminal records checks were observed completed.

Correction Deadline: 12/2/2025

Corrected on 2/27/2026

.09(1)(l)3. - The previous citation was observed corrected on this date as all criminal records checks were observed completed.

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

Met

Comment

Criminal records checks were observed to be complete.

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

Met

Comment

At least one staff person with current and valid pediatric first aid and pediatric CPR observed in each classroom where children were present.

Comment

At least one staff person with current and valid pediatric first aid and pediatric CPR observed in each classroom where children were present.

Comment

Complete first aid kits observed in center and on vehicles on this date.

Correction Deadline: 2/27/2025

Corrected on 2/27/2026

.33(5) - The previous citation was observed corrected on this date as Staff # 8 was no longer employed at the program. The Consultant observed Staff # 10 and Staff # 12 to have completed the 10 hours of annual training for the 2025 calendar year.

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

Met

Comment

Staff observed to be compliant with applicable laws and regulations.

Correction Deadline: 12/2/2025

Corrected on 2/27/2026

.31(13) - The previous citation was observed corrected on this date. Per the Director, no children are allowed to ride in the front seat.

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.

Correction Deadline: 12/2/2025

Corrected on 2/27/2026

.32(7) - The previous citation was observed corrected on this date as adequate supervision was observed in each classroom.