



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: 8/5/2025 VisitType: Complaint Investigation Follow Up Arrival: 1:20 PM Departure: 5:15 PM

CCLC-56596

A Step Above Preparatory South

4195 Welcome All Rd SW Atlanta, GA 30349 Fulton County
(260) 760-4679

Special Investigations Unit Specialist

Raquel Roberts

Phone: (404) 782-3279

Fax: (404) 567-6021

raquel.roberts@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. 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.
08/05/2025	Complaint Investigation Follow Up	Good Standing	
08/04/2025	Complaint Investigation & Monitoring Visit	Support	
04/03/2025	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
Main	AL-Infant		0	0	C	10	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
Main	Back F-Private Pre-K		0	0	C	16	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
Main	BL-One and Two		0	0	C	21	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
Main	CL-Three year old	Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds	1	7	C	18	C	NA	NA	Nap
Main	DL-Four year old		0	0	C	11	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
Main	EL-Afterschool		0	0	C	63	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
Main	HR-One year Old	Infants and One Year Olds	1	8	C	12	C	NA	NA	Nap,Free Play
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 151			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0							
Total # Children this Date: 15			Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 151							
			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0							

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	Afterschool	55	C
Main	Infant	13	C
Main	Toddler	7	C

Comments

August 5, 2025: The purpose of today's visit is to follow up on any previous citations from the visit conducted on August 4, 2025.

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@decgal.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 Complaint Investigation Follow Up:

Activities and Equipment

591-1-1-.03 Activities

Defer

Correction Deadline: 8/4/2025

Corrected on 8/5/2025

.03(1) - Consultant did not observe any children climbing, standing on shelves, or running around the classroom on this date.

Correction Deadline: 8/4/2025

Corrected on 8/5/2025

.03(13) - Previous citation corrected. Consultant observed the daily schedule followed in classroom CL and classroom HR on this date. Consultant observed the children in classroom HR engaged in free play instead of outside due to the rain on this date.

Defer

591-1-1-.03(2)- Previous citation deferred. Center given more time due to the date of the center's last visit. The visit was conducted on August 4, 2025.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will keep current lesson plans on site that include appropriate instruction practices and activities and will have sufficient and varied play and learning equipment and materials to support the activities.

Correction Deadline: 8/4/2025

Defer

591-1-1-.03(5)- Previous citation deferred. Center given more time due to the date of the center's last visit. The visit was conducted on August 4, 2025.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will provide a variety of planned activities for all of the required activity areas.

Correction Deadline: 8/8/2025

Correction Deadline: 7/8/2024

Corrected on 8/5/2025

.03(9) - Previous investigation substantiated.

Facility

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

Met

Correction Deadline: 8/4/2025

Corrected on 8/5/2025

.25(13) - Consultant did not observe any children in classroom AL on this date. Consultant did not observe a vacuum cleaner, mop, and a bucket with water on the wall in the hallway near classroom BL-One and Two and accessible to children. Classroom BL did not have any children present on this date.

Correction Deadline: 8/4/2025

Corrected on 8/5/2025

.25(3) - Previous citation corrected. Consultant observed five of five blinds in classroom HR replaced on this date.

Correction Deadline: 8/4/2025

Corrected on 8/5/2025

.25(8) - Previous citation corrected. Consultant did not observe any power cords from the electrical outlet accessible and within children's reach on this date.

Food Service

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

Defer

Defer

591-1-1-.15(10)- Previous citation deferred. Consultant observed the refrigerator not in use and under repair on this date.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will train Staff and monitor that food, drink, formula, and breast milk are discarded or returned to Parent(s) as required.

Correction Deadline: 8/4/2025

Correction Deadline: 8/4/2025

Corrected on 8/5/2025

.15(6)(a) - Previous citation corrected. Consultant did not observe breakfast being served on this date.

Staff Records

591-1-1-.24 Personnel Records

Not Met

Finding

591-1-1-.24(1)- It was determined based on a review of records that there was no personnel file for staff #5. The director was not able to produce the file and stated there was no file for staff #5.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will secure required information for all Personnel. The Center will ensure that complete information is in the personnel file for all Directors, Employees, Provisional Employees, Personnel, Staff, Students-in-Training, Volunteers, Clerical, Housekeeping, Maintenance and other Support Staff.

Correction Deadline: 8/5/2025

Recited on 8/5/2025

591-1-1-.33 Staff Training

Not Met

Finding

591-1-1-.33(1) requires all Employees and Provisional Employees to receive Initial Center orientation prior to assignment to children or task. It was determined based on review of records that there was no Initial Center orientation on file for staff #1, #2, and #3.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will develop and provide orientation for all new Staff prior to their assignment to children or task.

Correction Deadline: 8/5/2025

Recited on 8/5/2025

Defer

591-1-1-.33(5)- Previous citation deferred. Consultant observed staff#7 to have 22.50 hours of training for fiscal year 2025.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will plan and schedule the required 10 hours of annual training each year and follow up to ensure the training is completed.

Correction Deadline: 2/5/2025

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

Met

Correction Deadline: 8/4/2025

Corrected on 8/5/2025

.31(11) - Previous citation corrected. Consultant observed classrooms CL and HR to be within ratio on this date.

Staffing and Supervision

591-1-1-.32 Staff:Child Ratios and Group Size(CR)

Met

Correction Deadline: 3/4/2025

Corrected on 8/5/2025

.32(2) - Previous citation corrected. Consultant observed the ratio in classroom CL 1:7 (4) three-year-olds and (3) four-year-olds on this date.