



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: 6/16/2026 **VisitType:** Monitoring Visit

Arrival: 12:55 PM **Departure:** 2:35 PM

CCLC-1846
First United Methodist Church Daycare Center
 500 South Thornton Avenue Dalton, GA 30720 Whitfield County
 (706) 278-1075

Regional Consultant
 Megan OMary
 Phone: (706) 451-0920
 Fax: (706) 451-0819
 megan.omary@dec.al.ga.gov

Mailing Address
 Same

Quality Rated: No

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.
06/16/2026	Monitoring Visit	Good Standing	
01/06/2026	Licensing Study	Good Standing	
07/30/2025	Incident Investigation 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	1145 Younger Threes	Three Year Olds	1	7	C	10	C	NA	NA	Nap
Main	1146 - Older Three's		0	0	C	9	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
Main	1149 - Four/Fives	Four Year Olds	1	8	C	18	C	NA	NA	Nap
Main	1166 - Older Twos	Two Year Olds and Three Year Olds	2	11	C	8	NC	NA	NA	Nap
Main	1167 - Young Infants		0	0	C	7	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
Main	1169 - Younger Twos		0	0	C	8	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
Main	1171 - Older Infants	Infants and One Year Olds	2	7	C	10	C	NA	NA	Floor Play,Free Play,Nap
Main	1172 - All Ones	One Year Olds and Two Year Olds	1	8	C	12	C	NA	NA	Nap
			Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 82			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0				
Total # Children this Date: 41			Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 82			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0				

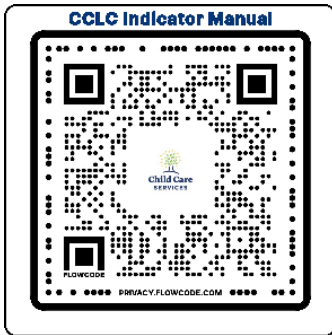
Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	A-Playground	28	C
Main	B-Playground	24	C
Main	C-Playground	55	C

Enrolled Children						
Under 1 years	1 years	2 years	3 years	4 years	5 years (Prekonly)	5 years and older
9	8	14	7	11	0	0

Comments

The findings of this report were reviewed with the Director.

Plan of Improvement: No Plan Developed



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.dec.al.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.dec.al.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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Summary Report

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The following information is associated with a Monitoring Visit:

Activities and Equipment

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

Met

Comment

A variety of equipment and toys were observed throughout the center on this date.

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

N/A

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 on this date.

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

Met

Comment

The Center appeared clean and well maintained on this date.

591-1-1-.26 Playgrounds(CR)

Technical Assistance

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.26(4) - The double gate at the back of C-Playground was open, no Children were present. Please keep this gate closed.

Correction Deadline: 6/16/2026

Health and Hygiene

591-1-1-.07 Children's Health

Technical Assistance

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.07(5) - Please ensure children do not have anything around their necks including bibs except during mealtimes. A child in 1171- Older 1s had a bib around their neck while playing.

Correction Deadline: 6/16/2026

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

Met

Comment

Staff stated proper knowledge of diapering procedures.

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

Proper hand washing observed throughout the center on this date.

591-1-1-.20 Medications(CR)	N/A
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Comment

The Provider currently does not dispense/administer medication.

Safety

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

Staff were observed to maintain a positive learning environment on this date.

591-1-1-.36 Transportation(CR)	N/A
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Comment

Center does not provide routine transportation.

Sleeping & Resting Equipment

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

591-1-1-.30(1)(c) - Please ensure children under 2 years of age are not using a pillow when sleeping. A 1 year old child in 1171- Older Infants was sleeping on a nap mat with a pillow.

Correction Deadline: 6/16/2026

Staff Records

591-1-1-.09 Criminal Records and Comprehensive Background Checks(CR)	Met
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Comment

Criminal record checks were observed to be complete.

591-1-1-.14 First Aid & CPR(CR)	Met
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Correction Deadline: 2/5/2026

Corrected on 6/16/2026

.14(1) - The previous citation was observed corrected on this date. Staff is 100% CPR and first aid certified.

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

Staff observed to be compliant with applicable laws and regulations.

Staffing and Supervision

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

Center observed to maintain appropriate staff:child ratios.

591-1-1-.32 Supervision(CR)	Met
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Correction Deadline: 1/6/2026

Corrected on 6/16/2026

.32(7) - The previous citation was observed corrected on this date. Staff stated proper knowledge of mealtime supervision.