



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: 5/6/2026

VisitType: Licensing Study

Arrival: 10:35 AM Departure: 5:00 PM

CCLC-37954

Next Generation Learning Center

325 Old Wrightsboro Rd. Grovetown, GA 30813 Columbia County
(706) 868-9966

Regional Consultant

Jessica Johnson

Phone: (770) 357-5090

Fax:

jessica.johnson@dec.al.ga.gov

Joint with: LaTanya Swift

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.
05/06/2026	Licensing Study	Good Standing	
11/24/2025	Monitoring Visit	Support	
02/19/2025	Licensing Study	Good Standing	
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
Single	A/1L	Infants and One Year Olds	2	8	C	17	C	NA	NA	Feeding,Nap
Single	B/2L	Two Year Olds and Three Year Olds	2	20	C	20	C	NA	NA	Lunch,Outside
Single	C/3L/PreK 1	Four Year Olds	1	13	C	20	C	27	C	Outside
Single	D/1R	One Year Olds	2	8	C	16	C	NA	NA	Nap
Single	E/2R	Three Year Olds	1	12	C	18	C	NA	NA	Outside
Single	F/3R/Pre-K 2	GA PreK	2	17	C	25	C	36	C	Outside

Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 116

Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 134

Total # Children this Date: 78

Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 116

Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 134

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Single	PG/A Left	27	C
Single	PG/B Middle	69	C
Single	PG/C Right	76	C

Enrolled Children						
Under 1 years	1 years	2 years	3 years	4 years	5 years (Prekonly)	5 years and older
9	15	20	15	36	0	31

Comments

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



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

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@decal.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)

Technical Assistance

Comment

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

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.12(2) - Please ensure that toys are secure while on top of the cabinets as they may pose a tipping hazard.

Correction Deadline: 5/6/2026

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

Met

Comment

Center does not provide swimming activities.

Evening Care

591-1-1-.32 Staffing/Supervision(CR)

Met

Comment

Per the Director, no evening care hours provided

Facility

591-1-1-.06 Bathrooms

Met

Comment

Bathrooms observed to be clean and well maintained.

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(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:

C/3L/PreK1

- A vacuum cleaner, gloves, and adult scissors were observed in an unlocked closet accessible to children in care.

D/1R

- Cleaning supplies were stored in an unlocked cabinet under the diapering table accessible to children in care.

E/2R

- Broom, dust pan, and teachers bag were stored in an unlocked closet accessible to children in care.
- A loose radio cord was observed near the back left side of the classroom.

F/3R/Pre-K 2

- The first aid kit backpack was observed hanging under the cubby accessible to children.
- Broom, dust pan, loose cords and teachers bag were stored in an unlocked closet accessible to children in care.

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: 5/6/2026

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.25(8) - Please ensure that protective caps are placed on all unused electrical outlets within children's reach.

Correction Deadline: 5/6/2026

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

591-1-1-.26(4) requires that playgrounds be protected from traffic or other hazards by a (4) four foot high fence or other barrier approved by this Department. Fencing material shall not present a hazard to children and shall be maintained so as to prevent children from leaving the playground area by any means other than through an approved access route. Fence gates shall be kept closed except when persons are entering or exiting the area. It was determined based on observation that there were bolts protruding more than two threads throughout the fence on the Middle Playground and the Right Playground. It was also determined that a four and a half inch gap was observed on the right fence of the front fence near the wooden fence.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will routinely check the fence to determine if it is in good repair and remains at least 4 feet high, and will repair any hazards. The Center will train Staff to identify and report any fence hazards and to keep the fence gates closed when not in use.

Correction Deadline: 5/20/2026

Recited on 5/6/2026

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 all the swing chains and S connectors were rusted on Playground PG/B Middle. It was further determined that the yellow protective swing covers was peeling on Playgrounds PG/B Middle and PG/C Right. It was also determined that the pink and yellow toy connected to the boat structure on Playground PG/A Left was broken.

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: 5/20/2026

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 exposed cement was observed at the bottom of the blue slide on Playground PG/ B Middle.

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: 5/13/2026

Recited on 5/6/2026

Food Service

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

Technical Assistance

Comment

Center menu meets USDA guidelines.

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.15(3) - Please ensure that baby bottles and cups are labeled with the individual child's name. Please ensure that all refrigerators are kept at a temperature of 40 degrees Fahrenheit or less.

Correction Deadline: 5/6/2026

Health and Hygiene

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

Not Met

Finding

591-1-1-.07(5) requires Center Staff to not permit children to wear around their necks or attach to their clothing pacifiers or other hazardous items. It was determined based on observation that a 1-year-old child was observed sleeping in a highchair with a bib around their neck.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will instruct Staff regarding this safety requirement.

Correction Deadline: 5/6/2026

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

Met

Comment

Proper diapering procedures observed.

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

Technical Assistance

Comment

Proper hand washing of children and staff was discussed with the director on this date.

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.17(7) - Please ensure children wash their hands with liquid soap and warm running water upon re-entering the child care area after outside play.

Correction Deadline: 5/6/2026

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

Met

Comment

The Provider currently does not dispense/administer medication.

Policies and Procedures

Finding

591-1-1-.21(1)(p) requires the Center to have a written plan for handling emergencies, including but not limited to severe weather, loss of electrical power or water and death, serious injury or loss of a child, a threatening event, or natural disaster which may occur at the Center; to have in place procedures for evacuation, relocation, shelter-in-place, lock-down, communication and reunification with families, and continuity of operations. The plan must apply to all children in care and include specific accommodations for infants and toddlers, children with disabilities, and children with chronic medical conditions and shall include assurance that no Center Personnel will impede in any way the delivery of emergency care or services to a child by licensed or certified emergency health care professionals. It was determined based on a review of records that the emergency preparedness plan was not on file on this date.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will write or revise an emergency plan that includes all of the required items.

Correction Deadline: 5/11/2026

Comment

Program observed complete emergency drills

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

Complete documentation of transportation observed on this date.

Comment

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

Comment

Three vehicles were observed on-site. Per the Director only two vehicles were in use.

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.36(4)(b) - Discussed removing the umbrella from vehicle tag # CNE8008. Please ensure to remove litter from vehicle tag # CNE8008.

Correction Deadline: 5/7/2026

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 car seat were not observed in the vehicles on this date.

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: 5/7/2026

Sleeping & Resting Equipment

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.

Correction Deadline: 5/6/2026

Corrected on 5/6/2026

.30(1)(a)3 - The previous citation was corrected on this date as the crib sheets were observed tightly fitting.

Finding

591-1-1-.30(2) requires the Center to provide a safe sleep environment in accordance with American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) and American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) recommendations as listed in these rules for all infants. Center Staff shall place an infant to sleep on the infant's back in a crib unless the Center has been provided a physician's written statement authorizing another sleep position for that particular infant that includes how the infant shall be placed to sleep and a time frame that the instructions are to be followed. When an infant can easily turn over from back to front and back again, Staff shall continue to put the infant to sleep initially on the infant's back but allow the infant to roll over into his or her preferred position and not re-position the infant. Sleepers, sleep sacks and wearable blankets that fit according to the commercial manufacturer's guidelines and will not slide up around the infant's face may be used when necessary for the comfort of the sleeping infant. Swaddling shall not be used unless the Center has been provided a physician's written statement authorizing its use for a particular infant that includes instructions and a time frame for swaddling the infant. Center Staff shall not place objects or allow objects to be placed in or on the crib with an infant such as but not limited to toys, pillows, quilts, comforters, bumper pads, sheepskins, stuffed toys, or other soft items and shall not attach objects or allow objects to be attached to a crib with a sleeping infant, such as, but not limited to, crib gyms, toys, mirrors and mobiles. It was determined based on observation that three of 12 infant cribs had a bib attached to the railing. It was further determined that a infant was observed sleeping in the crib with a bib attached to the railing.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will take all steps necessary to provide a safe sleep environment for infants as listed in these rules; will train Staff to follow these rules; and will monitor for compliance.

Correction Deadline: 5/6/2026

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.30(2) - Please ensure that the crib sheets are not too tight to cause the mattress to bow.

Correction Deadline: 5/6/2026

Finding

591-1-1-.30(2)(c) requires that infants shall not sleep in equipment other than safety-approved cribs, such as, but not limited to, a car safety seat, bouncy seat, highchair, or swing. Infants who arrive at the Center asleep or fall asleep in such equipment, on the floor or elsewhere, shall be transferred to a safety-approved crib. It was determined based on observation that a 1-year-old child was observed sleeping in a highchair.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will only place infants in safe cribs to sleep and will transfer them to a safe crib when the infants are asleep in other equipment.

Correction Deadline: 5/6/2026

Staff Records

Records Reviewed: 18

Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 5

Staff # 1

Not Met

Date of Hire: 10/17/2022

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training

Staff # 2

Not Met

Date of Hire: 05/18/2022

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training

Staff # 3

Not Met

Date of Hire: 05/01/2023

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training

Staff # 6

Not Met

Date of Hire: 07/22/2024

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

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

Staff # 7

Not Met

Date of Hire: 09/15/2022

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.31(2)(b)2.-Staff Qualifications-Education Missing,.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training

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

Met

Comment

Criminal record checks were observed to be complete.

Correction Deadline: 11/24/2025

Corrected on 5/6/2026

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

Correction Deadline: 11/24/2025

Corrected on 5/6/2026

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

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

Not Met

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 # 6 was observed in classroom C/3L/PreK 1 without a valid pediatric cardiopulmonary resuscitation and pediatric first aid training.

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: 5/6/2026

591-1-1-.28 Prohibited Substances

Technical Assistance

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.28(2) - Please ensure that Staff are not smoking on the premises of the Center during the hours of operation.

Correction Deadline: 5/6/2026

591-1-1-.33 Staff Training

Not Met

Finding

591-1-1-.33(5)(a) requires that every calendar year after the first year of employment, all supervisory and caregiver Personnel, except independent contractors, Students-in-Training and volunteers, shall attend ten (10) clock hours of diverse training which is offered by an accredited college, university or vocational program or other Department-approved source. It was determined based on a review of records that Staff # 1 hired on October 17, 2022, Staff # 2 hired on May 18, 2022, Staff # 3 hired on May 1, 2023, Staff #7 hired on September 15, 2022, Staff #16 hired on November 11, 2014, did not complete the 10 clock hours of diverse training for the 2025 calendar year.

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: 12/31/2026

591-1-1-.31 Staff(CR)**Not 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.

Finding

591-1-1-.31(2)(b)2. requires teachers and lead caregivers to meet minimum academic requirements and qualifying experience at the time of employment. It was determined based on a review of records that Staff # 7 hired on September 15, 2022, did not have the minimum academic requirements for the lead teacher position on this date.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

A teacher/lead caregiver will be hired that meets the minimum academic requirements and qualifying work experience.

Correction Deadline: 6/5/2026

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, mealtimes, 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 mealtimes 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 Staff in classroom E/2R was not observed seated within an arm's length away from children thirty-six (36) months of age and younger during lunch time.

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: 5/6/2026