



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: 9/25/2025 **VisitType:** Licensing Study

Arrival: 1:15 PM **Departure:** 4:30 PM

CCLC-26100

First Baptist Church Children's Learning Center

311 N. Thornton Ave. Dalton, GA 30720 Whitfield County
(706) 226-3906

Regional Consultant

Francine Arnone

Phone: (770) 357-4919

Fax: (770) 357-4918

francine.arnone@dec.al.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.
09/25/2025	Licensing Study	Good Standing	
12/05/2024	Complaint Closure	Good Standing	
12/05/2024	Complaint Investigation Follow Up	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	101	One Year Olds and Two Year Olds	1	8	C	11	C	NA	NA	Nap
Main	102	One Year Olds	1	5	C	8	C	NA	NA	Nap
Main	103	Two Year Olds and Three Year Olds	1	7	NC	10	C	NA	NA	Free Play
Main	104	One Year Olds	1	4	C	8	C	NA	NA	Nap
Main	107	Two Year Olds and Three Year Olds	1	9	C	11	C	NA	NA	Nap
Main	110	Two Year Olds	2	10	C	14	C	NA	NA	Nap
Main	113	Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds	2	10	C	13	C	NA	NA	Free Play
Main	114	Infants	2	8	C	14	C	NA	NA	Floor Play
Main	115	Four Year Olds and Five Year Olds	2	7	C	17	C	NA	NA	Nap
Main	116	Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds	1	8	C	18	C	NA	NA	Nap
Main	117	Infants	3	9	C	18	C	NA	NA	Floor Play, Feeding
Main	118	Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds	2	8	C	16	C	NA	NA	Transitioning, Nap
Main	Upstairs-211		0	0	C	14	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
Main	Upstairs-212		0	0	C	15	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
Main	Upstairs-213		0	0	C	15	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
Main	Upstairs-214		0	0	C	12	C	NA	NA	Not In Use

	Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 214	Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0
Total # Children this Date: 93	Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 214	Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	Playground	88	C
Main	Toddler Playground	15	C

Enrolled Children						
Under 1 years	1 years	2 years	3 years	4 years	5 years (Prekonly)	5 years and older
10	32	30	30	11	5	0

Comments

A copy of this report was provided on this date.

The Consultant discussed the following:

-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.

-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.

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

-All Employees, including volunteers, independent contractors, students-in-training, etc. should have a completed initial program orientation form on file.

-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.

- A new Child Care Weather Watch Chart is available on the KOALA website. Weather does not permit outdoor play when there is active precipitation or when weather advisories are in effect. Consult the Child Care Weather Watch Chart resource for further guidance, considering specific weather conditions.

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!



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

Summary Report

Date: 9/25/2025 **VisitType:** Licensing Study

Arrival: 1:15 PM **Departure:** 4:30 PM

CCLC-26100

First Baptist Church Children's Learning Center

311 N. Thornton Ave. Dalton, GA 30720 Whitfield County

(706) 226-3906

Regional Consultant

Francine Arnone

Phone: (770) 357-4919

Fax: (770) 357-4918

francine.arnone@dec.al.ga.gov

Mailing Address
Same

The following information is associated with a Licensing Study:

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)

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 to be accessible to children on this date:

-Main 104 - A cabinet below the sink was unlocked and contained Lysol cleanser.

-Main 110 - A cabinet was unlocked and contained Dawn Dish Detergent and the bathroom door was unlocked and contained a broom and two mops.

-Main 115 - A toilet brush was in the child's bathroom.

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: 9/25/2025

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

Met

Comment

Playground observed to be clean and in good repair on this date.

Health and Hygiene

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

Met

Comment

Proper diapering procedures observed.

Correction Deadline: 12/5/2024

Corrected on 9/25/2025

.17(2) - This citation was corrected. The Center is changing all children to remain clean, dry and comfortable at all times as per Director. The Consultant observed all children to be clean, dry and comfortable on this date.

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

N/A

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 - 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.

Correction Deadline: 9/30/2025

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

Met

Comment

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

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

N/A

Comment

Center does not provide routine transportation.

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

Met

Comment

Pleasant naptime environment observed.

Staff Records

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

Met

Correction Deadline: 12/5/2024

Corrected on 9/25/2025

.09(1)(a) - The previous citation has been corrected. The Consultant observed that all staff have evidence of a Satisfactory Comprehensive Background Check Determination along with application for authorized fingerprinting site.

Correction Deadline: 12/5/2024

Corrected on 9/25/2025

.09(1)(c) - The previous citation has been corrected. The Consultant observed that all staff have evidence of a Satisfactory Comprehensive Background Check Determination on file as required.

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

Met

Comment

Evidence observed of 100% of center Staff certified in First Aid and CPR containing emergency care for infants and children on this date.

Comment

Staff observed to be compliant with applicable laws and regulations.

Staffing and Supervision

Comment

Center observed to maintain appropriate staff:child ratios.

Comment

Staff observed to provide direct supervision and be attentive to children's needs.