



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: 10:40 AM **Departure:** 3:00 PM

CCLC-48205

The Growing Patch

3224 Drawdy Street Patterson, GA 31557 Pierce County
(912) 647-5900

Regional Consultant

Rebecca Owsley

Phone: (229) 238-2130

Fax:

rebecca.owsley@decal.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	
11/06/2025	Licensing Study	Good Standing	
11/06/2024	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	A (left)	One Year Olds and Two Year Olds	2	10	C	19	C	NA	NA	Circle Time, Transitioning
Main	A (right)	Infants	1	4	C	5	C	NA	NA	Feeding, Floor Play, Diapering
Main	B	Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds	1	7	C	14	C	20	C	Transitioning
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 38			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 44							
Total # Children this Date: 21			Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 38							
			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 44							

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	A	37	C
Main	B	17	C

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

Comments

The Consultant conducted the exit conference with Director on this date,

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.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 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)

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:

in A(left):

---A container of plastic grocery bags was on a shelf of the diaper changing table accessible to the 1 and 2-year-old children.

---Plastic packaging around diapers was in an unlocked cabinet under the diaper changing table and in 2 children's cubbies accessible to the 1 and 2-year-old children.

---Five little cubbies on the crafts shelf were full of wipes that say "Keep out of reach of children" on them and accessible to the 1 and 2-year-old children.

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: 6/17/2026

Recited on 6/16/2026

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 the brown floor guard separating the upper and lower floors in the Main B classroom had exposed foam.

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: 6/23/2026

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

Correction Deadline: 11/16/2025

Corrected on 6/16/2026

.26(3) - The previous citation was observed corrected on this date. There was not a shovel stored on the route to the playground.

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 the playground on the right side of the building had 12 bolts that were protruding inward and more than two threads in length. Additionally, there was a gap that measured 5 inches tall by 21 inches wide on bottom of the right long fence on the Main B Playground and a gap that measured 9 inches tall by 10 inches wide on the fence around the air conditioning unit on the Main A Playground.

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: 6/23/2026

Recited on 6/16/2026

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 the following hazards were accessible to the children.

Playground A (1 and 2-year-old playground):

---One pink Little Tikes coupe car had a missing gas cap leaving a hole the size of a quarter posing as an entrapment, pinching, or cutting hazard and accessible to the children. Additionally, a second pink Little Tikes coupe car had a missing gas cap leaving a hole the size of a quarter and a missing door leaving 2 holes the size of a nickel posing as an entrapment, pinching, or cutting hazard and accessible to the children.

---One red Little Tikes coupe car had a missing gas cap leaving a hole the size of a quarter and a missing door leaving two holes the size of a nickel, posing as an entrapment, pinching, or cutting hazard and accessible to the children.

---One brown rocky horse was missing the handle bar, leaving 2 holes the size of a quarter posing as an entrapment, pinching, or cutting hazard and accessible to the children.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

Staff will check the equipment daily to ensure that the equipment is free of hazards, rust and splinters and remove or repair equipment that presents a hazard.

Correction Deadline: 6/23/2026

Recited on 6/16/2026

Food Service

Finding

591-1-1-.15(2)(a) requires Center Personnel to hold and feed infants less than six months of age and older children who cannot hold their own bottles or sit alone. Baby bottles shall never be propped; the infant's head shall be elevated while feeding. It was determined based on observation in the Main A (right) classroom that one infant drank a bottle while laying? in their crib with their head not elevated.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will train Staff to hold infants less than six months old or who can not hold their own bottle, to never prop bottles and to elevate infant's heads during feeding. The director will monitor Staff to ensure appropriate feeding procedures are followed.

Correction Deadline: 6/16/2026

Correction Deadline: 11/6/2025

Corrected on 6/16/2026

.15(2)(f) - The previous citation was observed corrected on this date. The Consultant observed all food served to 1-year-old children was cut into pieces one-half inch or smaller to prevent choking.

Correction Deadline: 11/6/2025

Corrected on 6/16/2026

.15(7) - The previous citation was observed corrected on this date. The Consultant observed cheese slices were served instead of cheese cubes.

Health and Hygiene

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

Met

Comment

Proper diapering procedures observed.

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

Met

Comment

Proper hand washing observed throughout the center on this date.

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

Met

Comment

The Provider currently does not dispense/administer medication.

Safety

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

Met

Comment

Age-appropriate discussion and/or redirection observed.

Comment

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

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

Met

Comment

Center does not provide routine transportation.

Sleeping & Resting Equipment

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

Technical Assistance

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.

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.30(2) - Please ensure in the Main A (right) classroom, baby toys placed in the crib with an infant are removed if the infant falls asleep.

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: 12/6/2025

Corrected on 6/16/2026

.14(1)(a) - The previous citation was observed corrected on this date. Evidence observed of 100% of center Staff certified in First Aid and CPR containing emergency care for infants and children on this date.

Correction Deadline: 12/6/2025

Corrected on 6/16/2026

.14(2)(a) - The previous citation was observed corrected on this date. Evidence observed of 100% of center Staff certified in First Aid and CPR containing emergency care for infants and children on this date.

Correction Deadline: 1/1/0001

Corrected on 6/16/2026

.14(2)(d) - The previous citation was observed corrected on this date. Evidence observed that the Director was certified in First Aid and CPR containing emergency care for infants and children on this date.

591-1-1-.33 Staff Training	Met
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Correction Deadline: 11/16/2025

Corrected on 6/16/2026

.33(3)(a)-(k) - The previous citation was observed corrected on this date. Staff # 6 had completed health and safety orientation as required.

591-1-1-.31 Staff(CR)	Not Met
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Finding

591-1-1-.31(1)(b)2 requires the Director to possess at least one of the sets of minimum academic requirements and qualifying child care experience listed in Rule 591-1-1-.31(1)(b)2.(i-xiii). It was determined based on review of records that the Center Director did not complete required credentials for being a Director.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will ensure that the Director meets the minimum education and work requirements and secure the necessary documentation.

Correction Deadline: 6/23/2026

Recited on 6/16/2026

Correction Deadline: 11/6/2025

Corrected on 6/16/2026

.31(2)(b)3.(i) - The previous citation was observed corrected on this date. Staff # 6, the lead teacher in the 1 and 2-year-old classroom A(left), had completed the required educational credentials.

Correction Deadline: 11/16/2025

Corrected on 6/16/2026

.31(2)(b)3.(ii)(I) - (VIII) - The previous citation was observed corrected on this date. Staff #6 now possessed the educational credential required and did not need a written plan on file.

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.

Comment

Adequate supervision observed on this date.