



**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:** 11/1/2024 **VisitType:** Complaint Investigation Follow Up **Arrival:** 10:05 AM **Departure:** 1:30 PM

**CCLC-48940**

**A Plus Early Learning Academy**

1405 Franklin Gateway, L-2 Marietta, GA 30067 Cobb County  
(404) 933-9672 aplusearlylearningacademy@gmail.com

Special Investigations Unit Specialist

Stephanie Ellis

Phone: (470) 442-4722

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stephanie.ellis@decal.ga.gov

Joint with: April Rogers

**Mailing Address**

Same

**Quality Rated:** ★

| <u>Compliance Zone Designation</u> |                                   |               | <b>Compliance Zone Designation</b> - 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.<br><br><b>Good Standing</b> - Program is demonstrating an acceptable level of performance in meeting the rules.<br><b>Support</b> - Program performance is demonstrating a need for improvement in meeting rules.<br><b>Deficient</b> - Program is not demonstrating an acceptable level of performance in meeting the rules. |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 11/01/2024                         | Complaint Investigation Follow Up | Good Standing |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| 11/03/2023                         | Licensing Study                   | Good Standing |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| 05/17/2023                         | Monitoring Visit                  | 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                           | 1L   | Two Year Olds                                         | 1                              | 4        | C    | 7                             | C            | NA         | NA           | Free Play           |
| Main                           | 1R   | One Year Olds and Two Year Olds                       | 1                              | 8        | C    | 12                            | C            | NA         | NA           | Free Play           |
| Main                           | 2L   |                                                       | 0                              | 0        | C    | 7                             | C            | NA         | NA           | Not In Use          |
| Main                           | 2R   | Infants                                               | 1                              | 6        | C    | 15                            | C            | NA         | NA           | Floor Play, Feeding |
| Main                           | PreK | Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds and Five Year Olds | 1                              | 9        | C    | 22                            | C            | NA         | NA           | Art                 |
|                                |      |                                                       | Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 63 |          |      | Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0 |              |            |              |                     |
| Total # Children this Date: 27 |      |                                                       | Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 63 |          |      | Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0 |              |            |              |                     |

| Building | Playground | Playground Occupancy | Playground Compliance |
|----------|------------|----------------------|-----------------------|
| Main     | A          | 21                   | C                     |

**Comments**

The purpose of this visit was to conduct a complaint investigation and follow up.

Consultant discussed cribs rails, outlet covers, chipped paint and dirty carpets. The visit report was left at the center.

Plan of Improvement: Developed This Date 11/01/2024

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.

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#### 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](http://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.

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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](mailto:qualityrated@decgal.ga.gov) for more information. Free technical assistance is available!**



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**(Findings Report)**

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The following information is associated with a Complaint Investigation Follow Up:

**Staff Records**

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

**Not Met**

**Finding**

591-1-1-.09(1.) (b) requires the Center to ensure that every Director has a valid and current satisfactory Comprehensive Records Check Determination on file prior to being present at the Center while any child is present for care or before an individual age 17 or older resides in the Center. The Comprehensive Records Check Determination must have a Records Check Clearance Date that is no older than the preceding 12 months of the hire date; provided, however, if the Director has had a lapse of employment from the child care industry that lasted for 180 days (6 months) or longer, a new satisfactory Comprehensive Records Check Determination is required. It was determined based on review of records that staff #1 did not have a valid and current satisfactory Comprehensive Records Check Determination on file prior to being present at the Center while children were present for care.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

IMMEDIATE CORRECTION - The Center will ensure that the Director has a valid and current satisfactory Comprehensive Records Check Determination on file prior to being present at the Center while any child is present for care or before an individual age 17 or older resides in the Center. The Comprehensive Records Check Determination must have a Records Check Clearance Date that is no older than the preceding 12 months of the hire date; provided, however, if the Director has had a lapse of employment from the child care industry that lasted for 180 days (6 months) or longer, a new satisfactory Comprehensive Records Check Determination is required. The program's owner or an officer/member of the corporation must view the A to Z Background Check video units pertaining to this records check rule and return the signed affidavit within one week from this visit date. The center will ensure the CRC rules are maintained.

**Correction Deadline: 11/1/2024**

**Finding**

591-1-1-.09(1)(l)3. requires the Center to immediately require a new Comprehensive Records Check Determination for a Director, Employee or Provisional Employee at least once every five years. It was determined based on review of records that the center failed to ensure that staff #1 had a new Comprehensive Records Check Determination on file as required.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

IMMEDIATE CORRECTION - The Center will ensure that each Director, Employee and Provisional Employee has a Comprehensive Records Check Determination on file that has been issued within the past five years. The program's owner or an officer/member of the corporation must view the A to Z Background Check video units pertaining to this records check rule and return the signed affidavit within one week from this visit date. The Center will ensure CRC rules are maintained.

**Correction Deadline: 11/1/2024**

**Comment**

Director provided five file(s) for employees hired since last visit on November 3, 2023.

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**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 staff #2, #3, #4, #5 and #6 did not have evidence on file that they had participated in initial center orientation prior to being assigned to children or tasks as required.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

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

**Correction Deadline: 11/1/2024**