



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: 7/29/2026 VisitType: Licensing Study

Arrival: 9:25 AM Departure: 2:30 PM

CCLC-1369

Candy Cane City Nursery School

2249 Columbia Dr. Decatur, GA 30032 DeKalb County
(404) 289-8455

Regional Consultant

Cassandra Jakes-Beasley

Phone: (470) 368-6652

Fax:

cassandra.jakes-beasley@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.
07/29/2026	Licensing Study	Good Standing	
02/17/2026	Monitoring Visit	Good Standing	
09/10/2025	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
Bld II	G-1st upper rt	Four Year Olds and Five Year Olds	3	20	C	23	C	NA	NA	Free Play,Outside
Bld II	I-Bottom Right		0	0	C	0	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
Bld II	Pre-K Lower(H-I)	Six Year Olds and Over	1	15	C	53	C	NA	NA	Free Play
Bld II	Room F-lower right	Three Year Olds	1	9	C	14	C	NA	NA	Free Play,Transitioning
			Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 90		Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0					
Green Bld	D		0	0	C	16	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
			Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 16		Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0					
Main	1st right	Two Year Olds	1	8	C	18	C	NA	NA	Floor Play
Main	B 1st left	One Year Olds	2	3	C	7	C	NA	NA	Nap,Free Play
Main	C-2nd left		0	0	C	6	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
Main	Cafeteria- 3rd left		0	0	C	17	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
			Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 48		Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0					
Total # Children this Date: 55			Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 154		Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0					

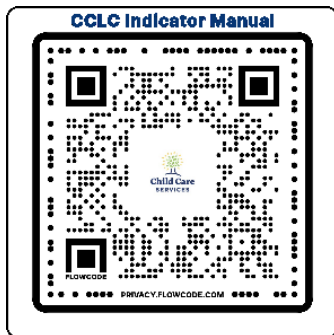
Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	Black Top Playground	30	C
Main	Infant Playground	4	C
Main	Large/Back Playground	93	C

Enrolled Children						
Under 1 years	1 years	2 years	3 years	4 years	5 years (Prekonly)	5 years and older
0	4	9	12	24	0	18

Comments

The consultant reviewed the visit with the Director and emailed the report.

Plan of Improvement: Developed This Date



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 Licensing Study:

Activities and Equipment

591-1-1-.03 Activities

Met

Comment

Age-appropriate activities observed throughout the center.

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

Met

Correction Deadline: 2/20/2026

Corrected on 7/29/2026

.12(2) - Previous citation was observed to be corrected during this visit, in that based on observation the blue furniture was removed from Bld II I-Bottom Right Classroom.

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

Met

Comment

Center does not provide swimming activities.

Children's Records

591-1-1-.08 Children's Records

Met

Comment

Records were observed to be complete and well organized.

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)

Met

Correction Deadline: 2/17/2026

Corrected on 7/29/2026

.25(13) - Previous citation was observed to be corrected during this visit, in that based on observation there were no hazardous equipment, material or supplies accessible to children.

Correction Deadline: 2/17/2026

Corrected on 7/29/2026

.25(8) - Previous citation was observed to be corrected during this visit, in that based on observation all electrical outlets were covered, there were no hanging cords accessible to children and all closets were locked.

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

Not Met

Comment

The Consultant discussed with the Director the maintenance of resilient surface after inclement weather. Please fluff and redistribute wood chips in the fall zones of climbing. In addition, please remove any broken tree branches from the Green Building playground and monitor equipment for flaking and chipping paint.

Finding

591-1-1-.26(8) requires climbing and swinging equipment to have a resilient surface beneath the equipment and the fall zone from such equipment must be adequately maintained by the Center to assure continuing resiliency. It was determined based on observation there was zero to one inch of measurable wood chips on the back left side of the large climbing structure located on the Large back playground and underneath two swings.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will add additional resilient surfacing to the fall zones where needed and check daily, adding resilient surfacing as needed to maintain adequate resiliency.

Correction Deadline: 7/29/2026

Correction Deadline: 2/24/2026

Corrected on 7/29/2026

.26(9) -Previous citation was observed to be corrected during this visit, in that based on observation the two mops and bucket were removed from front right of the playground and the mats were flushed with resilient surface at the base of the two yellow slides.

Food Service

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

Met

Comment

Center menu meets USDA guidelines.

591-1-1-.18 Kitchen Operations

Met

Comment

Kitchen appears clean and well organized on this date.

Comment

Please ensure that all food items are stored in airtight containers.

Health and Hygiene

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

Met

Comment

Staff stated proper knowledge of diapering procedures.

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

Met

Comment

Staff were observed to remind children to wash hands on this date.

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

Met

Comment

Discussed proper medication documentation and procedures.

Organization

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.16(f) - The Consultant discussed with the Director that the Center submit an application for an amended License at least 30 days prior to a change if there is a change in the name of the program or Center, changes in the ages of the children to be served, an increase in the regular hours of operation such that the Center would be providing evening or night-time care in addition to day-time care, changes in the services provided, or additions to or changes in the use of the building by the licensed Center. If an emergency situation arises which makes it impossible to give thirty (30) days' notice, the management of the Center shall notify the Department by telephone and shall submit an application for an amended License as soon as management becomes aware of the change that will be necessitated by the emergency situation. In no case, however, shall a new owner operate the Center without first securing a new License or Permit from the Department. The Director will submit an amendment to add new playground space.

Correction Deadline: 7/29/2026

Policies and Procedures
591-1-1-.21 Operational Policies & Procedures
Not Met
Finding

591-1-1-.21(1)(a-o) requires the Center to establish and implement written policies and procedures that describe the Center's operations as follows: a) services to be provided, ages of children served, days and times of operations and days and times closed; b) enrollment and admission requirements specifying Parents' responsibilities for supplying needed information and escorting the child to and from the Center; c) a fee and payment schedule with standard fees, fees related to absences and vacations and other fees such as for transportation and late fees; d) Center's transportation and field trip services; e) administration of medication and Parent notification of adverse reactions to prescribed medication; f) Parental notification in cases of illness/injury and exclusion of sick children; g) Parental notification when a notifiable communicable disease is present; h) handling of medical emergencies; i) meals and snacks served, including guidelines for food brought from child's home; j) access by the Parents to all Center areas used by the child; k) child abuse reporting law requirements; l) behavior management and discipline actions used to include expulsion and suspension of enrolled children; m) nondiscrimination statement; n) Center sponsored religious and cultural activities; and o) diapering, toilet training and feeding procedures for infants and toddlers. It was determined based on review the written policies and procedures did not include the behavior management and discipline actions used to include expulsion and suspension of enrolled children.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will revise their policies and procedures to include all required information and update as needed.

Correction Deadline: 8/3/2026

Finding

591-1-1-.21(1)(r) requires Center policies and procedures include 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. It was determined based on review the policies and procedures did not include 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 and all information as required.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will write or revise policies and procedures to include the required description of the Center's practices used to prevent shaken baby syndrome and abusive head trauma in children up to five years or age.

Correction Deadline: 8/3/2026

591-1-1-.27 Posted Notices
Met
Comment

Please make sure that all required signs are posted and up to date.

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-.13 Field Trips(CR)	Met
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Comment

Proper field trip documentation and regulations regarding checklists, name tags and permission forms was discussed on this date.

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

Paperwork, checklist, permission forms, annual inspection form and proper check of the vehicle after transportation were discussed with the director.

Comment

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

Sleeping & Resting Equipment

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

Pleasant naptime environment observed.

Staff Records

Records Reviewed: 16

Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 2
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Staff # 6

Not Met

Date of Hire: 01/17/1986

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training

Staff # 14

Not Met

Date of Hire: 08/22/2024

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training

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.

Comment

Director provided [1] file(s) for employees hired since last visit.

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

Complete first aid kits observed in center and on vehicles on this date.

Comment

Evidence observed of 50% of center Staff certified in First Aid and CPR.

591-1-1-.33 Staff Training	Not Met
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Correction Deadline: 10/10/2025

Corrected on 7/29/2026

.33(5)(a) - Previous citation was observed corrected on the February 17, 2026 visit.

Finding

591-1-1-.33(5)(b)1. requires the annual ten (10) clock hours of training shall include at least two (2) hours in evidence based, developmentally appropriate language and literacy practices. It was determined based on review staff #5 and staff #13 did not have at least two (2) hours in evidence based, developmentally appropriate language and literacy practices for the 2025 calendar year.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will plan and schedule the required 10 hours of annual training each year to include a least two (2) hours in evidence based, developmentally appropriate language and literacy practices and follow up to ensure the training is completed.

Correction Deadline: 8/28/2026

591-1-1-.31 Staff(CR)**Technical Assistance****Comment**

Discussed that all lead staff must enroll in an approved education program within 6 months of hire and complete degree within 18 months.

Comment

Staff observed to be compliant with applicable laws and regulations.

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.31(2)(b)3.(ii)(I) - (VIII) - The Consultant discussed with the Director that the Center develop a written plan for newly hired teacher's who do not possess the educational credential or degree listed in 591-1-1-.31(2)(b)2.(i) through (xii).

Correction Deadline: 7/29/2026

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)**Met**

Correction Deadline: 2/17/2026

Corrected on 7/29/2026

.32(7) - Previous citation was observed to be corrected during this visit, in that children were supervised at all times.