



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: 2/19/2026 VisitType: Licensing Study

Arrival: 10:40 AM Departure: 1:20 PM

CCLC-26288

A Brighter Beginning Childcare Center

3423-C Deans Bridge Road Augusta, GA 30906 Richmond County
(706) 793-9776

Regional Consultant

April Christian

Phone: ()

Fax:

april.christian@decal.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.
02/19/2026	Licensing Study	Good Standing	
08/19/2025	Monitoring Visit	Good Standing	
05/14/2025	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
Building 1	Building 1	Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds	2	16	C	18	C	NA	NA	Outside
			Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 18		Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 93					
Building 2	Building 2		0	0	C	19	C	26	C	Not In Use
			Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 19		Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 93					
Building 3	Building 3	Two Year Olds and Three Year Olds	2	14	C	18	C	25	C	Outside
			Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 18		Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 93					
Main	Front	One Year Olds	1	8	C	13	C	NA	NA	Free Play
Main	Left	Infants	1	5	C	6	C	NA	NA	Nap,Feeding
Main	Middle	Infants	1	2	C	5	C	NA	NA	Floor Play
			Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 24		Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 93					
Total # Children this Date: 45			Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 79		Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 93					

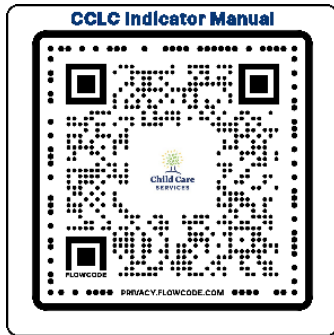
Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	Large Rear-Play	87	C
Main	Left-Play	16	C

Enrolled Children						
Under 1 years	1 years	2 years	3 years	4 years	5 years (Prekonly)	5 years and older
6	13	16	15	0	0	24

Comments

The findings on this report were reviewed with the 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

You have received permission to operate and the form received with this report is intended to serve as a temporary license which is **valid for thirty(30) days**. Your actual license/ will be emailed to you upon receipt of the licensing fee. You may pay the licensing fee either online at <http://www.decal.ga.gov/> or by certified check or money order mailed to: Bright from the Start, 2 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive SE, Suite 670 East Tower, Atlanta, GA 30334

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!



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: 2/19/2026 **VisitType:** Licensing Study

Arrival: 10:40 AM **Departure:** 1:20 PM

CCLC-26288

A Brighter Beginning Childcare Center

3423-C Deans Bridge Road Augusta, GA 30906 Richmond County
(706) 793-9776

Regional Consultant

April Christian

Phone: ()

Fax:

april.christian@decal.ga.gov

Mailing Address

Same

The following information is associated with a Licensing Study:

Activities and Equipment

591-1-1-.03 Activities

Met

Comment

Please ensure lesson plans are current and posted weekly.

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

Met

Comment

The Consultant and the Director discussed adding equipment and toys to enhance variety in Building 3 Twos and Three Year old classroom.

Comment

591-1-1-.12(2) - Please ensure the blue sofa cushion in Building 3 is repaired or replaced to prevent exposed cushion material.

Correction Deadline: 2/19/2026

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

N/A

Comment

Center does not provide swimming activities.

Evening Care

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

N/A

Comment

No evening care hours provided

Facility

591-1-1-.06 Bathrooms

Met

Correction Deadline: 9/19/2025

Corrected on 2/19/2026

.06(4) - The previous citation was observed corrected on this date. The exhaust fans in the children's bathroom in Building 1 and Building 3 were clean and free of dust.

591-1-1-.19 License Capacity(CR)

Met

Comment

Licensed capacity observed to be routinely met by center on this date.

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 the following potential hazards were accessible to children on this date:

Main Front (One year old)

- A pack of Parents Choice baby wipes on the changing table.
- A container of vaseline on the changing table.

Building 3

- A pack of Parent Choice baby wipes on the changing table.
- A staff bag on the left of the changing table.
- A tube of AD diaper cream in a clear container inside the first right cubby.
- A plastic bag in the clear container on the left side of the middle cubby.

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: 2/19/2026

Correction Deadline: 9/19/2025

Corrected on 2/19/2026

.25(3) - The previous citation was observed corrected on this date. The bottom of the closet door was repaired and painted in the Left classroom in Building 3.

Comment

591-1-1-.25(8) - Please ensure that all the electrical outlets throughout the programs are covered with protective caps and inaccessible to children.

Correction Deadline: 2/19/2026

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

Technical Assistance

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.26(4) - Please ensure that the chain link fence on the left playground is attached to the fence pole to prevent the fence from leaning forward.

Correction Deadline: 2/19/2026

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

Met

Comment

Please ensure that bottles are covered and fully labeled with child's full name.

591-1-1-.18 Kitchen Operations

Met

Comment

Kitchen appears clean and well organized on this date.

Health and Hygiene**591-1-1-.10 Diapering Areas & Practices(CR)**

Technical Assistance

Comment

Staff stated proper knowledge of diapering procedures.

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.10(4) - Please ensure the changing pad in Main Left infant classroom is smooth and non-porous to prevent cross contamination.

Correction Deadline: 2/19/2026

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)	N/A
------------------------------------	------------

Comment

The Provider currently does not dispense/administer medication.

	Safety
--	---------------

591-1-1-.05 Animals	N/A
----------------------------	------------

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)	N/A
------------------------------------	------------

Comment

Center does not participate in field trips at this time.

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

Comment

Complete documentation of transportation observed on this date.

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
---	------------

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.

	Staff Records
--	----------------------

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

Comment

Consultant requested to view all Criminal Record checks for employees hired after last visit. Director stated that there have been no new hires since last visit

591-1-1-.09 Criminal Records Check(CR)	Met
---	------------

Comment

Criminal records checks were observed to be complete.

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.

591-1-1-.33 Staff Training	Met
-----------------------------------	------------

Comment

Discussed: Health and Safety Training is required for each staff member with direct care responsibilities within 90 calendar days of their hire date.

591-1-1-.31 Staff(CR)	Met
------------------------------	------------

Comment

Staff observed to be compliant with applicable laws and regulations.

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

Comment

Adequate supervision observed on this date.