



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: 5/7/2026

VisitType: Licensing Study

Arrival: 9:55 AM

Departure: 1:30 PM

CCLC-39137

Pitter Patter Group Day Care

400 Blue Gill Road Ellabell, GA 31308 Bryan County
(912) 667-3739

CCS Coordinator

Rebekah Mullinax

Phone: (770) 357-7056

Fax: (770) 357-7055

rebekah.mullinax@decal.ga.gov

Joint with: Emily Patterson

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.
05/07/2026	Licensing Study	Good Standing	
12/16/2025	Monitoring Visit	Good Standing	
11/13/2024	Licensing Study	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	Main	One Year Olds and Two Year Olds and Three Year Olds	2	6	C	14	C	NA	NA	Free Play
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 14			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0							
Total # Children this Date: 6			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0							

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	Playground	24	C

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

Comments

The visit report was reviewed with the Director.

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.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 Licensing Study:

Activities and Equipment

591-1-1-.03 Activities

Technical Assistance

Technical Assistance

Please ensure current lesson plans on site reflect appropriate instruction practices and activities to support children's development as required.

Correction Deadline: 5/7/2026

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

Not Met

Finding

591-1-1-.12(3) requires that equipment and furniture be placed so as to permit the children's freedom of movement and to minimize danger of accident and collision. It was determined based on observation that there were two baskets filled with toys on top of the play kitchen set which posed a potential tipping hazard.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

Center staff will re-position the identified equipment and/or furniture and the director will view each classroom to verify appropriate make changes, as needed, and have a system to monitor these items.

Correction Deadline: 5/7/2026

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

N/A

Comment

Pool not in use at this time, gates observed locked.

Children's Records

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

Technical Assistance

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.08(1) - Please ensure that all children's records are filled out in their entirety as required.

Correction Deadline: 5/7/2026

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)**Technical Assistance****Technical Assistance**

Please ensure protective caps on all unused electrical outlets within children's reach.

Correction Deadline: 5/7/2026

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

591-1-1-.26(3) requires that the playground be adjacent to the Center or in an area which can be reached by a safe route or method approved by the Department. Except in School-age Centers, the playground shall have shaded areas. It was determined based on observation that on the route to the Playground there was a bottle of Earth's Ally Herbicide and several broken toys that were accessible to children,

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will identify a safe route or method to reach any non-adjacent playground and submit it for approval. The Center will install structures to provide shade if there is not sufficient natural shade on the playground.

Correction Deadline: 5/14/2026

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 following fencing hazards were observed on the playground:

- Two bolts located on the left back chain link fence measured more than two threads
- One rusted nail located on the left side wooden fence
- Two rusted nails located on the front middle wooden fence
- Entrance gate had a 10 inch gap which posed an escape hazard

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: 6/8/2026

Finding

591-1-1-.26(9) requires the playground to be kept clean, free from litter and free of hazards, such as but not limited to rocks, exposed tree roots and exposed sharp edges of concrete. It was determined based on observation that the following hazards were accessible to children on the playground

- A grey tarp was on the ground on the front right side
- A bag of potting mix and mulch on the front ride side
- A broken lattice boarder with exposed nails on the back right side corner
- An exposed irrigation hose on the front left corner

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will remove any litter and fix or remove hazards from the playground and will routinely monitor the playground and remove litter and hazards.

Correction Deadline: 5/28/2026

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.

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

Proper hand washing of children and staff was discussed with the director 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

Not Met

Finding

591-1-1-.21(3) requires that the Center conduct drills for fire, tornado and other emergency situations. The fire drills will be conducted monthly and tornado and other emergency situation drills will be conducted every six months. The Center shall maintain documentation of the dates and times of these drills for two years. It was determined based on a review of records there was no evidence of any drills conducted for the months of January, February, March and April of 2026.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will hold the drills as required and keep the documentation of the drills on file for two years.

Correction Deadline: 5/29/2026

591-1-1-.29 Required Reporting

Met

Comment

Discussed reporting requirements.

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-.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

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

Comment

Criminal record 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-.24 Personnel Records**Technical Assistance****Technical Assistance**

591-1-1-.24(1) - Please ensure that the Center maintain a personnel file on site on all Staff members as required.

Correction Deadline: 5/12/2026

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

Documentation observed of required staff training.

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)**Not Met****Finding**

591-1-1-.32(7) requires that children be supervised at all times appropriate to the individual age, needs and capabilities of each child. Such supervision must include, but not be limited to, indoor and outdoor activities, mealtimes, naptime, transportation, field trips, and transitions between activities. "Supervision" means that the appropriate number of Staff members are physically present in the area where children are being cared for and are providing watchful oversight to the children, volunteers and Students-in-Training. The persons supervising in the child care area must be alert, positioned to maximize their ability to hear and see the children at all times, and able to respond promptly to the needs and actions of the children being supervised, as well as the actions of the volunteers and Students-in-Training, and provide timely attention to the children's actions and needs. Staff shall be attentive and participating with all children during mealtimes and shall be seated within an arm's length away from children thirty-six (36) months of age and younger. It was determined based on observation that Staff were not seated within an arm's length away during mealtime as required.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will train Staff and monitor to ensure they are providing supervision and watchful oversight to the children at all times.

Correction Deadline: 5/7/2026