



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: 1/6/2025

VisitType: Complaint Investigation Closure from CI/LS on 01/06/2025

CCLC-56596

A Step Above Preparatory South

4195 Welcome All Rd SW Atlanta, GA 30349 Fulton County
(260) 760-4679 astepaboveprepsouth@gmail.com

Regional Consultant

Shameka Dozier

Phone: (770) 857-7010

Fax: (770) 357-7009

shameka.dozier@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. 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.
01/06/2025	Complaint Investigation & Licensing Study	Support	
01/06/2025	Complaint Closure	Support	
10/01/2024	Incident Investigation by Phone	Good Standing	

Comments

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

Advisement of Potential for Repeated Rule Violations during Pending Investigations

This report shall serve as official notice of potential rule violations. These potential rule violations have been detailed in this report and discussed with you by the consultant. The department shall conduct a thorough investigation to determine if in fact the alleged rule violation(s) should or should not be substantiated. Please be aware that the investigation may take some time to be finalized to ensure fairness and accuracy. During this investigation period, any violations of an identical rule or rules will require the department to treat any and all substantiated rule violations identified in the investigation as repeated rule violation(s).

Further, from time to time the department discovers additional rule violations during the course of an investigation. If there are new rule violation(s), your consultant shall inform you of the violation(s) as soon as possible. However, as stated above, any violations of identical rule(s) will require the department to treat any and all additional rule violations identified in the investigation as repeated rule violations.

All rule violations found in relation to a complaint or incident investigation will be associated with the date the investigation was closed.



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)

I have read and understand the Rules and Regulations for Child Care Learning Centers, 591-1-1. I acknowledge that the items noted in this report have been discussed with me and I have agreed to a Plan of Improvement (POI) as indicated in this report. I understand that correction of these deficiencies, while required, will not necessarily prevent DECAL from taking adverse action against this facility. I understand that if I disagree with any of the deficiencies cited, I have the right to refute them on this report or any other form that I choose to send to Child Care Services.



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Summary Report

Date: 1/6/2025 **VisitType:** Complaint Investigation Closure **Arrival:** 10:45 AM **Departure:** 6:00 PM
from CI/LS on 01/06/2025

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The following information is associated with a Complaint Closure:

Activities and Equipment

591-1-1-.03 Activities

Not Met

Finding Associated with Investigation

591-1-1-.03(1) requires the Center to provide a daily planned program of varied and developmentally appropriate activities to promote social, emotional, physical, cognitive, language and literacy growth. Center Staff shall use a variety of teaching methods to accommodate the needs of the children's different learning styles. It was determined based on review of video footage that on December 13, 2024, a daily planned program of varied and developmentally appropriate activities was not provided as the children were observed climbing and standing on shelves as well as running around the classroom.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will plan a program that includes a variety of developmentally appropriate activities that are provided daily, train Staff to use various teaching methods, and monitor both.

Correction Deadline: 1/9/2025

Policies and Procedures

591-1-1-.29 Required Reporting

Not Met

Finding Associated with Investigation

591-1-1-.29(1) requires that within twenty-four (24) hours or the next work day, the Director or designated person-in-charge shall report or cause to be reported any suspected incidents of child abuse, neglect or deprivation to the local County Division of Family and Children Services in accordance with state law and to the Department, notifying that such a report was made. It was determined based on staff interview and staff statement, that the incident was not reported to the department within the required twenty-four hours. Consultant was not provided with any proof of the facility having technical issues for submitting the required report.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will develop a procedure so everyone knows how and when to report incidents of suspected child abuse, neglect or deprivation to the County Division of Family and Children Services and to the Department and will follow-up to make sure they are reported as required.

Correction Deadline: 1/6/2025

Staffing and Supervision

Finding Associated with Investigation

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 investigation that a three-year-old child was touched inappropriately by three other three-year-old children for approximately two minutes before staff noticed. The staff member was observed upon review of video footage to be on their phone by the door not supervising children in care.

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: 1/6/2025