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: 9/21/2026 **VisitType:** Licensing Study **Arrival:** 11:05 AM **Departure:** 4:30 PM

CCLC-117
Phoenix School
415 E. Lake Dr. Decatur, GA 30030 DeKalb County
(404) 687-9010

Regional Consultant
Maryn Accord
Phone: (470) 990-0305
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maryn.accord@decal.ga.gov

Mailing Address
Same

Quality Rated: ★ ★

Compliance Zone Designation		
09/21/2026	Licensing Study	Good Standing
03/19/2026	Monitoring Visit	Good Standing
09/11/2025	Licensing Study	Good Standing

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.

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	A- front	Infants and One Year Olds	3	6	C	8	C	NA	NA	Feeding,Floor Play
Main	Afterschool		0	0	C	11	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
Main	B - 2nd right	Three Year Olds	3	12	C	16	C	NA	NA	Lunch
Main	C - 3rd right	One Year Olds and Two Year Olds	2	10	C	13	C	NA	NA	Lunch
Main	D - 4th right	One Year Olds	3	10	C	11	C	NA	NA	Lunch
Main	E - Pre-K	GA PreK	2	13	C	18	C	NA	NA	Story
		Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 77			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0					
Total # Children this Date: 51		Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 77			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0					

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	A	31	C
Main	B	26	C

Enrolled Children

Infant (0-12 months)	Toddler (1-2 yrs)	Preschool (3-5yrs/full time care)	School Age (before/after care only)	GA PreK only	Summer Only
8	23	15	0	19	0

Comments
Child Records and Staff Records were reviewed. Core Rules and Non-Core Rules were evaluated.

CCLC Indicator Manual

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.

Compliance at a Glance

For additional information regarding the full compliance inspection results of this program or any licensed program in the state, access the Child Care Services Compliance-at-a Glance website by scanning this QR code or visiting: https://families.decal.ga.gov.

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-.12 Equipment & Toys(CR) **Met**

Comment
A variety of equipment and toys were observed throughout the center on this date.

591-1-1-.35 Swimming Pools & Water-related Activities(CR) **N/A**

Comment
Center does not provide swimming activities.

Facility

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) **Not Met**

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, that a spray bottle containing bleach and water, a spray bottle containing soap and water, and an air freshener spray were stored in an unlocked bottom cabinet in Room A - Front and were accessible to children on this date.

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: 9/21/2026

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

Correction Deadline: 4/13/2026

Corrected on 9/21/2026
.26(8) - The previous citation was observed corrected on this date. The Consultant observed adequate resilient surface beneath the equipment and the fall zones of the climbing and swinging equipment, as required.

Health and Hygiene

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

Correction Deadline: 3/23/2026

Corrected on 9/21/2026
.10(4) - The previous citation was observed corrected on this date. The Consultant observed the diaper changing surface was smooth, nonporous, and in good repair, as required.

591-1-1-.17 Hygiene(CR) **Not Met**

Finding
591-1-1-17(7) requires that children wash their hands with liquid soap and warm running water upon arrival for care, when moving from one child care group to another, upon re-entering the child care area after outside play, before and after eating meals and snacks, handling or touching food, playing in water; after toileting and diapering, playing in sand, touching animals or pets, and contact with bodily fluids and after contamination by any other means. It was determined, based on observation, a 1-year-old's hands were not washed with liquid soap and warm running water in Room C - 3rd Right after diapering, as required.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
The Center will train Staff on required handwashing for children and Staff will ensure children's hands are washed when required. The Director will monitor for compliance.

Correction Deadline: 9/21/2026

Finding
591-1-1-.17(8) requires staff to wash their hands with liquid soap and warm running water upon arrival for the day, when moving from one child care group to another, upon re-entering the child care area after outside play, before and after diapering each child, dispensing medication, applying topical medications, handling and preparing food, eating, drinking, preparing bottles, feeding each child, assisting children with eating and drinking, after toileting or assisting children with toileting, using tobacco products, handling garbage and organic waste, touching animals or pets, handling bodily fluids and after contamination by any means. It was determined, based on observation, a staff member did not wash their hands with liquid soap and warm running water after diapering a 1-year-old child in Room D - 4th Right , as required.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
The Center will ensure liquid soap and warm running water are available for handwashing, train Staff on the handwashing requirements, review the requirements with Staff periodically, and monitor handwashing.

Correction Deadline: 9/21/2026

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

Comment
Documentation for medication dispensing observed completed on this date.

Safety

591-1-1-.11 Discipline(CR) **Met**

Comment
Staff were observed to maintain a positive learning environment on this date.

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

Comment
Center does not provide routine transportation.

Sleeping & Resting Equipment

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

Correction Deadline: 3/20/2026

Corrected on 9/21/2026
.30(1)(a)3 - The previous citation was observed corrected on this date. The Consultant observed that cribs sheets were tight-fitting and in good repair, as required.

Staff Records

Records Reviewed: 19 **Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 19**

Staff # 1 Not Met

Date of Hire: 10/23/2012

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.24(1)-Evidence of Orientation Missing

Staff # 2 Not Met

Date of Hire: 09/21/2026 Reminder - Health & Safety training is required within 90 calendar days of hired

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.09-Criminal Records Check Missing,.24(1)-Evidence of Orientation Missing

Staff # 3 Not Met

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.24(1)-Evidence of Orientation Missing

Staff # 4 Not Met

Date of Hire: 01/15/2014

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.24(1)-Evidence of Orientation Missing

Staff # 5 Not Met

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.24(1)-Evidence of Orientation Missing

Staff # 6 Not Met

Date of Hire: 07/07/2025

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.24(1)-Evidence of Orientation Missing

Staff # 7 Not Met

Date of Hire: 01/02/2025

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.24(1)-Evidence of Orientation Missing

Staff # 8 Not Met

Date of Hire: 10/03/2003

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.24(1)-Evidence of Orientation Missing

Staff # 9 Not Met

Date of Hire: 07/21/2021

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.24(1)-Evidence of Orientation Missing

Staff # 10 Not Met

Date of Hire: 03/01/2016

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.24(1)-Evidence of Orientation Missing

Staff # 11 Not Met

Date of Hire: 09/21/2026 Reminder - Health & Safety training is required within 90 calendar days of hired

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.09-Criminal Records Check Missing,.24(1)-Evidence of Orientation Missing

Staff # 12 Not Met

Date of Hire: 08/01/2022

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.24(1)-Evidence of Orientation Missing

Staff # 13 Not Met

Date of Hire: 07/22/2024

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.24(1)-Evidence of Orientation Missing

Staff # 14 Not Met

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.24(1)-Evidence of Orientation Missing

Staff # 15 Not Met

Date of Hire: 05/13/2031 Reminder - Health & Safety training is required within 90 calendar days of hired

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.24(1)-Evidence of Orientation Missing

Staff # 16 Not Met

Date of Hire: 04/02/2001

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.24(1)-Evidence of Orientation Missing

Staff # 17 Not Met

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.24(1)-Evidence of Orientation Missing

Staff # 18 Not Met

Date of Hire: 01/03/2017

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.24(1)-Evidence of Orientation Missing

Staff # 19 Not Met

Date of Hire: 08/18/2026 Reminder - Health & Safety training is required within 90 calendar days of hired

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.24(1)-Evidence of Orientation Missing

591-1-1-.09 Criminal Records and Comprehensive Background Checks(CR) **Not Met**

Finding
591-1-1-.09(1)(j) requires that for portability for Directors, Employees and Provisional Employees, excluding Students-in-Training, only the most recently issued determination letter is eligible for portability and must be ported electronically. A Center may accept a satisfactory Fingerprint Records Check Determination letter or a satisfactory Comprehensive Records Check Determination letter issued by the Department if the Records Check Clearance Date is within the preceding 12 months from the hire date, the individual has not had a lapse of employment from the child care industry that lasted for 180 days (6 months) or longer, and the Center does not know or reasonably should not know that the individual's satisfactory status has changed. It was determined, based on a review of records, that the following Staff did not have the most recently issued Comprehensive Background Check Determination letter ported electronically to the Center prior to assignment to child or task, as required

- Staff #2, hired September 21, 2026, was present in Room E - Pre-K with one other Staff member and 13 4-year-olds present.
- Staff #10, hired September 21, 2026, was present in Room A - Front with two other Staff, five infants, and one 1-year-old present.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
IMMEDIATE CORRECTION - The Center will watch the videos to ensure that only the most recently issued determination letter is electronically ported for Directors, Employees and Provisional Employees, excluding Students-in-Training. A Center may accept a satisfactory Fingerprint Records Check Determination letter or a satisfactory Comprehensive Records Check Determination letter issued by the Department if the Records Check Clearance Date is within the preceding 12 months from the hire date, the individual has not had a lapse of employment from the child care industry that lasted for 180 days (6 months) or longer, and the Center does not know or reasonably should not know that the individual's satisfactory status has changed. 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 watch the videos to ensure CRC rules are maintained.

Correction Deadline: 9/28/2026

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

Comment
At least one staff person with current and valid pediatric first aid and pediatric CPR observed in each classroom where children were present.

591-1-1-.33 Staff Training **Not Met**

Finding
591-1-1-.33(2)(a)-(n) requires the initial Center orientation to include the following subjects: a) the Center's policies and procedures; b) the portions of these rules dealing with the care, health and safety of children; c) the Staff person's assigned duties and responsibilities; d) reporting requirements for suspected cases of child abuse, neglect or deprivation; e) communicable diseases and serious injuries; f) emergency weather plans; g) the program's emergency preparedness plan; h) childhood injury control; i) the administration of medicine; j) reducing the risk of Sudden Unexpected Infant Death (SUID), which includes Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS); k) hand washing; l) fire safety; m) water safety; and n) prevention of HIV/AIDS and blood borne pathogens. It was determined based on a review of records that the initial Center orientation was on file for Center Staff, but did not indicate that the following required subjects were reviewed:

- Reporting requirements for suspected cases of child abuse, neglect or deprivation
- Communicable diseases and serious injuries
- Emergency weather plans
- The Center's emergency preparedness plan
- Reducing the risk of Sudden Unexpected Infant Death (SUID), including Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS)
- Prevention of HIV/AIDS and blood borne pathogens
- The administration of medicine

POI (Plan of Improvement)
The Center will provide orientation in all missing subjects to the employee(s) and will take steps to provide a complete orientation to new Employees in the future.

Correction Deadline: 10/9/2026

Recited on 9/21/2026

Correction Deadline: 4/30/2026

Corrected on 9/21/2026
.33(4) - The previous citation was observed corrected on this date. The Consultant observed that Staff #19, hired August 18, 2026, was assigned primary responsibility for food preparation and was within the first year of employment to complete four clock hours of training in food nutrition planning, preparation, serving, proper dish washing and food storage.

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
A supervision plan was discussed with Staff in charge for areas of the classroom where staff visibility of children may be obstructed.