



**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:** Complaint Investigation & Monitoring Visit

**Arrival:** 9:35 AM **Departure:** 1:30 PM

**CCLC-37226**

**Bright Ones Learning Center, Inc.**

143 Mayes Street Fitzgerald, GA 31750 Ben Hill County  
(229) 423-9760

Regional Consultant

Jackqueline Frederick

Phone: (229) 386-3247

Fax: (229) 238-2435

jackqueline.frederick@decal.ga.gov

**Mailing Address**

Same

**Quality Rated:** ★ ★

| Compliance Zone Designation |                                            |               | <b>Compliance Zone Designation</b> - 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.<br><br><b>Good Standing</b> - Program is demonstrating an acceptable level of performance in meeting the rules.<br><b>Support</b> - Program performance is demonstrating a need for improvement in meeting rules.<br><b>Deficient</b> - Program is not demonstrating an acceptable level of performance in meeting the rules. |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------------------|---------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 02/19/2026                  | Complaint Investigation & Monitoring Visit | Deficient     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| 10/02/2025                  | Complaint Closure                          | Good Standing |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| 09/24/2025                  | Complaint Investigation & Monitoring Visit | 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                           | A Left   | Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds | 1                              | 5        | C    | 20                             | C            | 28                                                          | C            | Outside    |
| Main                           | B Middle | Infants and One Year Olds          | 1                              | 3        | C    | 18                             | C            | NA                                                          | NA           | Floor Play |
| Main                           | C Right  | Two Year Olds                      | 1                              | 4        | C    | 10                             | C            | NA                                                          | NA           | Free Play  |
| Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 48 |          |                                    | Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 50 |          |      |                                |              |                                                             |              |            |
| Total # Children this Date: 12 |          |                                    | Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 48 |          |      | Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 50 |              | Building @25 capacity limited by Insufficient Toilets/Sinks |              |            |

| Building | Playground | Playground Occupancy | Playground Compliance |
|----------|------------|----------------------|-----------------------|
| Main     | one        | 61                   | C                     |

| Enrolled Children |         |         |         |         |                    |                   |
|-------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|--------------------|-------------------|
| Under 1 years     | 1 years | 2 years | 3 years | 4 years | 5 years (Prekonly) | 5 years and older |
| 2                 | 5       | 7       | 7       | 6       | 0                  | 19                |

**Comments**

Consultant issued a POI on this date and discussed with the provider.

Plan of Improvement: To Be Submitted 03/05/2026



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

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.dec.al.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.

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#### 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](http://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.

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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](mailto:qualityrated@dec.al.ga.gov) for more information. Free technical assistance is available!**



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**Summary Report**

**Date:** 2/19/2026 **VisitType:** Complaint Investigation & Monitoring Visit **Arrival:** 9:35 AM **Departure:** 1:30 PM

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The following information is associated with a Monitoring Visit:

**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)** Met

**Comment**

Center does not provide swimming activities.

**Evening Care**

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

**Comment**

No evening care hours provided

**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

**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 by observation that the following hazards were observed:

\*Room A had an unlocked gray cabinet accessible to the children which contained the following hazardous items such as but not limited to Clorox wipes and all-purpose cleaner.

Correction Deadline: 2/19/2026

Recited on 2/19/2026

Correction Deadline: 10/4/2025

Corrected on 2/19/2026

.25(3) - Citation observed corrected.

591-1-1-.25 Physical Plant-Structural/Mechanical

Met

Correction Deadline: 9/24/2025

Corrected on 2/19/2026

.25(5) - Citation observed corrected on this date.

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

Not Met

**Finding**

591-1-1-.26(6) requires that playground equipment provide an opportunity for the children to engage in a variety of experiences and shall be age-appropriate. For example, toddlers shall not be permitted to swing in swings designed for School-age Children. The outdoor equipment shall be free of lead-based paint, sharp corners and shall be regularly maintained in such a way as to be free of rust and splinters that could pose significant safety hazard to the children. All equipment shall be arranged so as not to obstruct supervision of children. It was determined based on observation that the swing's fourth chain and s-hook were observed to have rust.

Correction Deadline: 3/6/2026

Recited on 2/19/2026

**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 black mesh was exposed from beneath the mulch and posed a tripping hazard.

|  |                     |
|--|---------------------|
|  | <b>Food Service</b> |
|--|---------------------|

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

591-1-1-.15(5) requires that the Center provide a menu listing all meals and snacks to be served during the current week except for School-age Centers where the food may be provided by the Parent(s) by agreement between the School-age Center and the Parent(s). Substitutions shall be recorded on the posted menu and menus shall be retained at the Center for six (6) months. It was determined based on observation that on February 19, 2026, the center failed to adhere to the posted menu, as substitutions were not documented as required.

**.15(7) - The previous rule violation was observed to be corrected on this date.**

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

591-1-1-.10(4) requires that if diapers are changed on a diaper changing surface, the surface shall be smooth, nonporous, and equipped with a guard or rails to prevent falls. Between each diaper change, the diaper changing surface shall be cleaned with a disinfectant and dried with a single-use disposable towel. It was determined that in class B the changing table was not cleaned after diapering 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 that on February 19, 2026, staff failed to wash a child's hand after diapering. Additionally, staff failed to wash the children's hands in class B before eating their meal.

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**Correction Deadline: 2/19/2026****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 that on February 19, 2026 in class B, staff failed to wash their hands after diapering a child as required.

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**Correction Deadline: 2/19/2026****591-1-1-.20 Medications(CR)****Met****Comment**

The Provider currently does not dispense/administer medication.

**Safety****591-1-1-.05 Animals****Met****Correction Deadline: 9/24/2025****Corrected on 2/19/2026**

.05(2) - Citation observed corrected, as no animals were observed on this date. Consultant discussed that animal presence remains prohibited in the future.

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

Age-appropriate discussion and/or redirection observed.

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

Center does not provide routine transportation.

**Sleeping & Resting Equipment**

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

Discussed SIDS and infant sleeping position.

**Staff Records**

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**591-1-1-.09 Criminal Records and Comprehensive Background Checks(CR)****Met****Correction Deadline: 9/24/2025****Corrected on 2/19/2026****.09(1)(c) - Citation observed corrected on this date.**

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**591-1-1-.14 First Aid & CPR(CR)****Not Met****Finding**

591-1-1-.14(2)(b) requires that there must always be one staff person present in each classroom where children are present that has current and valid pediatric cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and pediatric first aid training. It was determined based on a review of records that there were no CPR trained staff present in classrooms A, B or C on this date as required.

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**Correction Deadline: 3/6/2026**

**Recited on 2/19/2026**

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**591-1-1-.24 Personnel Records****Met****Correction Deadline: 9/29/2025****Corrected on 2/19/2026****.24(1) - Citation observed corrected on this date as files were available.**

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

Staff observed to be compliant with applicable laws and regulations.

**Staffing and Supervision**

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**591-1-1-.32 Staff:Child Ratios and Group Size(CR)****Met****Comment**

Discussed combining children of mixed ages.

**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 failed to provide age appropriate supervision during mealtime in classrooms B and C, as staff were not physically seated with the children as required.

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**Correction Deadline: 2/19/2026**

**Recited on 2/19/2026**