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: 2/26/2025 **VisitType:** Licensing Study **Arrival:** 9:50 AM **Departure:** 2:50 PM

CCLC-53592
KinderCare Learning Center (Cooper Lake #167)
1635 Cooper Lake Rd. Smyrna, GA 30082 Cobb County
(770) 435-3344 DDavenport@kindercare.com

Regional Consultant
Laura Swann
Phone: (706) 855-3454
Fax: (706) 434-7641
laura.swann@decal.ga.gov

Mailing Address
Same

Quality Rated: ★

Compliance Zone Designation		
02/26/2025	Licensing Study	Good Standing
08/20/2024	Monitoring Visit	Good Standing
03/13/2024	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	Room A - 1L	Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds	3	35	NC	34	NC	NA	NA	Outside
Main	Room B - 2L (left)	One Year Olds	1	8	C	20	C	NA	NA	Floor Play
Main	Room C - 2L (right)	Infants and One Year Olds	2	11	C	16	C	NA	NA	Floor Play,Nap
Main	Room D - PreK (left)	GA PreK	2	18	C	36	C	NA	NA	Outside
Main	Room E - PreK (right)	GA PreK	2	18	C	36	C	NA	NA	Centers
Main	Room F - Rear	Two Year Olds	2	24	C	27	C	NA	NA	Diapering,Centers
		Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 169			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0					
Total # Children this Date: 114		Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 169			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0					

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	Playground (School-Age)	53	C
Main	Playground (Toddler)	109	C

Enrolled Children

Under 1 years	1 years	2 years	3 years	4 years	5 years (Prekonly)	5 years and older
9	11	26	34	23	16	0

Comments
Licensing study completed on February 26, 2025.
One day letter left for staff # 5.

Plan of Improvement: Developed This Date

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 a1 855-800-7747 or qualityrated@decal.ga.gov for more information. Free techincal 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

(Findings Report)

Date: 2/26/2025 **VisitType:** Licensing Study **Arrival:** 9:50 AM **Departure:** 2:50 PM

CCLC-53592
KinderCare Learning Center (Cooper Lake #167)
1635 Cooper Lake Rd. Smyrna, GA 30082 Cobb County
(770) 435-3344 DDavenport@kindercare.com

Regional Consultant
Laura Swann
Phone: (706) 855-3454
Fax: (706) 434-7641
laura.swann@decal.ga.gov

Mailing Address
Same

The following information is associated with a Licensing Study:

Activities and Equipment

591-1-1-.03 Activities — **Technical Assistance**

Technical Assistance
591-1-1-.03(2) - Please continue to monitor the classrooms to ensure current lessons plans and schedule are available.

Correction Deadline: 2/26/2025

591-1-1-.12 Equipment & Toys(CR) — **Met**

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

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

Comment
Center does not provide swimming activities.

Children's Records

591-1-1-.08 Children's Records — **Met**

Comment
Records were observed to be complete and well organized.

Facility

591-1-1-.19 License Capacity(CR) — **Not Met**

Finding
591-1-1-.19(1) requires a Center to provide 35 square feet of usable space per child, which will determine the Center's License capacity. It was determined based on observation that classroom A had 35 children present when the licensed capacity was 34.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
The Center will limit the number of children in this space to the licensed capacity.

Correction Deadline: 2/26/2025

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 the following classrooms had hazards accessible to children in care.
A 1L- A storage closet door was unlocked with cleaning supplies and a teacher's purse. Pamper baby wipes, sunscreen and diaper rash cream were in the children's cubicles. A tape dispenser was in the front window seal.
E Pre-K 2- A large black plastic trash bag was sitting in the floor. The cubbies with supplies had plastic trash bags, staplers and adult scissors.

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: 2/26/2025

Finding
591-1-1-.25(3) requires the Center and surrounding premises to be kept clean, free of debris and in good repair. Hygienic measures such as, but not limited to, screened windows and proper waste disposal procedures shall be utilized to minimize the presence of rodents, flies, roaches and other vermin at the Center. It was determined based on observation that the following items needed attention:
The left front side playground had a tan drainage pipe that was not completely attached and needed a cover on the bottom opening.
All classrooms needed to be dusted (Ventilation fans, a/c vents, ceilings, sinks and window seals).
All classroom air filters need to be changed due to dust.
E Pre-K right- Stained ceiling tiles need to be replaced.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
The Center will have the Center and surrounding areas cleaned, make repairs where needed, and remove all debris is removed. The Center will implement a plan to keep areas clean and in good repair that includes regular monitoring.

Correction Deadline: 2/28/2025

Technical Assistance
591-1-1-.25(8) - Consultant reviewed with the director the requirements for outlets in use as follows: requires protective caps on all unused electrical outlets within children's reach and requires that electrical outlets in use be made inaccessible to children.

Correction Deadline: 2/26/2025

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

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 present on the School-age and Toddler playgrounds:
Hose pipe, pinecones, gumballs, exposed tree roots, tree limbs, broken wooden landscape timbers and exposed bolts.

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. The center will remove the hazardous items.

Correction Deadline: 2/28/2025

Food Service

591-1-1-.15 Food Service & Nutrition **Not Met**

Finding
591-1-1-.15(2) requires that a signed written feeding plan for children less than one (1) year of age shall be obtained from Parent(s) and that instructions from the Parent(s) shall be updated regularly as new foods are added or other dietary changes are made. The feeding plan shall be posted in the child's assigned room and must include the child's feeding schedule, the amount of formula or breast milk to be given, instructions for the introduction of solid foods, the amount of food to be given and notation of any type(s) of commercially premixed formula which may not be used in an emergency because of food allergies. It was determined based on observation and staff statements that nine infants did not have infant feeding plans available.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
The Center Director will develop and implement a plan to obtain and post the completed feeding plan as part of the enrollment process and to have parents update the plans on a regular basis that will include center staff involved with enrollment and those working in the infant classrooms.

Correction Deadline: 2/28/2025

Health and Hygiene

591-1-1-.07 Children's Health **Technical Assistance**

Technical Assistance
591-1-1-.07(5) - Consultant reviewed with the director as follows about pacifiers clips: requires Center Staff to not permit children to wear around their necks or attach to their clothing pacifiers or other hazardous items.

Correction Deadline: 2/26/2025

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

Comment
Staff state proper knowledge of diapering procedures.

591-1-1-.17 Hygiene(CR) **Met**

Comment
Please ensure lids remain on trash containing organic waste.

Comment
Proper hand washing observed throughout the center.

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

Comment
The Provider currently does not dispense/administer medication.

Policies and Procedures

591-1-1-.27 Posted Notices **Technical Assistance**

Technical Assistance
591-1-1-.27 - Consultant reviewed and emailed the director a copy of the required posted notices as follows: requires each Center to post in a designated area for public viewing near the front entrance the following: the Center's current License or Permit; a copy of these rules; a copy of the current communicable disease chart; a statement allowing Parent(s) access to all child care areas upon notifying any staff member of his or her presence; names of persons responsible for the administration of the Center in the administrator's absence; the dated current week's menu for meals and snacks; emergency plans for severe weather, fire, and other emergency situations; a statement requiring visitors to check in with Staff when entering the Center; no smoking signs; and a notice provided by the Department which advises Parents of their right to review a copy of the Center's most recent licensure evaluation report upon request to the Center Director. The Center shall provide any Parent with a copy of this evaluation report upon request.

Correction Deadline: 2/26/2025

Safety

591-1-1-.05 Animals **Met**

Comment
Animals maintained clean and appropriately caged.

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

Comment
Age-appropriate discussion and/or redirection observed.

591-1-1-.13 Field Trips(CR) **Met**

Comment
Center does not participate in field trips at this time.

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**

Comment
Pleasant naptime environment observed.

Staff Records

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

Comment
Director provided 1 file(s) for employees hired since last visit.

Finding
591-1-1-.09(1)(c) requires the Center to ensure that every Employee has a valid and current satisfactory Comprehensive Records Check Determination on file prior to being present at the Center while any child is present for care or before an individual age 17 or older resides in the Center. The Comprehensive Records Check Determination must have a Records Check Clearance Date that is no older than the preceding 12 months of the hire date; provided, however, if the Employee has had a lapse of employment from the child care industry that lasted for 180 days (6 months) or longer, a new satisfactory Comprehensive Records Check Determination is required. It was determined based on a review of records that staff # 5 had a background check that expired on January 9, 2025.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
IMMEDIATE CORRECTION - The Center will review Decal Koala to ensure that every Employee has a valid and current satisfactory Comprehensive Records Check Determination on file prior to being present at the Center while any child is present for care or before an individual age 17 or older resides in the Center. The Comprehensive Records Check Determination must have a Records Check Clearance Date that is no older than the preceding 12 months of the hire date; provided, however, if the Employee has had a lapse of employment from the child care industry that lasted for 180 days (6 months) or longer, a new satisfactory Comprehensive Records Check Determination is required. 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 the CRC rules are maintained. Staff member was present on this date and will not return until she had a satisfactory CBC letter from BFTS.

Correction Deadline: 2/26/2025

Finding
591-1-1-.09(1)(l)3. requires the Center to immediately require a new Comprehensive Records Check Determination for a Director, Employee or Provisional Employee at least once every five years. It was determined based on a review of records that staff #5 had a background check that expired on January 9, 2025.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
IMMEDIATE CORRECTION - The Center will review Decal Koala to ensure that each Director, Employee and Provisional Employee has a Comprehensive Records Check Determination on file that has been issued within the past five years. 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 videos to ensure CRC rules are maintained. Staff was present on the date of visit and will not return until a satisfactory CBC letter is received from BFTS.

Correction Deadline: 2/26/2025

591-1-1-.14 First Aid & CPR **Met**

Comment
Complete first aid kits observed in center.

Comment
Evidence observed of at least 50% of center staff certified in First Aid and CPR.

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
Staff observed to provide direct supervision and be attentive to children's needs.