



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: 6/18/2026 **VisitType:** Licensing Study

Arrival: 10:05 AM **Departure:** 4:20 PM

CCLC-54683

Cadence Academy Preschool

921 Haymon Morris Road Winder, GA 30680 Barrow County
(770) 867-5439

Regional Consultant

Lynn Schnitzer

Phone: (678) 717-5720

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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.
06/18/2026	Licensing Study	Good Standing	
02/12/2026	Monitoring Visit	Good Standing	
12/09/2025	Incident Investigation Closure	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 1R Infants	Infants and One Year Olds	1	4	C	16	C	NA	NA	Floor Play
Main	B 2R	One Year Olds and Two Year Olds	2	15	C	21	C	NA	NA	Floor Play,Free Play
Main	C 3R- 2's	Three Year Olds	2	13	C	24	C	NA	NA	Transitioning,Free Play
Main	D 4R - Preschool	Two Year Olds and Three Year Olds	2	18	C	24	C	NA	NA	Transitioning
Main	E 5R	Four Year Olds and Five Year Olds	2	19	C	23	C	NA	NA	TV,Music,Centers
Main	F 6R- GA PreK	Five Year Olds and Six Year Olds and Over	2	15	C	23	C	NA	NA	Field Trip
Main	G 1L	Infants and One Year Olds	2	12	C	13	C	NA	NA	Floor Play,Nap
Main	H 2L- PreK	One Year Olds and Two Year Olds	2	15	C	17	C	NA	NA	Lunch
Main	I 3L- 3's	Two Year Olds and Three Year Olds	2	16	C	22	C	NA	NA	Transitioning,Lunch
Main	J 4L- 2's	Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds	1	14	C	22	C	NA	NA	Lunch
Main	K 5L- 1's	Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds	1	15	C	22	C	NA	NA	Transitioning
Main	L Rear Middle	Six Year Olds and Over	2	15	C	21	C	NA	NA	Field Trip
Main	M Middle Cafe	Six Year Olds and Over	3	22	C	31	C	44	C	Field Trip
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 279					Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 292					
Total # Children this Date: 193					Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 292					

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	PG A Front Right	32	C
Main	PG B 2R	61	C
Main	PG C Rear	24	C
Main	PG D Front Left	25	C
Main	PG E 2nd Left	67	C

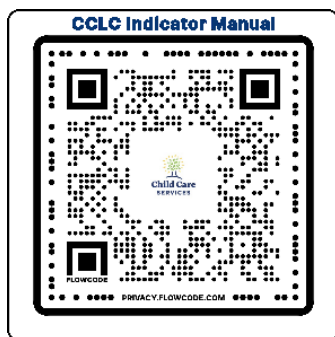
Enrolled Children						
Under 1 years	1 years	2 years	3 years	4 years	5 years (Prekonly)	5 years and older
15	22	35	28	30	0	83

Comments

The consultant discussed the visit report with the Assistant Director, Stacy Roberts, on June 18, 2026.

Consultant provided "Chop, Look, Listen" materials.

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!



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

591-1-1-.03(2) - Consultant discussed with the director to ensure that classrooms have current lesson plans in each classrooms.

Correction Deadline: 6/18/2026

Comment

Age-appropriate activities observed throughout the center.

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

Not Met

Comment

Equipment and furniture observed to be properly secured, as applicable.

Finding

591-1-1-.12(2) requires that all equipment and furniture be free from hazardous conditions such as, but not limited to, sharp rough edges or toxic paint; and be kept clean. It was determined based on observation that the following items needed repair or replacing in classroom E 5R:

- brown sofa with worn vinyl,
- paint easel with a cracked panel and paint tray, and
- cracked plastic bin.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will ensure that equipment and furniture are used by the age-appropriate group of children.

Correction Deadline: 6/18/2026

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

Met

Comment

Consultant observed documentation of authorization for swimming activities.

Comment

591-1-1-.35(1) - Consultant observed current swimming pool approval and life guard certification.

Correction Deadline: 6/23/2026

Children's Records

Comment

Parent authorizations obtained/completed.

Comment

Records were observed to be complete and well organized.

Facility**591-1-1-.06 Bathrooms****Not Met****Finding**

591-1-1-.06(4) requires a Center first licensed after March 1, 1991, and Centers that remodel or add to existing plumbing facilities, to have the bathroom area fully enclosed and ventilated to the outside of the building with either an open screened window or functioning exhaust fan and duct system and requires Centers without fully enclosed bathrooms to ensure there is adequate ventilation to control odors and adequate sanitation measures to prevent the spread of contagious diseases. It was determined based on observation that the exhaust fans were not drawing air in classroom E 5R.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will fully enclose and ventilate bathroom areas, as required, and will provide adequate ventilation and sanitation in bathrooms that are not fully enclosed.

Correction Deadline: 7/18/2026

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****Technical Assistance**

591-1-1-.25(13) - Consultant discussed with the director to ensure that staff purses and adult office supplies are stored out of reach of children in classroom E 5R and that the plunger is stored out of reach of children in classroom C 3R.

Correction Deadline: 6/18/2026

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 bottom hinge was broken on the storage cabinet door in classroom K 5L and the hinge was broken on the second from the left cabinet in the changing area in classroom D 4R. It was further determined that the safety latch was not working on the storage cabinet in E 5R.

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: 6/26/2026

Recited on 6/18/2026

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

Correction Deadline: 2/12/2026

Corrected on 6/18/2026

.26(4) - The previous citation was observed corrected on this date. The Consultant observed the fence to be in good repair.

Food Service**591-1-1-.15 Food Service & Nutrition****Met****Comment**

Center menu meets USDA guidelines.

Comment

Consultant observed 100 percent of bottles were fully labeled.

Comment

Consultant observed t infant feeding forms to be regularly updated.

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)**Not Met****Comment**

Proper hand washing observed throughout the center on this date.

Finding

591-1-1-.17(10) requires that if used potty chairs be emptied in a flush toilet after each use, cleaned with a disinfectant and stored in the bathroom. If a sink is used, the sink shall also be disinfected. It was determined based on observation that the potty chair had not been cleaned and disinfected after use in classroom D 4R.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will instruct staff to ensure the sanitary use of potty chairs and sinks.

Correction Deadline: 6/18/2026

Recited on 6/18/2026

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

Documentation for medication dispensing observed completed on this date.

Policies and Procedures**591-1-1-.21 Operational Policies & Procedures****Met****Comment**

Program observed complete emergency drills

591-1-1-.27 Posted Notices**Met****Comment**

Observed all required posted notices.

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-.13 Field Trips(CR)**Met****Comment**

Field trip documentation observed to be complete on this date.

591-1-1-.36 Transportation(CR)**Not Met****Comment**

A current/completed inspection was observed for all vehicles used in transporting children this date.

Comment

Complete documentation of transportation observed on this date.

Finding

591-1-1-.36(3)(a-b) requires any Center that provides any type of transportation to obtain two (2) hours of state-approved or state-accepted transportation training, biannually, for the Director and for each person responsible for or who participates in the transportation of children. The training shall include, but is not limited to, a review of the transportation rules, a review of approved transportation forms and procedures, and instruction on the usage and completion of the forms and procedures. This training may be counted as part of the annual training requirements for Staff. It was determined based on review of records that staff #11, date of hire July 25, 2022, did not have two (2) hours of state-approved transportation training.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

Staff #11 will complete transportation training before assisting with transportation.

Correction Deadline: 7/3/2026

Recited on 6/18/2026

Finding

591-1-1-.36(4)(b) requires that the interior of a transportation vehicle be clean, in safe repair and free of hazardous items, objects and/or other non-essential items which could cause injury. It was determined based on observation that there were tears with exposed foam on the first driver side seat and third passenger side seat on vehicle tag #EXU838.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The center will maintain that all transportation vehicles are clean, in safe repair, and free from hazards.

Correction Deadline: 6/19/2026

Sleeping & Resting Equipment

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

Met

Comment

Pleasant naptime environment observed.

Correction Deadline: 2/12/2026

Corrected on 6/18/2026

.30(2)(c) - The previous citation was observed corrected on this date. The Consultant observed infants asleep in safety-approved cribs. Staff stated knowledge of infant safe sleep requirements.

Staff Records

Records Reviewed: 37

Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 1

Staff # 11

Not Met

Date of Hire: 07/25/2022

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.36(3)(a-b)-2 hrs. Transportation Training missing

591-1-1-.09 Criminal Records and Comprehensive Background Checks(CR)

Met

Comment

Director provided four files for employees hired since last visit February 12, 2026.

Correction Deadline: 2/12/2026

Corrected on 6/18/2026

.09(1)(a) - The previous citation was observed corrected on this date. The Consultant observed documentation of satisfactory Comprehensive Records Check Determination on file for all staff.

Correction Deadline: 2/12/2026

Corrected on 6/18/2026

.09(1)(c) - The previous citation was observed corrected on this date. The Consultant observed documentation of satisfactory Comprehensive Records Check Determination on file for all staff.

Comment

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

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.14(3) - Consultant discussed with the director to ensure that vehicle first aid kits have antibacterial ointment and thermometers

Correction Deadline: 6/28/2026

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)**Met****Comment**

A supervision plan was created to ensure ratios are maintained when staff need to assist children with toileting.