



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: 2/18/2026 **VisitType:** Monitoring Visit

Arrival: 9:50 AM **Departure:** 12:40 PM

CCLC-1444

Cherokee Academy At Clayton

1205 Upper Burris Rd. Canton, GA 30114 Cherokee County
(470) 470-6589

Regional Consultant

Randy Gaytan

Phone: (770) 357-7022

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randy.gaytan@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.
02/18/2026	Monitoring Visit	Good Standing	
07/29/2025	Licensing Study	Good Standing	
03/27/2025	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- left side hall-1st left - Pre-K 2		0	0	C	20	C	NA	NA	
Main	B- left side hall-2nd right- 3 yr old	One Year Olds	1	5	C	13	C	NA	NA	Centers
Main	C- left side hall-1st right -Infants	Infants and One Year Olds	1	3	C	12	C	NA	NA	Floor Play
Main	D- Middle Back - Toddlers	Three Year Olds	2	14	C	16	C	NA	NA	Transitioning
Main	E- right side hall-2nd right- Front Room-2 yr old	Two Year Olds	1	10	C	21	C	NA	NA	Transitioning
Main	F- right side hall- 2nd right- back room-3 yrs.	Two Year Olds and Three Year Olds	1	9	C	14	C	NA	NA	Outside
Main	G- Right side 1st right -Pre-K 1	Four Year Olds and Five Year Olds and Six Year Olds and Over	1	13	C	26	C	NA	NA	Centers
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 122			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0							
Total # Children this Date: 54			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0							

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	Playground A- Left Side	20	C
Main	Playground B- Rear	94	C
Main	Playground C- Right Side	58	C

Enrolled Children						
Under 1 years	1 years	2 years	3 years	4 years	5 years (Prekonly)	5 years and older
5	8	15	13	23	6	18

Comments

GA Pre K was on break on this date.

The flyer for the ASTM standards for resilient surfaces was emailed to the Director.

Playground A - Left Side was closed due to turf being installed.

Plan of Improvement: No Plan Developed



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 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.

Correction Deadline: 7/29/2025

Corrected on 2/18/2026

.12(4) - The previous citation was observed corrected on this date. There were no hazards on the playgrounds.

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)

Met

Comment

No hazards observed accessible to children on this date.

Comment

The Center appeared clean and well maintained on this date.

Correction Deadline: 7/29/2025

Corrected on 2/18/2026

.25(13) - The previous citation was observed corrected on this date. All storage closets were locked.

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

Met

Correction Deadline: 7/29/2025

Corrected on 2/18/2026

.26(9) - The previous citation was observed corrected on this date. All playgrounds were clean and had no hazards.

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) **Met**

Comment

Proper hand washing observed throughout the center on this date.

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

Comment

Discussed proper medication documentation and procedures.

Safety

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

Comment

Age-appropriate discussion and/or redirection observed.

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

Comment

The vehicle had an approved fire extinguisher and first aid kit on this date.

Correction Deadline: 7/30/2025

Corrected on 2/18/2026

.36(7)(c)2. - The previous citation was observed corrected on this date. All children were marked as loaded and unloaded on the reviewed paperwork.

Sleeping & Resting Equipment

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

Comment

Discussed SIDS and infant sleeping position.

Comment

Pleasant naptime environment observed.

Comment

Please ensure that cribs/cots are labeled for individual use.

Comment

The correct number of mats, sheets and blankets were observed on this date. Cleaning and disinfecting of mats was discussed with the director on this date.

Staff Records

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

Comment

Criminal record checks were observed to be complete.

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

Comment

Evidence observed of 100% of center Staff certified in First Aid and CPR containing emergency care for infants and children on this 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.