



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: 1/29/2025 **VisitType:** Incident Investigation/Licensing Study **Arrival:** 9:45 AM **Departure:** 4:00 PM

CCLC-47213
Grace Academy
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 (912) 545-9255 paustin@graceacademykids.com

Regional Consultant
 Connie Boatright
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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.
01/29/2025	Incident Investigation/Licensing Study	Good Standing	
01/07/2025	Complaint Closure	Good Standing	
12/17/2024	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
Building Four	A	Three Year Olds	1	14	C	20	C	NA	NA	Nap,Lunch,Story
Building Four	B	Two Year Olds	2	15	C	20	C	NA	NA	Centers,Transitioning,Nap,Lunch
Building Four	B		0	0	C	20	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
Building Four	C	Four Year Olds	2	14	C	20	C	NA	NA	Centers,Lunch,Nap
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 80			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0							
Building Three	A	GA PreK	2	17	C	43	C	NA	NA	Centers
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 43			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0							
Building Two	A		0	0	C	18	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
Building Two	B		0	0	C	23	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 41			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0							
Main	A	Infants	2	10	C	13	C	NA	NA	Nap,Feeding,Transitioning,Floor Play

Main	B	One Year Olds	2	12	C	16	C	NA	NA	Transitioning,Lunch,Nap,Centers
Main	C	One Year Olds	1	0	C	19	C	NA	NA	Diapering,Free Play,Floor Play
		Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 46			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0			Building @35 capacity limited by Fire Marshall Limitations		
Total # Children this Date: 82		Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 210			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0					

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	Playground A	58	C
Main	Playground B	24	C

Enrolled Children						
Under 1 years	1 years	2 years	3 years	4 years	5 years (Prekonly)	5 years and older
16	15	15	14	22	19	49

Comments

An in person Licensing Study was conducted on this day. The Licensing Study was conducted in conjunction to a complaint intake. The center owner stated there are a total of thirty one staff with three new hires since the last visit. The center owner stated no medication has been administered, no field trips or swimming activities are provided. Routine transportation is provided.

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.dec.state.ga.us/CCS/Regulations.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@dec.al.ga.gov for more information. Free technical assistance is available!



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(Findings Report)

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The following information is associated with a Licensing Study Visit:

Activities and Equipment

591-1-1-.03 Activities

Met

Comment

The consultant observed all classrooms in use to have a current GELDS lesson plan posted in the classrooms.

Correction Deadline: 1/29/2025

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

Technical Assistance

Technical Assistance

The Center staff will ensure 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 (red leather sofa located under the wood loft located in the Pre-K classroom of building 3).

Correction Deadline: 1/29/2025

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

Parent agreements observed obtained/completed.

Comment

Parent authorizations obtained/completed.

Comment

Records were observed to be complete and well organized.

Facility

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.06(7) - The center director / staff will ensure bathrooms are cleaned daily with a disinfectant (Urine was left in the training potty located in the bathroom of class B of building four, feces was left in the potty on the left in the girls bathroom located in building 3 Pre-K, and urine was left in the potty in the boys bathroom located in building 3 Pre-K).

Correction Deadline: 1/29/2025

591-1-1-.19 License Capacity(CR)**Met****Comment**

Licensed capacity observed to be routinely met by center. The consultant observed a total of eighty-eight children to be present and to be signed in.

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 hazards were accessible to the children:

---Three sixteen ounce bags of Epson Salt was stored in a lower drawer of a filing cabinet in building 4 classroom A and accessible to the three-year-old children. Additionally, the Epson Salt was labeled keep out of reach of children. Additionally, plastic bags were stored in in the lower cabinet drawer.

--- One gallon of soap was located under the sink in building four, classroom B, and labeled keep out of reach of children. Additionally, there were plastic bags stored under the same sink. There was no safety latch on the cabinet.

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: 2/3/2025

591-1-1-.26 Playgrounds(CR)**Technical Assistance****Comment**

Discussed maintenance of resilient surface. Please fluff and redistribute.

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.26(6) - The center director / staff will ensure 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. One of four black seats on the merry-go-round was cracked and needed to be replaced or repaired.

Correction Deadline: 2/8/2025

Food Service

Comment

CACFP Meal Pattern Requirements effective October 1, 2017 will be implemented October 1, 2018: 3 Components for breakfast: Grains, Vegetables, Fruits or both, Milk
 5 Components for lunch – Grains, Meat/Meat alternates, Fruits, Vegetable, and Milk OR Grains, Meat/Meat alternates, 2 different types of vegetables, and Milk
 2 of 5 Components for snack

Provided Updated CACFP Infant Meal pattern and Child/Adult Meal pattern flyers.

The Crediting Handbook for the CACFP can be located on DECAL and USDA's website:

DECAL

<http://dec.al.ga.gov/CACFP/Handbook.aspx>

USDA

<http://www.fns.usda.gov/cacfp/cacfp-handbooks>

591-1-1-.18 Kitchen Operations**Technical Assistance****Comment**

Kitchen appears clean and well organized.

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.18(1) - The center director / staff will ensure that food be in sound condition, free from spoilage and contamination and safe for human consumption. Eggs, pork, pork products, poultry and fish shall be thoroughly cooked. All raw fruits and vegetables shall be washed thoroughly before being cooked or served. Foods not subject to further washing or cooking before serving shall be stored in such a manner as to be protected against contamination. Meats, poultry, fish, dairy products and processed foods shall have been inspected under an official regulatory program. Hot foods shall be maintained at a temperature of one hundred forty (140) degrees Fahrenheit or above except during serving. Food and drinks shall be prepared as close to serving time as possible to protect children and Personnel from food-borne illness. Three gallons of whole milk was located in the kitchen refrigerator and expired January 24, 2025.

Correction Deadline: 1/29/2025

Health and Hygiene**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**

Proper hand washing observed throughout the center.

Comment

Staff were observed to remind children to wash hands.

Correction Deadline: 12/17/2024

Corrected on 1/29/2025

.17(8) - The previous citation was observed to be corrected on this day.

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

The provider administers medication when requested. The center director / owner stated no medication has been administered since the last visit. The center has an Epi Pen on file for a child and reports not having to use it at this time.

Policies and Procedures

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.21(3) - The center director / staff will ensure that the Center conduct drills for fire, tornado and other emergency situations. The fire drills will be conducted monthly and tornado and other emergency situation drills will be conducted every six months. The Center shall maintain documentation of the dates and times of these drills for two years. The last tornado drill was documented on June 28 2024. A tornado drill was due in December of 2024.

Correction Deadline: 2/3/2025

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

Observed all required posted notices.

591-1-1-.29 Required Reporting**Met****Comment**

Thank you for reporting as required.

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

Center does not keep animals on premises.

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

Age-appropriate discussion and/or redirection observed.

Comment

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

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**

Complete documentation of transportation observed.

Comment

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

Sleeping & Resting Equipment**591-1-1-.30 Safe Sleeping and Resting Requirements(CR)****Technical Assistance****Comment**

Discussed SIDS and infant sleeping position.

Comment

Pleasant naptime environment observed.

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.

Correction Deadline: 12/17/2024

Corrected on 1/29/2025

.30(2) - The previous citation was observed to be corrected.

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.30(4) - The center director / staff will ensure that if cots and mats are stored in the children's activity room or area, they shall be stored to prevent children's access to them and to allow maximum use of play space. When storage is available and used for the storage of cots and mats that allows the cots, mats and any bedding to be stored without touching any other cots, mats or bedding, the bedding may be left on the cot or mat. When such storage is not available for the cots and mats, each child's bedding shall be kept separate from other children's bedding and stored in containers marked for individual use, such as, but not limited to, bins, cubbies, or bags. Twenty mats were not fully covered in classroom B in building 4, twenty mats were not fully covered in classroom C in building 4, and nine cots were not covered in classroom C in the main building.

Correction Deadline: 1/29/2025

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

Criminal record checks were observed to be complete.

Comment

Director provided 3 file(s) for employees hired since last visit.

Correction Deadline: 12/17/2024

Corrected on 1/29/2025

.09(1)(j) - The previous citation was observed to be corrected.

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

591-1-1-.14(2)- The center had CPR / First Aid scheduled for January 22, 2025. Due to the weather, snow, the CPR / First Aid class has been rescheduled to February 6, 2025.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will develop a schedule to ensure there is always a staff person with current first aid and CPR training present and will develop and implement a plan to ensure all staff members have satisfactorily completed first aid and CPR training by the specified date.

Correction Deadline: 1/17/2025

591-1-1-.33 Staff Training**Met**

Correction Deadline: 1/7/2025

Corrected on 1/29/2025

.33(3) - The previous citation was observed to be corrected on this day.

Correction Deadline: 3/16/2024

Corrected on 1/29/2025

.33(5) - The previous citation was observed to be corrected on this day.

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**

Adequate supervision observed on this date.

The following information is associated with a Incident Investigation Visit:

Health and Hygiene

591-1-1-.07 Children's Health

Met

Correction Deadline: 1/7/2025

Corrected on 1/29/2025

.07(3) - The previous citation was observed to be corrected on this day.