



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: 9/30/2025 VisitType: Complaint Investigation & Monitoring Visit

Arrival: 9:55 AM Departure: 2:10 PM

CCLC-48046
Imagination Zone Childcare & Early Learning Center
12710 Brown Bridge Road Covington, GA 30016 Newton County
(770) 786-8611

Regional Consultant
Cassandra Jakes-Beasley
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Mailing Address
Same

Quality Rated: ★ ★ ★

<u>Compliance Zone Designation</u>		
09/30/2025	Complaint Investigation & Monitoring Visit	Deficient
09/30/2025	Complaint Closure	Good Standing
04/22/2025	Complaint Closure	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	A: 1R		0	0	C	7	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
Main	B: 2R	One Year Olds	1	6	C	11	C	NA	NA	Transitioning, Floor Play, Lunch
Main	C: Middle	Four Year Olds	2	8	C	21	C	NA	NA	Lunch, Transitioning
Main	D: Left		0	0	C	23	C	NA	NA	Not In Use

Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 62

Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0

Total # Children this Date: 14

Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 62

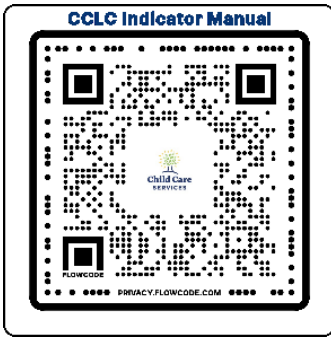
Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	PG A Right	38	C
Main	PG B: Right Back	10	C
Main	PG C: Left Back	37	C

Enrolled Children						
Under 1 years	1 years	2 years	3 years	4 years	5 years (Prekonly)	5 years and older
4	4	2	5	5	0	23

Comments

Background checks were reviewed. The Consultant completed the exit conference, and a copy of the report was email to the Provider.



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

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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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.

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

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) 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 observed in baskets in classroom B-2-R: plastic shopping bags, diaper wipes with warning labels were in three baskets and a diaper ointment was in one child's basket.

Correction Deadline: 9/30/2025

Finding

591-1-1-.26(4) requires that playgrounds be protected from traffic or other hazards by a (4) four foot high fence or other barrier approved by this Department. Fencing material shall not present a hazard to children and shall be maintained so as to prevent children from leaving the playground area by any means other than through an approved access route. Fence gates shall be kept closed except when persons are entering or exiting the area. It was determined based on observation and measurement there was four to eight inch gap at the corner of the wood fence on the right back side of the preschool playground and there was four to five inch gap between the fence pole and the building on back left side of the center.

Correction Deadline: 9/30/2025

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 seat was cracked on the teeter-totter on the preschool playground.

Correction Deadline: 10/11/2025

Recited on 9/30/2025

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 there was piece of concrete with jagged edges protruding from the ground on the back left side of the building, creating a possible tripping hazard.

Correction Deadline: 9/30/2025

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**

The Provider currently does not dispense/administer medication.

Organization**591-1-1-.37 Inspections & Investigations****Met**

Correction Deadline: 4/14/2025

Corrected on 9/30/2025

.37(e) - Previous citation corrected.

Policies and Procedures**591-1-1-.21 Operational Policies & Procedures****Technical Assistance****Technical Assistance**

591-1-1-.21(4) - Discussed updating the Center's policies and procedures to include the program's practices regarding the expulsion and suspension of children enrolled for care within the description of behavior management and discipline actions used by the Center.

Also discussed to ensure a description of the practices followed by the Center to prevent shaken baby syndrome and abusive head trauma in children up to five years of age that includes the following information: how to recognize, respond to, and report the signs and symptoms of shaken baby syndrome and abusive head trauma; strategies to assist staff members in understanding how to care for infants and how to cope with a crying, fussing, or distraught child; strategies to ensure staff members understand the brain development of children up to five years of age; and a list of prohibited behaviors when dealing with children.

Additional information can be found in the CCLC Indicator Manual found on DECAL's website at:

<https://www.decal.ga.gov/CCS/RulesAndRegulations.aspx> or through the Center on Shaken Baby Syndrome found at: <https://dontshake.org/>.

Correction Deadline: 10/5/2025

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

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

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

Paperwork, checklist, permission forms, annual inspection form and proper check of the vehicle after transportation were discussed with the director.

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 a review of records the director and other driver of the vehicles did not have two (2) hours of state-approved or state-accepted transportation training, biannually, as required.

Correction Deadline: 10/10/2025

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 the two vehicles were not free of hazardous items, objects and/or other non-essential items, when there was a basket with disinfectant spray, bleach wipes, fire extinguisher and other items in an unsecured plastic container in between the driver and front passenger seat. There was foam exposed on the first arm rest of vehicle RMG4814.

Correction Deadline: 10/1/2025

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.36(4)(f)1. - The consultant discussed with the director that children be secured in a child passenger restraining system or seat safety belt in accordance with current state and federal laws and regulations and according to manufacturer's directions.

Correction Deadline: 10/1/2025

Finding

591-1-1-.36(7)(c)2. requires that the driver or other designated person shall immediately document in writing, with a check or other mark/symbol to account for each child listed on the passenger transportation checklist each time a child enters and exits the vehicle. The driver or other designated staff person shall document in writing with a different mark/symbol to account for each child listed on the passenger transportation checklist who was not present on the vehicle for any reason. An explanation shall be documented in writing whenever a child is transported to a field trip site but is not present on the return trip to the Center. It was determined based on a review of records that there were no accounting for the load and unloading of five children who were transported from Live Oaks Elementary school to the center on September 26, 2025.

Sleeping & Resting Equipment

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

Met

Comment

Discussed SIDS and infant sleeping with the director.

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 [4] file(s) for employees hired since last visit.

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

Not Met

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.14(1)(a) - within 45 days of employment. It was further discussed that programs must have at least one person with current pediatric First Aid and pediatric CPR training in each classroom at all times Discussed that effective July 1, 2025, new staff are required to obtain pediatric First Aid and pediatric CPR training.

Correction Deadline: 10/30/2025

Finding

591-1-1-.14(2)(a) requires that when any child is present on the premises, at least fifty percent (50%) of the caregiver staff present shall be trained in pediatric cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and pediatric first aid. It was determined based on review of records the center did not have any staff person on the premises with valid and current evidence of pediatric cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and pediatric first aid.

Correction Deadline: 10/30/2025

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 review there was no staff person in two of two classrooms with current and valid pediatric cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and pediatric first aid training.

Correction Deadline: 9/30/2025

Finding

591-1-1-.14(2)(c) requires that during any field trip or transportation of children, there must always be a staff member present who has current evidence of the successful completion of pediatric cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and pediatric first aid. It was determined based on review the staff persons responsible for transportation did not have current evidence of the successful completion of pediatric cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and pediatric first aid.

Correction Deadline: 9/30/2025

Finding

591-1-1-.14(2)(d) requires the Center Director must have current evidence of successful completion of pediatric cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and pediatric first aid at all times. It was determined based on review the director did not have current evidence of biennial training program in cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and a triennial training program in first aid as required.

Correction Deadline: 10/30/2025

591-1-1-.33 Staff Training

Not Met

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.33(1) Discussed that all Employees, including volunteers, independent contractors, students-in-training, etc. should have a completed initial program orientation form on file.

Correction Deadline: 9/30/2025

Finding

591-1-1-.33(1) requires all Employees and Provisional Employees to receive Initial Center orientation prior to assignment to children or task. It was determined based on a review of records there was no evidence that staff person #5 obtained orientation prior to assignment to children.

Correction Deadline: 9/30/2025

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.33(5)(b)1. - New - Discussed that effective July 1, 2025, all staff are required to obtain at least two hours in evidence based, developmentally appropriate language and literacy practices and at least two hours in on-going child development and health and safety related topics as part of their 10 hours of annual training.

Correction Deadline: 10/30/2025

591-1-1-.31 Staff(CR)

Not Met

Comment

Staff observed to be compliant with applicable laws and regulations.

Finding

591-1-1-.31(2)(c) requires the Center to maintain a copy and/or written verification of the credential or degree awarded to the lead teacher that is required by these rules in the lead teacher's file, to make the document available for inspection and to provide the document to Department staff upon request. It was determined based on review of records the center did not a staff member with lead teacher credentials in the toddler and preschool classroom.

Correction Deadline: 9/30/2025

Staffing and Supervision

591-1-1-.32 Supervision(CR)

Met

Comment

Adequate supervision observed on this date.

The following information is associated with a Complaint Investigation Visit:

Facility

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

Not Met

Correction Deadline: 4/21/2025

Corrected on 9/30/2025

.26(4) - Previous citation corrected in the gate to the preschool playground was securely latched with the bungee cord.

Staff Records

591-1-1-.31 Staff(CR)

Not Met

Correction Deadline: 3/31/2025

Corrected on 9/30/2025

.31(3)(a) - Previous citation corrected in that all children were supervised by adult staff members on the day of the visit.

Staffing and Supervision

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

Met

Correction Deadline: 3/31/2025

Corrected on 9/30/2025

.32(2) - Previous citation corrected in that younger children were not mixed with older children during the visit.

Correction Deadline: 3/31/2025

Corrected on 9/30/2025

.32(4)(a) - Previous citation corrected in that based on observation younger children were not housed with older children during the visit.