



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: 2/17/2026 VisitType: Monitoring Visit

Arrival: 10:35 AM Departure: 1:50 PM

CCLC-1369

Candy Cane City Nursery School

2249 Columbia Dr. Decatur, GA 30032 DeKalb County
(404) 289-8455

Regional Consultant

Evon Hewitt

Phone: ()

Fax:

evon.hewitt@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.
02/17/2026	Monitoring Visit	Good Standing	
09/10/2025	Licensing Study	Good Standing	
04/16/2025	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
Bld II	G-1st upper rt		0	0	C	23	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
Bld II	I-Bottom Right	Three Year Olds	1	12	C	0	NC	NA	NA	Lunch
Bld II	Pre-K Lower(H-I)	Five Year Olds and Six Year Olds and Over	1	15	C	53	C	NA	NA	Outside
Bld II	Room F-lower right		0	0	C	14	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 90			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0							
Green Bld	D		0	0	C	16	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 16			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0							
Main	1st right	Two Year Olds and Three Year Olds	2	11	C	18	C	NA	NA	Transitioning
Main	B 1st left	One Year Olds and Two Year Olds	2	6	C	7	C	NA	NA	Lunch
Main	C-2nd left		0	0	C	6	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
Main	Cafeteria- 3rd left		0	0	C	17	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 48			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0							
Total # Children this Date: 44			Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 154			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0				

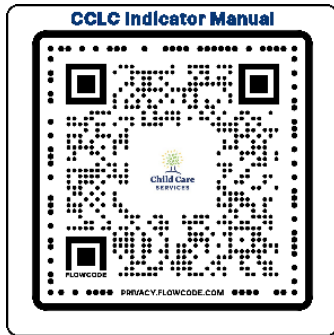
Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	Black Top Playground	30	C
Main	Infant Playground	4	C
Main	Large/Back Playground	93	C

Enrolled Children						
Under 1 years	1 years	2 years	3 years	4 years	5 years (Prekonly)	5 years and older
0	4	14	13	19	9	19

Comments

The findings of this report were reviewed with the Provider on this date. Previous rule violations were observed/discussed.

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

You have received permission to operate and the form received with this report is intended to serve as a temporary license which is **valid for thirty(30) days**. Your actual license/ will be emailed to you upon receipt of the licensing fee. You may pay the licensing fee either online at <http://www.decal.ga.gov/> or by certified check or money order mailed to: Bright from the Start, 2 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive SE, Suite 670 East Tower, Atlanta, GA 30334

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!



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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)

Not Met

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 potential hazards were accessible to children on this date:

Bld II I- Bottom Right Classroom

-The blue vinyl furniture at the back left had a small tear with exposed foam at the right side of the backrest.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

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

Correction Deadline: 2/20/2026

Recited on 2/17/2026

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

N/A

Comment

Center does not provide swimming activities.

Facility

591-1-1-.06 Bathrooms

Met

Correction Deadline: 10/10/2025

Corrected on 2/17/2026

.06(4) - Previous citation corrected in that the Consultant observed the children's bathroom in the Cafeteria-3rd Left classroom to have a working exhaust fan on this date.

591-1-1-.19 License Capacity(CR)

Met

Comment

Licensed capacity observed to be routinely met by center on this date.

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 potential hazards were accessible to children on this date:

Classroom 1st Right

-There was an unlocked drawer under the diaper changing surface with several assorted brand baby wipes and plastic diaper packaging located at the front right of the classroom.

Bld II Classroom I- Bottom Right

-There was a clear plastic trash bag under a chair located the back right of the classroom.

Bld II Classroom PreK Lower (H-I)

-There was a black plastic grocery bag and a bottle of Ajax liquid detergent in an unlocked cabinet located at the front left of the classroom.

-There was a dust pan and broom located at the front right of the classroom.

-There was an unlocked cabinet with several clear plastic bags, a trash bag, and a plastic grocery bag located at the back middle of the classroom.

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: 2/17/2026

Finding

591-1-1-.25(8) requires protective caps on all unused electrical outlets within children's reach and requires that electrical outlets in use be made inaccessible to children. It was determined based on observation that the following electrical hazards were accessible to children on this date:

Bld II Classroom I- Bottom Right

-There was an unused electrical outlet without a protective cap located at the front right of the classroom.

Bld II Classroom PreK Lower (H-I)

-There was an unused electrical outlet without a protective cap located at the front right of the classroom.

-There was a hanging cord located at the front left of the classroom.

-There were three unused electrical outlets without protective caps located at the back right of the classroom.

Classroom C- 2nd Left

-There was an unlocked closet with several electrical cords and four unused electrical outlets without caps located at the back right of the classroom.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will train Staff to check outlets and replace protective caps when needed and identify and monitor how outlets in use are inaccessible to children.

Correction Deadline: 2/17/2026

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

Correction Deadline: 9/20/2025

Corrected on 2/17/2026

.26(6) - Previous citation corrected in that the Consultant observed the playground equipment to be free from hazardous conditions on this date.

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.26(8) - requires climbing and swinging equipment to have a resilient surface beneath the equipment and the fall zone from such equipment must be adequately maintained by the Center to assure continuing resiliency. The Consultant and Provider discussed ensuring that the resilient surfacing located on the Large Back playground is fluffed and redistributed within the fall zones of swings and slides.

Correction Deadline: 2/27/2026

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 there were two mops and a bucket located at the front right of the playground accessible to children on this date. It was further determined that the rubber mats under the two yellow slides on the Large Back playground were not flush with the resilient surfacing causing a potential tripping hazard on this date.

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.

Correction Deadline: 2/24/2026

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.

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)**Met****Comment**

Complete documentation of transportation observed on this date.

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)****Met****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**

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

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

Correction Deadline: 10/10/2025

Corrected on 2/17/2026

.33(4) - Previous citation corrected in that the Consultant observed both Staff member to have documentation of the four clock hours of training in food nutrition planning, preparation, serving, proper dish washing and food storage as required.

Defer

591-1-1-.33(5)(a)- The consultant will evaluate staff training for the 2025 calendar year during the 2026 LS regulatory visit.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will plan and schedule the required 10 hours of annual training each year and follow up to ensure the training is completed.

Correction Deadline: 10/10/2025

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)

Not Met

Finding

591-1-1-.32(7) requires that children be supervised at all times appropriate to the individual age, needs and capabilities of each child. Such supervision must include, but not be limited to, indoor and outdoor activities, mealtimes, naptime, transportation, field trips, and transitions between activities. "Supervision" means that the appropriate number of Staff members are physically present in the area where children are being cared for and are providing watchful oversight to the children, volunteers and Students-in-Training. The persons supervising in the child care area must be alert, positioned to maximize their ability to hear and see the children at all times, and able to respond promptly to the needs and actions of the children being supervised, as well as the actions of the volunteers and Students-in-Training, and provide timely attention to the children's actions and needs. Staff shall be attentive and participating with all children during mealtimes and shall be seated within an arm's length away from children thirty-six (36) months of age and younger. It was determined based on observation that Staff in classroom B 1st Left and classroom I- Bottom Right were not seated within an arm's length away from children thirty-six (36) months of age and younger. It was further determined that Staff in classroom I- Bottom Right failed to provide watchful oversight when the staff member left 12 children alone for approximately 10 seconds to retrieve a cot from classroom PreK Lower (H-I) on this date.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will train Staff and monitor to ensure they are providing supervision and watchful oversight to the children at all times.

Correction Deadline: 2/17/2026