



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: 4/1/2026

VisitType: Licensing Study

Arrival: 10:00 AM **Departure:** 1:00 PM

CCLC-35301

Excellent Montessori

1828 Stephenson Road Lithonia, GA 30058 DeKalb County
 (678) 526-0160

Regional Consultant

Evon Hewitt

Phone: ()

Fax:

evon.hewitt@dec.al.ga.gov

Mailing Address

1828 STEPHENSON ROAD
 Lithonia, GA 30058

Quality Rated: ★ ★

<u>Compliance Zone Designation</u>			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.
04/01/2026	Licensing Study	Good Standing	
11/05/2025	Monitoring Visit	Good Standing	
02/11/2025	Licensing Study	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	Activity Rm.	Five Year Olds and Six Year Olds and Over	1	7	C	0	NC	NA	NA	
Main	A-Infants		0	0	C	6	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
Main	B- Toddler C		0	0	C	15	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
Main	C-Elem. A/AS		0	0	C	22	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
Main	D-Elem. D/AS		0	0	C	22	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
Main	F- Primary A	Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds and Five Year Olds	1	10	C	21	C	NA	NA	Transitioning, Outside
Main	G-Primary A		0	0	C	21	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
Main	H-Toddler B		0	0	C	23	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
Main	I-Toddler A		0	0	C	15	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
Main	J-Crawlers		0	0	C	16	C	NA	NA	Not In Use

Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 138

Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0

Building @35 capacity limited by Centers Request

Total # Children this Date: 17

Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 138

Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0

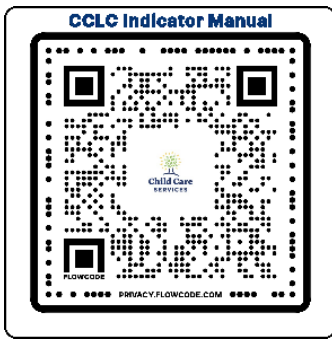
Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
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<u>Enrolled Children</u>						
Under 1 years	1 years	2 years	3 years	4 years	5 years (Prekonly)	5 years and older
0	0	0	3	12	0	22

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@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 Licensing Study:

Activities and Equipment

591-1-1-.03 Activities

Not Met

Finding

591-1-1-.03(2) requires the Center to keep current lesson plans on site that reflect appropriate instruction practices and activities to support children's development. The Center shall have sufficient and varied play and learning equipment and materials to support the above program of activities in all developmental areas. It was determined based on observation that classroom F- Primary A did not have a current lesson plan posted as required on this date.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will keep current lesson plans on site that include appropriate instruction practices and activities and will have sufficient and varied play and learning equipment and materials to support the activities.

Correction Deadline: 4/1/2026

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

Met

Correction Deadline: 11/5/2025

Corrected on 4/1/2026

.12(4) - Previous citation corrected in that the Consultant did not observe the Center to have any potential tipping hazards accessible to children on this date.

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

N/A

Comment

Center does not provide swimming activities.

Children's Records

Finding

591-1-1-.08(1) requires the Center Staff to maintain a file for each child while such child is in care and for one year after that child is no longer enrolled. In order for the file to be complete, the file shall contain the following: child's name, birth date, sex, address, living arrangement, name of school if applicable; names of both Parents, home and work addresses, and home and work telephone numbers; name(s) and addresses of the person(s) to whom the child may be released including address, telephone numbers, relationship to child and to Parent(s), and other identifying information; name(s) and telephone number(s) of person(s) to contact in emergencies when the Parent cannot be reached; name and telephone number of the child's primary source of health care; and a statement regarding known allergies, physical problems, mental health disorders, intellectual disabilities or developmental disabilities which limit the child's participation in the program. It was determined based on a review of records that the Provider was unable to provide the requested enrollment files for five children as required.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

Center staff will develop a plan that includes how to obtain all required information for currently enrolled children and how to ensure this is done for future enrollees as well. The plan will also include how and where to maintain files for the required amount of time. The plan will be implemented and followed.

Correction Deadline: 4/1/2026

	Facility
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591-1-1-.06 Bathrooms

Met

Comment

Bathrooms observed to be clean and well maintained.

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

Correction Deadline: 11/5/2025

Corrected on 4/1/2026

.25(12) - Previous citation corrected in that the Consultant did not observe any bladeless fans accessible to children 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 observations that the following potential hazards were accessible to children on this date:

Classroom Activity Rm.

-There were two brooms located at the front right of the classroom.

Classroom F- Primary A

-There was a pink cloth tote bag with a pack of Pampers baby wipes, an aerosol spray bottle of Banana Boat sunscreen spray, and an aerosol spray bottle of TREK insect repellent next to the children's cubbies located to the front right of the classroom.

-There was a plastic grocery bag, a ziplock plastic bag with a plastic slider, and two packs of assorted brand baby wipes inside the children's cubbies located at the front right of the classroom.

-There were four packs of assorted brand baby wipes on top of the cubbies located at the front right 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: 4/2/2026

Recited on 4/1/2026

Technical Assistance

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. The Consultant and Provider discussed ensuring that the bathroom toilet bolts are covered to prevent children's access to rust.

Correction Deadline: 4/1/2026

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 potential electrical hazards were accessible to children on this date:

Classroom Activity Rm.

-There were two hanging electrical cords located at the front right of the classroom.

-There were two hanging electrical cords located at the back left 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: 4/2/2026

Recited on 4/1/2026

591-1-1-.26 Playgrounds(CR)	Met
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Correction Deadline: 11/7/2025

Corrected on 4/1/2026

.26(9) - Previous citation corrected in that the Consultant did not observe any playground hazards on this date.

Health and Hygiene

591-1-1-.10 Diapering Areas & Practices(CR)	Met
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Comment

Staff stated proper knowledge of diapering procedures.

591-1-1-.17 Hygiene(CR)	Met
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Correction Deadline: 11/5/2025

Corrected on 4/1/2026

.17(6) - Previous citation corrected in that the Consultant observed the trash cans to have tight fitting lids are required on this date.

591-1-1-.20 Medications(CR)	N/A
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Comment

The Provider currently does not dispense/administer medication.

Policies and Procedures

591-1-1-.21 Operational Policies & Procedures	Not Met
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Finding

591-1-1-.21(3) requires 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. It was determined based on a review of records that Center Staff did not provide documentation of completing emergency drills for the months of January through March 2026 as required on this date.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will hold the drills as required and keep the documentation of the drills on file for two years.

Correction Deadline: 4/6/2026

Safety

Correction Deadline: 11/5/2025

Corrected on 4/1/2026

.05(2) - Previous citation corrected in that the Consultant did not observe any pets/animal pens on site during the inspection.

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

Age-appropriate discussion and/or redirection observed.

591-1-1-.36 Transportation(CR)**Not Met****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 that the following staff did not have documentation of completing two hours of transportation training as required on this date:

Staff #2, unknown hire date

Staff #3, unknown hire date

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will ensure that the Director, Center Staff, and any person responsible for the transportation of children has completed the required transportation training.

Correction Deadline: 4/22/2026

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 the vehicle used for the transportation of children (Tag# QBB5507) had a roll of black trash bags on the left side of the 2nd row accessible to children on this date. It was further determined that the same vehicle had a pair of jumper cables in a bucket on the floor of the first row of seating accessible to children on this date.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

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

Correction Deadline: 4/2/2026

Finding

591-1-1-.36(4)(c) requires that each vehicle be equipped with a fire extinguisher maintained in working order and kept inaccessible to children. It was determined based on observation that the vehicle used for the transportation of children (Tag# QBB5507) had a fire extinguisher that was not in working order on this date.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The center will ensure that each vehicle has a working fire extinguisher and that the fire extinguisher is kept out of reach of children.

Correction Deadline: 4/5/2026

Finding

591-1-1-.36(7)(c) requires the center to use passenger transportation checklists, in a format approved by the Department, to account for each child during transportation. A separate passenger checklist must be used for each vehicle. It was determined based on observation that the Center did not have passenger transportation checklists from the past two weeks available for review as required on this date.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will maintain a passenger checklist as required.

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-.09 Criminal Records Check(CR)

Met

Comment

Criminal records checks were observed to be complete.

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

Not Met

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 a review of records that the following staff did not have documentation of completing First Aid and CPR training as required on this date:

Staff #1, unknown hire date

Staff #2, unknown hire date

Staff #3, unknown hire date

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Director will schedule and/or position caregiver Staff throughout the Center to ensure at least one currently pediatric CPR and First Aid trained Staff person is present in each classroom where children are present.

Correction Deadline: 4/22/2026

591-1-1-.33 Staff Training

Not Met

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 that the following Staff did not have documentation of completing training in Initial Center Orientation as required on this date:

Staff #1, Unknown hire date

Staff #2, Unknown hire date

Staff #3, Unknown hire date

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will develop and provide orientation for all new Staff prior to their assignment to children or task.

Correction Deadline: 4/8/2026

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.33(5)(b)1. - New - . requires the annual ten (10) clock hours of training shall include at least two (2) hours in evidence based, developmentally appropriate language and literacy practices. The Consultant and Provider discussed ensuring that the annual ten (10) clock hours of training shall include at least two (2) hours in evidence based, developmentally appropriate language and literacy practices.

Correction Deadline: 5/1/2026

Finding

591-1-1-.33(5)(b)(2)(i)-(iv) requires the annual ten (10) clock hours of training shall include at least two (2) hours in on-going child development and health and safety related topics, which could include, but not be limited to:

(i) Child development (e.g., developmental domains (cognitive; social and emotional; physical development and motor skills; communication, language, and literacy; approaches to play and learning), discipline and guidance techniques, children with special needs); (ii) Health (e.g., nutrition and the support of breast feeding, physical activity, prevention and control of illnesses and infectious diseases, immunizations, prevention of and response to emergencies due to food and allergic reactions, cleanliness, sanitation, and the appropriate disposal of bio contaminants); (iii) Safety (e.g., prevention of Sudden Unexpected Infant Death (SUID) which includes Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) and the use of safe sleeping practices, medication administration, injury control and prevention, transportation, handling and storage of hazardous materials, identification of and protection from hazards that can cause bodily injury such as electrical hazards, bodies of water, and vehicular traffic, and emergency preparedness planning and response); (iv) Child abuse and neglect (e.g., identification and reporting, meeting the needs of abused and/or neglected children, prevention of shaken baby syndrome, abusive head trauma and child maltreatment). It was determined based on a review of records that the following Center Staff did not have documentation of completing health and safety training as required on this date:

Staff #1, unknown hire date

Staff #2, unknown hire date

Staff #3, unknown hire date

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will plan and schedule the required 10 hours of annual training each year to include a least two (2) hours of on-going child development and health and safety related topics and follow up to ensure the training is completed.

Correction Deadline: 5/1/2026

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

Correction Deadline: 11/5/2025

Corrected on 4/1/2026

.32(2) - Previous citation corrected in that the Consultant observed the Center maintain appropriate Staff:child ratios on this date.

Correction Deadline: 11/5/2025

Corrected on 4/1/2026

.32(4) - Previous citation corrected in that the Consultant did not observe any children under three years old present during the inspection.

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

Met

Comment

Adequate supervision observed on this date.