



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: 5/27/2026 **VisitType:** Licensing Study

Arrival: 10:00 AM **Departure:** 2:00 PM

CCLC-49557

Kids Community Learning Center

2209 Cleveland Highway Dalton, GA 30721 Whitfield County
(706) 259-8662

Regional Consultant

Megan OMary

Phone: (706) 451-0819

Fax: Megan OMary

megan.omary@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.
05/27/2026	Licensing Study	Good Standing	
12/30/2025	Monitoring Visit	Good Standing	
12/02/2024	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
B-Behind A Left	B-3 (Pre-K 5)	Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds and Five Year Olds and Six Year Olds and Over	2	21	C	22	C	NA	NA	Outside
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 22			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0							
C-Back Left Bldg	Front Room- Infants		0	0	C	7	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 7			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0							
D-Middle Bldg	Downstairs -2's	One Year Olds and Two Year Olds	1	9	C	11	C	NA	NA	Outside
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 11			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0							
E-Back Right	#11		0	0	C	20	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 20			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0							
F-Back Right	#12- Upstairs (Pre-K 2)		0	0	C	22	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
F-Back Right	Back-Downstairs(Pre-K 3)		0	0	C	22	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 44			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0							
G	14-BL Bldg-Head Start		0	0	C	30	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 30			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0							
Main	A-1 (Mid Left) Infants	Infants	1	6	C	6	C	NA	NA	Free Play,Feeding

Main	A-2 (Front Left) 3's	Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds and Five Year Olds	2	22	C	22	C	NA	NA	Outside
Main	A-3 (Back Right) 2's	Infants and One Year Olds	2	12	C	11	NC	NA	NA	Outside
Main	A5-Middle Right Rm (1's)	Two Year Olds	1	10	C	9	NC	NA	NA	Free Play, Centers
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 48			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0							
Total # Children this Date: 80			Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 182			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0				

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
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Enrolled Children						
Under 1 years	1 years	2 years	3 years	4 years	5 years (Prekonly)	5 years and older
11	13	27	39	0	0	9

Comments

The findings of this report were reviewed with the Director.

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

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 Licensing Study:

Activities and Equipment

591-1-1-.03 Activities

Met

Comment

Age-appropriate activities observed throughout the center.

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)

N/A

Comment

Center does not provide swimming activities.

Facility

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

Not Met

Finding

591-1-1-.19(1) requires a Center to provide 35 square feet of usable space per child, which will determine the Center's License capacity. It was determined based on observation that the license capacity of Room Main A5-Middle Right Rm (1's) Two Year Olds was exceeded, as the room was approved for nine children and ten children were present. Additionally, the license capacity of Room Main A-3(back Right) 2's was exceeded, as the room was approved for eleven and twelve children were present.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will limit the number of children in this space to the licensed capacity.

Correction Deadline: 5/27/2026

Recited on 5/27/2026

591-1-1-.25 Physical Plant - Safe Environment(CR)

Met

Comment

No hazards observed accessible to children on this date.

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

Met

Comment

Playground observed to be clean and in good repair on this date.

Health and Hygiene

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

Proper diapering procedures observed.

591-1-1-.17 Hygiene(CR)	Met
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Comment

Proper hand washing observed throughout the center on this date.

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

The Provider currently does not dispense/administer medication.

Safety

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

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

591-1-1-.36 Transportation(CR)	N/A
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Comment

Center does not provide routine transportation.

Sleeping & Resting Equipment

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

Pleasant naptime environment observed.

Staff Records

Records Reviewed: 23

Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 1
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Staff # 17

Not Met

Date of Hire: 10/19/2020

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.09-Criminal Records Check Missing,.09-Criminal Records Check Dissatisfied

591-1-1-.09 Criminal Records and Comprehensive Background Checks(CR)	Not Met
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Finding

591-1-1-.09(1)(c) requires the Center to ensure that every Employee has a valid and current satisfactory Comprehensive Records Check Determination on file prior to being present at the Center while any child is present for care or before an individual age 17 or older resides in the Center. The Comprehensive Records Check Determination must have a Records Check Clearance Date that is no older than the preceding 12 months of the hire date; provided, however, if the Employee has had a lapse of employment from the child care industry that lasted for 180 days (6 months) or longer, a new satisfactory Comprehensive Records Check Determination is required. It was determined based on a review of records, Staff #17 did not have valid evidence of a satisfactory Comprehensive Records Check Determination.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

IMMEDIATE CORRECTION - The Center will check to ensure that every Employee has a valid and current satisfactory Comprehensive Records Check Determination on file prior to being present at the Center while any child is present for care or before an individual age 17 or older resides in the Center. The Comprehensive Records Check Determination must have a Records Check Clearance Date that is no older than the preceding 12 months of the hire date; provided, however, if the Employee has had a lapse of employment from the child care industry that lasted for 180 days (6 months) or longer, a new satisfactory Comprehensive Records Check Determination is required. The program's owner or an officer/member of the corporation must view the A to Z Background Check video units pertaining to this records check rule and return the signed affidavit within one week from this visit date. The center will check to ensure the CRC rules are maintained. Director sent employee home and to get CRC and fingerprints on 05/27/2026.

Correction Deadline: 5/27/2026

Finding

591-1-1-.09(1)(l)3. requires the Center to immediately require a new Comprehensive Records Check Determination for a Director, Employee or Provisional Employee at least once every five years. It was determined based on a review of records, Staff #17, with a hire date of October 19, 2020 had a Comprehensive Records Check Determination that expired on September 14, 2025.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

IMMEDIATE CORRECTION - The Center will check to ensure that each Director, Employee and Provisional Employee has a Comprehensive Records Check Determination on file that has been issued within the past five years. The program's owner or an officer/member of the corporation must view the A to Z Background Check video units pertaining to this records check rule and return the signed affidavit within one week from this visit date. The Center will check to ensure CRC rules are maintained. Center sent employee to get CRC and fingerprints on 05/27/2026.

Correction Deadline: 5/27/2026

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.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

Center has a CPR class scheduled for Thursday, May 28, 2026 to certify new staff members.

591-1-1-.31 Staff(CR)**Met****Comment**

Discussed that all lead staff must enroll in an approved education program within 6 months of hire and complete degree within 18 months.

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**

Correction Deadline: 12/30/2025

Corrected on 5/27/2026

.32(7) - The previous citation was observed corrected on this date. Staff were seated with children during mealtimes.