



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: 7/15/2025 VisitType: Licensing Study

Arrival: 8:45 AM Departure: 1:30 PM

CCLC-36694

1st Step Learning Academy L.L.C

3217 New MacLand Road Suite 120 & 130 Powder Springs, GA
30127 Cobb County
(678) 401-2379

Regional Consultant

Kaiyah Werts

Phone: (912) 544-9793

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kaiyah.werts@dec.al.ga.gov

Mailing Address

Same

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.
07/15/2025	Licensing Study	Support	
08/13/2024	Licensing Study	Good Standing	
01/18/2024	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
Building 2	One room	Six Year Olds and Over	1	8	C	25	C	NA	NA	Free Play
			Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 25		Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0					
Main	B- 2nd Right		0	0	C	10	C	NA	NA	
Main	C-1st Left	Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds	1	4	C	18	C	NA	NA	Centers
Main	D- 2nd Left	One Year Olds and Two Year Olds	2	8	C	9	C	NA	NA	Free Play
Main	Rm. A-1st Right	Infants	1	1	C	6	C	NA	NA	Free Play
			Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 43		Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0					
Total # Children this Date: 21			Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 68		Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0					

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	Playground-Back of Center	29	C

Enrolled Children						
Under 1 years	1 years	2 years	3 years	4 years	5 years (Prekonly)	5 years and older
4	5	14	10	6	0	5

Comments

Consultant discussed the licensing visit process and the updated rule changes with the new director at the time of the visit.



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.state.ga.us/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.state.ga.us/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.state.ga.us 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-.12 Equipment & Toys(CR)

Technical Assistance

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.12(2) - Please be sure to monitor child size furniture for rips and tears.

Correction Deadline: 7/15/2025

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

N/A

Comment

Center does not provide swimming activities.

Children's Records

591-1-1-.08 Children's Records

Met

Comment

Records were observed to be complete and well organized.

Facility

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.

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 classrooms and were labeled keep out of reach of children:

Classroom D-2nd Left

- There was an unlocked cabinet on the diapering station with Aquaphor, Diaper Paste, Desitin Cream, sunscreen, body wash, Vaseline, and baby wipes labeled keep out of reach of children that were accessible to children.
- The Consultant also observed Lysol Spray, Lysol Wipes, and a first aid kit on the portable sink accessible to children.

Classroom C-1st Left

- Lysol Wipes and latex gloves on the half wall ledge accessible to children.

Correction Deadline: 7/15/2025

Recited on 7/15/2025

Defer

591-1-1-.25(3)- The previous citation was deferred and discussed with the director on this date. Ceiling tiles in Classroom A-1st Right were in the process of being repaired at the time of the visit.

Correction Deadline: 8/13/2024

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

Met

Comment

Discussed the shrubs growing through the fence on the playground. Discussed with the director to have the shrubs cleared out. .

Comment

Playground observed to be in good repair on this date.

Correction Deadline: 8/13/2024

Corrected on 7/15/2025

.26(9) - The previous citation was observed corrected on this date. Consultant observed to be in good repair. The soft plush climbing equipment with rips and tears were removed and broken equipment were removed.

Food Service

591-1-1-.15 Food Service & Nutrition

Met

Comment

Center menu meets USDA guidelines.

Comment

Kitchen appeared clean and well organized on this date.

Health and Hygiene**591-1-1-.10 Diapering Areas & Practices(CR)**

Met

Comment

Staff stated proper knowledge of diapering procedures.

Correction Deadline: 8/13/2024

Corrected on 7/15/2025

.10(1) - The previous citation was observed corrected on this date. Consultant observed the exhaust vent in room D-2nd Left to be in use during diapering and free of dust. The exhaust vent in classroom A-1st Right was observed to be free of dust.

Correction Deadline: 8/13/2024

Corrected on 7/15/2025

.10(2) - The previous citation was observed corrected on this date. Consultant observed classroom D-2nd Left had a portable sink that was operating as required.

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

Met

Comment

Staff stated the proper hand washing procedures throughout the center on this date.

591-1-1-.20 Medications(CR)

N/A

Comment

The Provider currently does not dispense/administer medication.

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

Not Met

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 observation the center was missing a completed emergency drill form.

Correction Deadline: 7/20/2025

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

N/A

Comment

Center does not keep animals on premises.

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

Met

Comment

Age-appropriate discussion and/or redirection observed.

591-1-1-.13 Field Trips(CR)

N/A

Comment

Center does not participate in field trips at this time.

Comment

Center does not provide routine transportation at this time.

Sleeping & Resting Equipment**591-1-1-.30 Safe Sleeping and Resting Requirements(CR)****Not Met****Comment**

Discussed SIDS and infant sleeping position.

Finding

591-1-1-.30(1)(a)3 requires that each crib shall have only an individual, tight-fitting sheet which is changed daily or more often as needed and prior to a change of occupant. It was determined based on observation that 1 of 4 cribs sheets were very loose when the Consultant conducted the pinch and pull test.

Correction Deadline: 7/15/2025

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.30(1)(b)1 - Please be sure to monitor the mats in the center. Mats should be free of any rips or tears with exposed foam.

Correction Deadline: 7/15/2025

Correction Deadline: 8/13/2024

Corrected on 7/15/2025

.30(2) - The previous citation was observed corrected on this date. Consultant observed four cribs to not have any attachments or toys inside the crib.

591-1-1-.09 Criminal Records and Comprehensive Background Checks(CR)

Met

Comment

Criminal record checks were observed to be complete.

Comment

Director provided four file for employees hired since last visit.

Correction Deadline: 8/13/2024

Corrected on 7/15/2025

.09(1)(a) - The previous citation was observed corrected on this date. Consultant observed all employed staff to have completed their fingerprints at the time of the visit.

Correction Deadline: 8/13/2024

Corrected on 7/15/2025

.09(1)(c) - The previous citation was observed corrected on this date. Consultant observed all employed staff to have a Satisfactory Comprehensive Background Check on file, at the time of the visit.

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

Met

Comment

Complete first aid kits observed in the center on this date.

Comment

Evidence observed of 100% of center Staff certified in First Aid and CPR containing emergency care for infants and children on this date.

591-1-1-.33 Staff Training

Technical Assistance

Comment

Documentation observed of required Health and Safety Orientation Training.

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.33(4) - Please be ensure that all staff responsible for the food preparation has a completed nutrition training on file.

Correction Deadline: 8/14/2025

Correction Deadline: 1/18/2024

Corrected on 7/15/2025

.33(5) - The previous citation was observed corrected on this date. Consultant observed many new staff that did not require annual training. Consultant discussed the new rules for annul training with the director.

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.33(6) - Please ensure all staff has a completed Documentation of Orientation on file with their hire date.

Correction Deadline: 7/25/2025

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 or certificate within 18 months.

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.

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 the staff in classroom A-1st Right walked out of the classroom for approximately one minute to greet the Consultant and to point the Consultant in the right direction of the Director, leaving one infant unattended in the classroom. .

Correction Deadline: 7/15/2025

Recited on 7/15/2025