



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: 3/5/2026

VisitType: Licensing Study

Arrival: 11:00 AM **Departure:** 2:00 PM

CCLC-62918

Early Childhood Academy

323 Church Street Thomson, GA 30824 McDuffie County
(706) 595-0403

Regional Consultant

Kajora McCoy

Phone: (678) 239-9361

Fax:

kajora.mccoy@decal.ga.gov

Mailing Address

Same

Quality Rated: No

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.
03/05/2026	Licensing Study	Good Standing	
12/12/2025	POI Follow Up	Good Standing	
07/08/2025	Complaint Closure	Deficient	

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	Room A 1st R Hall 1st R Room	Two Year Olds	2	11	C	17	C	NA	NA	Transitioning,Lu nch
Main	Room B 1st R Hall 2nd R Room	Two Year Olds	2	14	C	17	C	NA	NA	Lunch
Main	Room C 1st R Hall 3rd R Room	Infants and One Year Olds	1	4	C	16	C	NA	NA	Floor Play
Main	Room D 1st R Hall 4th R Room	Four Year Olds	1	10	C	18	C	NA	NA	Lunch
Main	Room E Back Hall Right		0	0	C	15	C	NA	NA	
Main	Room F Back Hall Left	One Year Olds and Two Year Olds	2	16	C	15	NC	NA	NA	Lunch
Main	Room G 2nd R Hall 4th L Room	One Year Olds	2	11	C	18	C	NA	NA	Transitioning,Lu nch
Main	Room H 2nd R Hall 3rd L Room	Infants	2	8	C	17	C	NA	NA	Floor Play,Diapering
Main	Room I 2nd R Hall 2nd L Room	Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds	1	12	C	17	C	NA	NA	Transitioning
Main	Room J 2nd R Hall 1st L Room	Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds	1	11	C	17	C	NA	NA	Transitioning
		Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 167			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0			Building @35 capacity limited by Centers Request		
Total # Children this Date: 97		Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 167			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0					

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	1 Preschool (left)	58	C

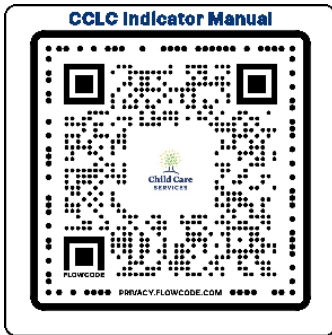
Main	2 Toddler (middle)	20	C
Main	3 Infants/Ones/Twos (Right)	20	C

Enrolled Children						
Under 1 years	1 years	2 years	3 years	4 years	5 years (Prekonly)	5 years and older
15	29	25	29	12	0	13

Comments

The Consultant left resources regarding ventilation and rule guidance surrounding using windows for ventilation. The Consultant also left Chop, Look, Listen resources with the center.

Plan of Improvement: No Plan Developed



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 Licensing Study:

Activities and Equipment

591-1-1-.03 Activities

Technical Assistance

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.03(2) - Please ensure that lesson plans are available for all operating classrooms.

Correction Deadline: 3/5/2026

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

Technical Assistance

Comment

A variety of equipment and toys were observed throughout the center on this date.

Comment

Equipment and furniture observed to be properly secured, as applicable.

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.12(1) - Please ensure that toys that require batteries are in working condition.

Correction Deadline: 3/5/2026

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

Parent authorizations obtained/completed.

Comment

Records were observed to be complete and well organized.

Facility

591-1-1-.06 Bathrooms

Technical Assistance

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.06(4) - Please ensure that bathrooms and diapering areas are properly ventilated with a open screened window if an exhaust fan is not available.

Correction Deadline: 4/4/2026

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

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

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

No hazards observed accessible to children on this date.

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.25(3) - Please ensure that windows are in good repair.

Correction Deadline: 3/5/2026

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

Discussed maintenance of resilient surface. Please fluff and redistribute.

Comment

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

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

Center menu meets USDA guidelines.

591-1-1-.18 Kitchen Operations	Met
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Comment

Kitchen appears clean and well organized on this date.

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

Proper diapering procedures observed.

Comment

Staff stated proper knowledge of diapering procedures.

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.

	Policies and Procedures
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591-1-1-.21 Operational Policies & Procedures	Met
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Comment

Program observed complete emergency drills

591-1-1-.27 Posted Notices	Met
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Comment

Observed all required posted notices.

591-1-1-.29 Required Reporting	Met
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Comment

Thank you for reporting as required.

	Safety
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591-1-1-.05 Animals	N/A
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Comment

Center does not keep animals on premises.

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-.13 Field Trips(CR)	N/A
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Comment

Center does not participate in field trips at this time.

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

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

Criminal record checks were observed to be complete.

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

Complete documentation of transportation observed. on this date.

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

Center observed to maintain appropriate staff:child ratios.

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

Staff observed to provide direct supervision and be attentive to children's needs.