



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: 4/9/2026

VisitType: Licensing Study

Arrival: 12:00 PM **Departure:** 3:45 PM

CCLC-26917

Sweetwater Academy

35 Florence Road Douglasville, GA 30134 Paulding County
 (770) 942-7233

Regional Consultant

Kaiyah Werts

Phone: (912) 544-9793

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kaiyah.werts@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.
04/09/2026	Licensing Study	Good Standing	
11/17/2025	Complaint Closure	Good Standing	
11/14/2025	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
Main	First Back		0	0	C	25	C	NA	NA	
Main	First Left	Two Year Olds and Three Year Olds	2	8	C	14	C	NA	NA	Nap
Main	First Right	Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds	2	16	C	27	C	NA	NA	Nap
Main	Fourth Left(Right)	Four Year Olds and Five Year Olds and Six Year Olds and Over	3	25	C	26	C	NA	NA	Circle Time
Main	Second Left	Infants and One Year Olds	2	4	C	23	C	NA	NA	Nap,Diapering
Main	Second Right (Left)		0	0	C	26	C	NA	NA	

Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 141

Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0

Total # Children this Date: 53

Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 141

Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0

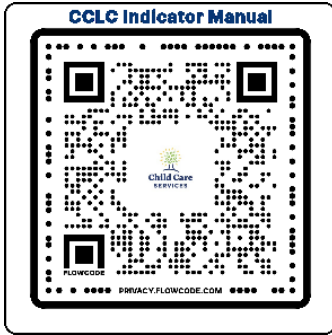
Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	Playground A	184	C
Main	Playground B	96	C

Enrolled Children						
Under 1 years	1 years	2 years	3 years	4 years	5 years (Prekonly)	5 years and older
2	6	14	24	30	28	35

Comments

Consultant discussed the report and addressed any questions and concerns.

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.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

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.dec.state.ga.us/> 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(j)(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

Date: 4/9/2026 VisitType: Licensing Study

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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) - Discussed with the Director to ensure lesson plans are updated regularly.

Correction Deadline: 4/9/2026

Comment

Age-appropriate activities observed throughout the center.

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

Not Met

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.

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 classroom First Left had a plush red couch and blue chair with small tears accessible to children.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

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

Correction Deadline: 4/9/2026

Recited on 4/9/2026

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

Not Evaluated

Comment

Pool not in use at this time, gates observed locked.

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.

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

No hazards observed accessible to children on this date.

Comment

Please secure cleaning tools (i.e., broom, plunger) out of reach of children.

Comment

The Center appeared clean and well maintained on this date.

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.25(3) - Discussed with the Director to ensure the right sink faucet, in the Preschool classroom, is in good repair.

Correction Deadline: 4/9/2026

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

Playground observed to be clean on this date.

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.26(4) - Discussed with the Director to ensure the rubber mulch is fluffed daily so that it does not push the fencing material off of the post.

Correction Deadline: 4/9/2026

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 Playground A had multiple play structures with chipped paint and rusted areas at the time of the visit. It was also determined that the wooden gazebo had peeling paint and rough to the touch at the time to the visit.

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: 4/30/2026

Food Service

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

Please ensure that infant feeding forms are updated regularly.

Comment

CACFP Meal Pattern Requirements effective October 1, 2017 will be implemented October 1, 2018: 3

Components for breakfast: Grains, Vegetables, Fruits or both, Milk

5 Components for lunch – Grains, Meat/Meat alternates, Fruits, Vegetable, and Milk OR Grains, Meat/Meat alternates, 2 different types of vegetables, and Milk

2 of 5 Components for snack

Provided Updated CACFP Infant Meal pattern and Child/Adult Meal pattern flyers.

The Crediting Handbook for the CACFP can be located on DECAL and USDA's website:

DECAL

<http://decal.ga.gov/CACFP/Handbook.aspx>

USDA

<http://www.fns.usda.gov/cacfp/cacfp-handbooks>

Comment

Kitchen appeared clean and well organized on this date.

Finding

591-1-1-.18(5) requires the refrigeration of all perishable and potentially hazardous foods at 40 degrees Fahrenheit or below and served promptly after cooking. Freezer temperature shall be maintained at zero (0) degrees Fahrenheit or below. It was determined based on observation that the refrigerator, in the kitchen, was at a temperature of 48 degrees when 40 degrees was required.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will refrigerate foods as required, will train Staff on proper refrigerator and freezer temperature settings and monitor the settings. Food will be served promptly after cooking.

Correction Deadline: 4/9/2026

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

Not Met

Comment

Staff stated proper knowledge of diapering procedures.

Finding

591-1-1-.10(4) requires that if diapers are changed on a diaper changing surface, the surface shall be smooth, nonporous, and equipped with a guard or rails to prevent falls. Between each diaper change, the diaper changing surface shall be cleaned with a disinfectant and dried with a single-use disposable towel. It was determined based on observation that the changing pad on the diapering table had rips and tears and was no longer nonporous.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will ensure there is a smooth, nonporous changing surface that has a guard or rails for safety in each classroom that houses children wearing diapers. Center Staff will be trained and have adequate supplies to properly clean the diaper changing surface between each diaper change.

Correction Deadline: 4/9/2026

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

Not Met

Comment

Staff were observed to remind children to wash hands on this date.

Finding

591-1-1-17(7) requires that children wash their hands with liquid soap and warm running water upon arrival for care, when moving from one child care group to another, upon re-entering the child care area after outside play, before and after eating meals and snacks, handling or touching food, playing in water; after toileting and diapering, playing in sand, touching animals or pets, and contact with bodily fluids and after contamination by any other means. It was determined based on staff statements that baby wipes were used to wash the infant's hands when soap and water was required for all children who are able to sit up on their own.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will train Staff on required handwashing for children and Staff will ensure children's hands are washed when required. The Director will monitor for compliance.

Correction Deadline: 4/9/2026

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

Met

Comment

Documentation for medication dispensing observed completed on this date.

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

Technical Assistance

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.21(3) - Discussed with the Director to ensure fire drills are noted for every month.

Correction Deadline: 4/14/2026

Safety

591-1-1-.05 Animals**Met****Comment**

Center does not keep animals on premises.

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

Age-appropriate discussion or redirection stated by staff.

591-1-1-.13 Field Trips(CR)**Not Evaluated****Comment**

Center does not participate in field trips at this time.

591-1-1-.36 Transportation(CR)**Not Met****Comment**

A current/completed inspection was observed for all vehicles used in transporting children this date.

Comment

Complete documentation of transportation observed on this date.

Comment

The vehicle had an approved fire extinguisher and first aid kit on this date.

Finding

591-1-1-.36(7)(c)2. requires that the driver or other designated person shall immediately document in writing, with a check or other mark/symbol to account for each child listed on the passenger transportation checklist each time a child enters and exits the vehicle. The driver or other designated staff person shall document in writing with a different mark/symbol to account for each child listed on the passenger transportation checklist who was not present on the vehicle for any reason. An explanation shall be documented in writing whenever a child is transported to a field trip site but is not present on the return trip to the Center. It was determined based on review of records that the morning route for Baggett Elementary School, March 30, 2026 through April 3, 2026 was missing a mark that accounted for one child.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The driver/other designated person will immediately document in writing with a check/mark/symbol each time a child gets on and off the vehicle.

Correction Deadline: 4/10/2026

Correction Deadline: 11/15/2025

Corrected on 4/9/2026

.36(7)(d)1. - Previous citation observed corrected on this date. Consultant observed the first check on all transportation documents.

Correction Deadline: 11/14/2025

Corrected on 4/9/2026

.36(7)(d)2. - Previous citation corrected on this date. Consultant observed second checks on all transportation documents.

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

Discussed SIDS and infant sleeping position.

Comment

The correct number of cots, sheets and blankets were observed on this date. Cleaning and disinfecting of cots was discussed with the staff on this date.

Correction Deadline: 11/14/2025

Corrected on 4/9/2026

.30(2) - Previous citation corrected on this date. Consultant observed all cribs, in use, to be empty during the time of the visit.

Staff Records

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

Consultant requested to view all Criminal Record checks for employees hired after last visit. Director stated that there have been no new hires since last visit

Comment

Criminal record checks were observed to be complete.

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

Complete first aid kits observed in center and on vehicles 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**Met****Comment**

Documentation observed of required staff training.

Comment

Health and Safety Orientation Training completed as required for each staff member with direct care responsibilities within 90 calendar days of their hire date.

Correction Deadline: 12/31/2025

Corrected on 4/9/2026

.33(5) - Previous citation observed corrected on this date. Consultant observed all staff with completed annual training for 2025.

Comment

Complete documentation of transportation observed. on this date.

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)**Not Met****Comment**

Center observed to maintain appropriate staff:child ratios.

Finding

591-1-1-.32(4) requires that children under three years old be housed in separate physical areas from older children and cannot be mixed with older children except at specified times and circumstances. It was determined based on observation that there were one 3-year-old in a classroom with 2-year-olds at the time of the visit.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will maintain separation of these children under three years old.

Correction Deadline: 4/9/2026

Finding

591-1-1-.32(4)(b) allows children who turn three years old during the regular school year to remain with two year olds for the remainder of the school year but requires agreement from the older child's Parent(s) for the continued placement. It was determined based on review of records that the center did not have written permission from the 2-year-old parents to have a 3-year-old in the same classroom.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will secure parental permission and keep it on file.

Correction Deadline: 4/9/2026

Comment

Adequate supervision observed on this date.