



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: 9/24/2025 **VisitType:** Licensing Study

Arrival: 9:50 AM **Departure:** 5:50 PM

CCLC-35355

Christ Church Presbyterian

510 South Tibbs Road Dalton, GA 30720 Whitfield County
 (706) 226-5437

Lead Consultant

Dianne Clarke

Phone: (770) 357-4923

Fax: (770) 357-4922

dianne.clarke@decal.ga.gov

Joint with: Megan OMary

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.
09/24/2025	Licensing Study	Good Standing	
02/13/2025	Complaint Closure	Good Standing	
12/31/2024	Complaint Closure	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
Ft. Hall Jonah's Way	1-1st left		0	0	C	12	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
Ft. Hall Jonah's Way	2-1st Right	One Year Olds	2	7	C	13	C	NA	NA	Outside,Centers
Ft. Hall Jonah's Way	3-1st Left	Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds	2	11	C	13	C	NA	NA	Circle Time,Centers
Ft. Hall Jonah's Way	4-2nd Right	One Year Olds	2	9	C	13	C	NA	NA	Circle Time,Story
Ft. Hall Jonah's Way	5-2nd Left		0	0	C	14	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
Ft. Hall Jonah's Way	6-3rd right	Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds	2	13	C	31	C	NA	NA	Centers,Outside
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 96					Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0					
New Wing	10-2nd Right	Two Year Olds and Three Year Olds	2	11	C	16	C	NA	NA	Free Play
New Wing	11-3Rd Left	Three Year Olds	2	11	C	18	C	NA	NA	Centers
New Wing	12-3Rd Right	Two Year Olds and Three Year Olds	2	14	C	17	C	NA	NA	Nap,Centers
New Wing	14-4th Right	Three Year Olds	2	12	C	17	C	NA	NA	Transitioning

New Wing	7-1st Left	Infants	2	6	C	15	C	NA	NA	Nap,Free Play
New Wing	8-1st Right	Two Year Olds and Three Year Olds	2	11	C	16	C	NA	NA	Story,Free Play
New Wing	9-2nd Left	Infants	2	6	C	16	C	NA	NA	Nap
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 90			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0			Building @35 capacity limited by Centers Request				
Second Wing Upstairs	201		0	0	C	10	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
Second Wing Upstairs	203		0	0	C	13	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
Second Wing Upstairs	204		0	0	C	13	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 36			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0							
Total # Children this Date: 111			Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 222			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0				

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
----------	------------	----------------------	-----------------------

Enrolled Children						
Under 1 years	1 years	2 years	3 years	4 years	5 years (Prekonly)	5 years and older
15	20	36	39	15	0	0

Comments

Be sure to enter all temporary closures by 7 a.m. (vacation, emergencies, school closures, inclement weather, holidays etc...) in DECAL KOALA at all times under the Required Report tab whenever your facility is closed temporarily because you are not caring for children for one or more days. SAVE the report before exiting.

All amendments are required to be electronically submitted in DECAL KOALA.

Please be sure to hide staff who are no longer employed in your DECAL KOALA account. Please reach out for help with this, if needed.

Please ensure that the director and staff responsible for food preparation completes the four (4) hours of nutrition training as soon as possible but within the first year of employment.

Please remember that the transportation training certificates must be completed prior to participating in transportation and renewed every two years for anyone checking the vehicle, chaperoning on a trip, and signing the checklist, including the director. Please ensure that directors complete the transportation training upon being hired at the center. Please ensure to contact your consultant for guidance if you have not been conducting transportation before you plan to conduct transportation in the future. (if applicable)

**There is a free Transportation Training available on OLLI in Georgia PDS (GaPDS). Health and Safety Orientation Training 15-hour course is available free online in OLLI (staff must successfully complete all three trainings to meet licensing requirements). PLEASE NOTE: If the Health & Safety Orientation Training date is outside of the previous 12 months, the training was not approved for 10 credit hours, or the training certificate is not documented in the employee's GaPDS account, the Staff person will be required to take this training again, within their first 90 days of employment at a new facility. Reminder: Health and Safety Orientation Training can only be taken once every five years.

Talk about updated orientation checklist.

Indicator manual and utilizing it.

Discussed regarding ensuring to complete rechecks for Criminal Records checks at least 90 days before the five-year expiration. Suggestion: Check monthly or sooner to ensure that staff's criminal records checks are not expiring.

Don't forget to post a new license annually.

Discussed regarding nap mats regarding not using tape to repair; must replace (if applicable).

Recent Changes/Updates: Core Rule: CPR and First Aid will be due within 45 days. 2 hours of Language and Literacy/2 hours of Health and Safety training annually beginning July 1, 2025, a required for all staff. Also, SUID (Sudden Unexpected Infant Death Syndrome formerly SIDS) must be included on the orientation checklist along with abusive head trauma. **Please don't forget to add to your childcare policies and procedures concerning expulsion, suspension, and practices followed to prevent shaken baby syndrome and abusive head trauma.

Plan of Improvement: Developed This Date

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@dec.al.ga.gov for more information. Free technical assistance is available!



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

Summary Report

Date: 9/24/2025 VisitType: Licensing Study

Arrival: 9:50 AM Departure: 5:50 PM

CCLC-35355

Christ Church Presbyterian

510 South Tibbs Road Dalton, GA 30720 Whitfield County
(706) 226-5437

Lead Consultant

Dianne Clarke

Phone: (770) 357-4923

Fax: (770) 357-4922

dianne.clarke@decal.ga.gov

Joint with: Megan O'Mary

Mailing Address
Same

The following information is associated with a Licensing Study:

Activities and Equipment

591-1-1-.03 Activities

Not Met

Finding

591-1-1-.03(1) requires the Center to provide a daily planned program of varied and developmentally appropriate activities to promote social, emotional, physical, cognitive, language and literacy growth. Center Staff shall use a variety of teaching methods to accommodate the needs of the children's different learning styles. It was determined based on a review of records that classrooms Ft. 2-1st Right, 3- 3 Left, and 4- 2nd Right did not have evidence of a current lesson plan available.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will plan a program that includes a variety of developmentally appropriate activities that are provided daily, train Staff to use various teaching methods, and monitor both.

Correction Deadline: 9/24/2025

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

Technical Assistance

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.12(2) - Please be sure to remove any furniture in need of repairing or replacing out of the classroom area where it is accessible to the children at any time.

Correction Deadline: 9/24/2025

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.12(3) - Please ensure that chairs are not stacked on shelves or more than five including in areas that are not in use.

Correction Deadline: 9/24/2025

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

Met

Comment

Center does not provide swimming activities.

Children's Records

Records Reviewed: 5

Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 2

Child # 2

Not Met

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.08(1)-Parent Names, Work Numbers,.08(1)-Doctor, Clinic, Phone Numbers

Child # 3

Not Met

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.08(1)-Parent Names, Work Numbers,.08(1)-Doctor, Clinic, Phone Numbers

591-1-1-.08 Children's Records**Not Met****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 child #2 did not have their father's work address listed nor their physician's phone number. Child # 3 did not have their mother and father's work address and physician's phone number.

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: 9/24/2025**Facility****591-1-1-.19 License Capacity(CR)****Met****Correction Deadline: 12/20/2024****Corrected on 9/24/2025**

.19(1) - The previous citation was observed to be corrected in that the rooms were designated as a special use room.

591-1-1-.25 Physical Plant - Safe Environment(CR)**Not Met****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 a review of records that hazards were observed in the following classrooms:

- Ft. Hall Jonah's Way 2-1st Right: Wipes packaging accessible in the bathroom in an unlocked cabinet.-5-2nd Left: Adult scissors were observed on the shelf and hand sanitizer was observed in a drawer to the left. Disinfectant spray was also observed tot the right on a shelf upon entry.
- Ft. Hall Jonah's Way 6-3rd Right: Hand sanitizer, diaper rash ointments, sunscreen and plastic bags were observed in children's bags and were accessible. Staplers and adult scissors were observed on a shelf and were accessible. In an unlocked drawer near the sink, room spray, white out, Vaseline, lotion and leave-in conditioner were observed to be accessible.
- New Wing 14-4th Right: Sunscreen and a Probiotic drink were observed in a child's bag and was accessible.
- Second Wing Upstairs-204: Wet ones were observed in an unlocked cabinet under the sink.
- Cafeteria: Paint thinner was observed on a table. Also, broom and dust pan, ladder and lift were observed to be accessible.

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: 9/24/2025

Finding

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. It was determined based on observation that the following items were in need of repair:

-FT. Hall Jonah's Way 1-1st Left: The wall towards the back right was observed to be peeling and the light in the ceiling in the bathroom was in need of repair.

-FT. Hall Jonah's Way 5-2nd Left: The cabinet at the sink was observed to be off the hinge on the bottom and the wall at the back left was observed to be peeling.

-New Wing: The handle on the cabinet door to the left of the classroom was in need of repair.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will have the Center and surrounding areas cleaned, make repairs where needed, and remove all debris is removed. The Center will implement a plan to keep areas clean and in good repair that includes regular monitoring.

Correction Deadline: 9/24/2025

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.25(8) - Please ensure that all outlets are covered at all times in areas that children utilize.

Correction Deadline: 9/24/2025

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

591-1-1-.26(4) requires that playgrounds be protected from traffic or other hazards by a (4) four foot high fence or other barrier approved by this Department. Fencing material shall not present a hazard to children and shall be maintained so as to prevent children from leaving the playground area by any means other than through an approved access route. Fence gates shall be kept closed except when persons are entering or exiting the area. It was determined based on observation that the following hazards were observed on the playground fence:

-First Right playground: The third and fourth section on the bottom to the right facing away from the climbing structure was observe to contact spikes which presented a hazard. The top of the first and second back right section upon entry to the playground was observed to be detached.

-First Left playground: The first section upon entry to the playground was observed to be detached at the bottom.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will routinely check the fence to determine if it is in good repair and remains at least 4 feet high, and will repair any hazards. The Center will train Staff to identify and report any fence hazards and to keep the fence gates closed when not in use.

Correction Deadline: 9/24/2025

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

Center menu meets USDA guidelines.

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

Proper diapering procedures observed.

591-1-1-.17 Hygiene(CR)**Technical Assistance****Technical Assistance**

591-1-1-.17(7) - Please ensure that all children are monitored when using the bathrooms to ensure that they wash hands immediately after.

Correction Deadline: 9/24/2025

591-1-1-.20 Medications(CR)**Met****Comment**

Documentation for medication dispensing observed completed on this date.

Policies and Procedures

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.21(2) - Discussed updating the Center's policies and procedures to include the program's practices regarding the expulsion and suspension of children enrolled for care within the description of behavior management and discipline actions used by the Center.

Correction Deadline: 9/29/2025

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.21(2)(r) - New - Discussed to ensure a description of the practices followed by the Center to prevent shaken baby syndrome and abusive head trauma in children up to five years of age that includes the following information: how to recognize, respond to, and report the signs and symptoms of shaken baby syndrome and abusive head trauma; strategies to assist staff members in understanding how to care for infants and how to cope with a crying, fussing, or distraught child; strategies to ensure staff members understand the brain development of children up to five years of age; and a list of prohibited behaviors when dealing with children. Additional information can be found in the CCLC Indicator Manual found on DECAL's website at: <https://www.dec.state.ga.us/CCS/Regulations.aspx> or through the Center on Shaken Baby Syndrome found at: <https://dontshake.org/>.

Correction Deadline: 9/29/2025

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

Correction Deadline: 2/13/2025

Corrected on 9/24/2025

.29(1) - The previous citation was corrected in that the director stated that they report within the required 24 hours.

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

Correction Deadline: 2/13/2025

Corrected on 9/24/2025

.11(2) - The previous citation was observed to be corrected in that appropriate discipline was observed. Cameras were installed in all the classrooms and is randomly reviewed. The director stated that they reiterated the discipline policy with the current staff and new staff.

591-1-1-.36 Transportation(CR)**Met****Comment**

Center does not provide routine transportation.

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

Pleasant naptime environment observed.

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.30(1)(a) - Please ensure that all cribs have the information with the manufacturer's date on file at all times.

Correction Deadline: 10/4/2025

Finding

591-1-1-.30(1)(d) requires that all sleeping and resting equipment shall be arranged to avoid obstructing access to exit doors, to provide the caregivers access to each child, and to prevent children's access to cords hanging from window treatments and other hazardous objects. To reduce the transfer of airborne diseases, sleeping and resting equipment shall be arranged as follows. There shall be a minimum of twenty-four inch (24") corridor between each row of sleeping or resting equipment. There shall be a minimum of twelve inches (12") between each piece of sleeping or resting equipment in each row of equipment. Children shall be placed on cots and mats so that one child's head is toward another child's feet in the same row. It was determined based on observation that a crib near the exit in the 9-2nd Left classroom was observed to be located near an outlet which was uncovered and obstructed access to the exit door.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will arrange and place sleeping and resting equipment according to the requirements in the rule; will train Staff; and will monitor for continued compliance. The staff stated that they will move the crib over.

Correction Deadline: 9/24/2025

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

Criminal record checks were observed to be complete.

-Please ensure that applicants/staff are listing exact dates (including month/day/year) on 10-year work history form in order to determine any breaks in service from the childcare industry.

-Please ensure that all staff, volunteers, independent contractors, substitutes, therapists, etc...has their records check electronically ported to the center's list in KOALA before being present at the facility.

-Please ensure that records checks are redone if there is a six-month (180 calendar days) break in service from the childcare industry.

-Please also ensure that satisfactory records checks are updated before the expiration date.

-Ensure that all therapists and other independent contractors have an updated records check on file, before being present at the center or home or ensure that the individual is supervised at all times by a staff member who has a comprehensive records check if they do not have a records check on file.

-Please ensure that staff with a national background check is always present with a staff member who has a comprehensive background check. Staff should never be by themselves.

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

591-1-1-.14(1)(a) - Discussed that effective July 1, 2025, new staff are required to obtain pediatric First Aid and pediatric CPR training within 45 days of employment. It was further discussed that programs must have at least one person with current pediatric First Aid and pediatric CPR training in each classroom at all times.

Correction Deadline: 9/24/2025

591-1-1-.33 Staff Training**Technical Assistance****Technical Assistance**

591-1-1-.33(1) - Discussed that all Employees, including volunteers, independent contractors, students-in-training, etc. should have a completed initial program orientation form on file.

Correction Deadline: 9/24/2025

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.33(5)(b)1. - New - Discussed that effective July 1, 2025, all staff are required to obtain at least two hours in evidence based, developmentally appropriate language and literacy practices and at least two hours in on-going child development and health and safety related topics as part of their 10 hours of annual training.

Correction Deadline: 10/24/2025

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****Comment**

Center observed to maintain appropriate staff:child ratios.

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

Adequate supervision observed on this date. Discussed the supervision rule during mealtimes which states: 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.