



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: 2/12/2026 **VisitType:** Monitoring Visit

Arrival: 12:20 PM **Departure:** 5:15 PM

CCLC-54683

Cadence Academy Preschool

921 Haymon Morris Road Winder, GA 30680 Barrow County
(770) 867-5439

Regional Consultant

Lynn Schnitzer

Phone: (678) 717-5720

Fax: (770) 344-5683

lynn.schnitzer@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.
02/12/2026	Monitoring Visit	Good Standing	
12/09/2025	Incident Investigation Closure	Good Standing	
11/20/2025	Incident Investigation & Follow Up	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	A 1R Infants	Infants and One Year Olds	2	7	C	16	C	NA	NA	Nap,Floor Play
Main	B 2R	Infants and One Year Olds	2	7	C	21	C	NA	NA	Floor Play,Nap
Main	C 3R- 2's	Two Year Olds and Three Year Olds	2	16	C	24	C	NA	NA	Nap
Main	D 4R - Preschool	Two Year Olds	2	13	C	24	C	NA	NA	Nap
Main	E 5R	GA PreK	2	14	C	23	C	NA	NA	Nap
Main	F 6R- GA PreK	GA PreK	2	17	C	23	C	NA	NA	Nap
Main	G 1L	Infants	1	5	C	13	C	NA	NA	Floor Play,Nap,Feeding,Diapering
Main	H 2L- PreK	One Year Olds and Two Year Olds	2	15	C	17	C	NA	NA	Nap
Main	I 3L- 3's	Two Year Olds and Three Year Olds	2	14	C	22	C	NA	NA	Nap
Main	J 4L- 2's	Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds	1	19	C	22	C	NA	NA	Nap
Main	K 5L- 1's	Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds	1	19	C	22	C	NA	NA	Nap
Main	L Rear Middle	GA PreK	2	19	C	21	C	NA	NA	Nap
Main	M Middle Cafe		0	0	C	31	C	44	C	
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 279					Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 292					
Total # Children this Date: 165					Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 292					

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	PG A Front Right	32	C
Main	PG B 2R	61	C
Main	PG C Rear	24	C
Main	PG D Front Left	25	C
Main	PG E 2nd Left	67	C

Enrolled Children						
Under 1 years	1 years	2 years	3 years	4 years	5 years (Prekonly)	5 years and older
11	32	47	41	54	28	60

Comments

The consultant discussed the visit report with the Director, Lisa Goss, on February 12, 2026.

Plan of Improvement: No Plan Developed

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.al.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!



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Summary Report

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The following information is associated with a Monitoring Visit:

Activities and Equipment

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

Technical Assistance

Comment

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

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.12(2) - Consultant discussed with director to ensure that worn vinyl furniture is replaced in rooms B 2R, C3R, and K 5L.

Correction Deadline: 2/12/2026

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

N/A

Comment

Center does not provide swimming activities.

Comment

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

Facility

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)

Not Met

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.25(13) - Consultant discussed with director to ensure that wipes, diaper creams, toilet brushes, and plungers are stored inaccessible to children.

Correction Deadline: 2/12/2026

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 storage cabinet door was broken in classroom K 5L.

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: 2/12/2026

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 there was a gap measuring 5 inches under the gate between playgrounds PG A Front Right and PG B 2R.

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: 2/12/2026

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.26(8) - Consultant discussed with director to ensure that the mulch is raked back under the swings regularly.

Correction Deadline: 2/22/2026

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

Met

Comment

Proper diapering procedures observed.

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

Not Met

Comment

Proper hand washing observed throughout the center on this date.

Finding

591-1-1-.17(10) requires that if used potty chairs be emptied in a flush toilet after each use, cleaned with a disinfectant and stored in the bathroom. If a sink is used, the sink shall also be disinfected. It was determined based on observation that the potty chair had not been cleaned and disinfected after use in classroom I 3L.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will instruct staff to ensure the sanitary use of potty chairs and sinks.

Correction Deadline: 2/12/2026

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

Met

Comment

Documentation for medication dispensing observed completed on this date.

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

Met

Comment

Age-appropriate discussion and/or redirection observed.

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

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

Finding

591-1-1-.36(3)(a-b) requires any Center that provides any type of transportation to obtain two (2) hours of state-approved or state-accepted transportation training, biannually, for the Director and for each person responsible for or who participates in the transportation of children. The training shall include, but is not limited to, a review of the transportation rules, a review of approved transportation forms and procedures, and instruction on the usage and completion of the forms and procedures. This training may be counted as part of the annual training requirements for Staff. It was determined based on review of records that staff #6, date of hire March 19, 2015, did not have two (2) hours of state-approved transportation training.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

Staff #6 completed transportation training and emailed it to the center during the visit.

Correction Deadline: 2/22/2026

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.36(4)(b) - Consultant discussed with director to ensure that only essential items are on the bus and the items are securely fastened.

Correction Deadline: 2/13/2026

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.36(7)(c)3. - Consultant discussed with director to ensure that staff are documenting in writing the date of each transportation route.

Correction Deadline: 2/13/2026

Sleeping & Resting Equipment

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

Not Met

Comment

Pleasant naptime environment observed.

Comment

Staff stated knowledge of infant safe sleep requirements.

Finding

591-1-1-.30(2)(c) requires that infants shall not sleep in equipment other than safety-approved cribs, such as, but not limited to, a car safety seat, bouncy seat, highchair, or swing. Infants who arrive at the Center asleep or fall asleep in such equipment, on the floor or elsewhere, shall be transferred to a safety-approved crib. It was determined based on observation that an infant was asleep in a bouncy seat in classroom G 1L.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will only place infants in safe cribs to sleep and will transfer them to a safe crib when the infants are asleep in other equipment.

Correction Deadline: 2/12/2026

Staff Records

Records Reviewed: 40

Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 2

Staff # 6

Not Met

Date of Hire: 03/19/2015

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.36(3)(a-b)-2 hrs. Transportation Training missing

Staff # 24

Not Met

Date of Hire: 01/13/2021

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.09-Criminal Records Check Missing

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

Not Met

Comment

Director provided two files for employees hired since last visit November 20, 2025.

Finding

591-1-1-.09(1)(a) requires that a Center ensure that every actual and potential Director, Employee and Provisional Employee of a Child Care Learning Center submit both a Records Check Application to the Department and Fingerprints to an authorized fingerprinting site. It was determined based on review of records that staff #24's, date of hire January 13, 2021, criminal background checks had expired on January 11, 2026. Staff #24 was observed was caring for children in classroom A 1R at the time of the visit. During the visit, the provider submitted a records check application to the department and made an appointment for staff #24 to be fingerprinted the following day.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

IMMEDIATE CORRECTION - The Center will ensure that every actual and potential Director, Employee and Provisional Employee of a Child Care Learning Center submit both a Records Check Application to the Department and Fingerprints to an authorized fingerprinting site as 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 ensure the CRC rules are maintained.

Correction Deadline: 2/12/2026

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 review of records that staff #24's, date of hire January 13, 2021, criminal background checks had expired on January 11, 2026. Staff #24 was observed was caring for children in classroom A 1R at the time of the visit. During the visit, the provider submitted a records check application to the department and made an appointment for staff #24 to be fingerprinted the following day.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

IMMEDIATE CORRECTION - The Center will 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 ensure the CRC rules are maintained.

Correction Deadline: 2/12/2026

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

Evidence observed of 100% of center Staff hired more than 45 days certified in First Aid and CPR containing emergency care for infants and children 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)**Met****Comment**

Center observed to maintain appropriate staff:child ratios.

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

Adequate supervision observed on this date.