



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: 10/20/2025 **VisitType:** Complaint Investigation & Monitoring Visit

Arrival: 8:50 AM **Departure:** 4:00 PM

CCLC-37985

A Smart Start Learning Academy

5950 Koweta Road Union City, GA 30291 Fulton County
(770) 306-1595

Regional Consultant

Shameka Dozier

Phone: (770) 857-7010

Fax: (770) 357-7009

shameka.dozier@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.
10/20/2025	Complaint Investigation & Monitoring Visit	Good Standing	
02/18/2025	Licensing Study	Good Standing	
03/12/2024	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
Main	A	Infants and One Year Olds	2	9	C	12	C	NA	NA	Floor Play
Main	B		0	0	C	7	C	NA	NA	
Main	C	One Year Olds	1	7	C	16	C	NA	NA	Centers, Diapering
Main	Cafeteria		1	0	C	13	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
Main	D	Two Year Olds	1	10	C	20	C	NA	NA	Floor Play
Main	E		0	0	C	20	C	NA	NA	
Main	F	Three Year Olds	2	16	C	30	C	NA	NA	Centers
Main	G - Pre-K	GA PreK	2	18	C	31	C	NA	NA	Circle Time
Main	H - Pre-K		0	0	C	20	C	NA	NA	
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 169					Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0					
Total # Children this Date: 60					Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 169					
					Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0					

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	A - Left Side	44	C
Main	B - Left Back	26	C
Main	C	44	C

Enrolled Children						
Under 1 years	1 years	2 years	3 years	4 years	5 years (Prekonly)	5 years and older
10	7	16	21	0	20	30

Comments

Pediatric First Aid and pediatric CPR training within 45 days of employment, operational policies & procedures, initial program orientation, and 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 were discussed with provider on this date.

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.decgal.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@decgal.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-.03 Activities

Met

Comment

Age-appropriate activities observed throughout the center.

Comment

Lesson Plans were observed to be posted and reflected the current weeks activities in each classroom.

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

Met

Comment

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

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

Met

Comment

Center does not provide swimming activities.

Facility

591-1-1-.06 Bathrooms

Met

Correction Deadline: 2/28/2025

Corrected on 10/20/2025

.06(7) - Previous citation of the bathroom vents in classrooms D, G, and H were fully covered with dust was observed to be corrected on this date as all vents were observed to be cleaned in all classrooms.

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

Met

Correction Deadline: 2/18/2025

Corrected on 10/20/2025

.19(1) - Previous citation of the cafeteria having eighteen one and two-year-olds when the usable space is licensed for thirteen was observed to be corrected 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:

- Classroom G

The middle and right shelves had Lysol disinfectant wipes, Lysol disinfectant spray, peroxide, isopropyl alcohol, and hand sanitizer that were being stored and was accessible as the shelves did not have a lock on them.

- Classroom H

Left shelf had Lysol disinfectant wipes, Lysol disinfectant spray, Windex glass cleaner hand sanitizer that were being stored and was accessible as the shelves did not have a lock on them.

Extension cords with several electrical cords plugged in that was located in the back right corner across from the teacher's desk that were accessible to children.

-Classroom C

Clear bottle with a liquid solution labeled bleach and water was located in the bathroom and accessible to children.

Radio electrical cord was hanging low and was accessible to children.

-Classroom D

Right shelf had Febreze spray and Windex glass cleaner that were stored and was accessible as the shelves did not have a lock on them.

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: 10/20/2025

Recited on 10/20/2025

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

Met

Comment

Discussed maintenance of resilient surface. Please fluff and redistribute.

Health and Hygiene

591-1-1-.10 Diapering Areas & Practices(CR)

Met

Comment

Proper diapering procedures observed.

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

Met

Comment

Please ensure lids remain on trash containing organic waste.

Comment

Proper hand washing observed 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

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.21(1)(a-o) - 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. Also 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: 10/25/2025

Safety

591-1-1-.05 Animals	Met
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Comment

Animals maintained clean and appropriately caged.

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)	Met
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Comment

Center does not participate in field trips at this time.

591-1-1-.36 Transportation(CR)	Not Met
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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 #9 and #10 who are listed as the director and driver had transportation training that expired on September 11, 2025.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will ensure that the Director, Center Staff, and any person responsible for the transportation of children has completed the required transportation training.

Correction Deadline: 10/30/2025

Sleeping & Resting Equipment

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

Discussed SIDS and infant sleeping position.

Staff Records

Records Reviewed: 14

Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 1

Staff # 9

Not Met

Date of Hire: 01/05/2015

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

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

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-.09 Criminal Records Check(CR)	Met
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Comment

Criminal records checks were observed to be complete.

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

Evidence observed of 50% of center Staff certified in First Aid and CPR.

591-1-1-.33 Staff Training	Defer
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Correction Deadline: 10/24/2025

Corrected on 10/20/2025

.33(3)(a)-(k) - Previous citation was observed to be corrected on this date.

Defer

591-1-1-.33(5)-Previous citation of staff #9 having zero of ten required annual hours of training for 2024. Staff #13 having eight of ten required annual hours of training for 2024. Staff #16 having four of ten required annual hours of training for 2024 will be differed and observed on the next visit date in 2026.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will plan and schedule the required 10 hours of annual training each year and follow up to ensure the training is completed.

Correction Deadline: 2/18/2025

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: 11/19/2025

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

Discussed that all lead staff must enroll in an approved education program within 6 months of hire and complete degree within 18 months.

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

Adequate supervision observed on this date.