



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: 9/22/2026 VisitType: Complaint Investigation & Monitoring Visit

Arrival: 7:15 AM Departure: 11:15 AM

CCLC-28751
Stepping Stones Early Development Center
305 West White Road Byron, GA 31008 Peach County
(478) 956-2510

Regional Consultant
Brandi Mangino
Phone: (404) 548-4987
Fax:
brandi.mangino@decal.ga.gov

Mailing Address
Same

Quality Rated: ★ ★

<u>Compliance Zone Designation</u>			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.
09/22/2026	Complaint Investigation & Monitoring Visit	Good Standing	
05/14/2026	Licensing Study	Good Standing	
11/10/2025	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	A	Infants and One Year Olds	1	3	C	17	C	NA	NA	Floor Play
Main	B	Infants	1	4	C	14	C	NA	NA	Floor Play
Main	C	One Year Olds	1	3	C	14	C	NA	NA	Circle Time
Main	D		0	0	C	13	C	NA	NA	
Main	E	One Year Olds	1	3	C	12	C	NA	NA	Free Play
Main	F	Two Year Olds	1	4	C	15	C	NA	NA	Free Play
Main	G	Two Year Olds	1	2	C	15	C	NA	NA	Free Play
Main	H	Three Year Olds	1	4	C	17	C	NA	NA	Centers
Main	I	Three Year Olds	1	7	C	17	C	NA	NA	Centers
Main	J	Four Year Olds	1	17	C	20	C	28	C	Breakfast
Main	K	Six Year Olds and Over	1	3	C	26	C	36	C	Free Play
Main	L		0	0	C	25	C	35	C	
Main	M	Two Year Olds	1	6	C	13	C	NA	NA	Free Play, Diapering
Main	N	Two Year Olds	1	3	C	10	C	NA	NA	Transitioning
Main	O	Six Year Olds and Over	1	5	C	32	C	45	C	Transitioning
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 260					Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 301					
Total # Children this Date: 64					Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 301					

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	Playground E	58	C
Main	Playground A	12	C
Main	playground B	44	C

Main	playground C	50	C
Main	playground D	50	C

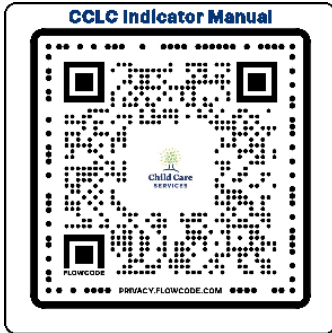
Enrolled Children

Infant (0-12 months)	Toddler (1-2 yrs)	Preschool (3-5yrs/full time care)	School Age (before/after care only)	GA PreK only	Summer Only
20	67	46	77	55	0

Comments

The purpose of the visit was to conduct a Monitoring Visit.

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.decal.ga.gov/CCS/RulesAndRegulations.aspx>.



For additional information regarding the full compliance inspection results of this program or any licensed program in the state, access the Child Care Services Compliance-at-a Glance website by scanning this QR code or visiting: <https://families.decal.ga.gov>.

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) Met

Comment

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

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

Comment

Center does not provide swimming activities.

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) Technical Assistance

Comment

Please be mindful to keep items that pose a hazard inaccessible to children.

Technical Assistance

Consultant discussed ensuring that ventilation in the restroom is in working order. In addition, Room M (girls) restroom needs to have the bolt on the bottom of the toilet covered or no more than two threads. In addition, in Room H restroom please monitor the paint around the sink area.

Correction Deadline: 10/22/2026

Technical Assistance

Consultant discussed the classrooms cannot have plug in air freshers.

Correction Deadline: 10/22/2026

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

Comment

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

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

Proper hand washing observed throughout the center on this date.

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 Met

Correction Deadline: 5/19/2026

Corrected on 9/22/2026

.21(2)(r) - Citation observed to be corrected.

Safety

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

Comment

Age-appropriate discussion and/or redirection observed.

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

Comment

Complete documentation of transportation observed on this date.

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 mats, sheets and blankets were observed on this date. Cleaning and disinfecting of mats was discussed with the director on this date.

Staff Records

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

Comment

Criminal record checks were observed to be complete.

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

Comment

At least one staff person with current and valid pediatric first aid and pediatric CPR observed in each classroom where children were present.

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

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

Comment

Center observed to maintain appropriate staff:child ratios.

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

Comment

Adequate supervision observed on this date.