



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: 4/16/2026 **VisitType:** Licensing Study

Arrival: 9:25 AM **Departure:** 5:30 PM

CCLC-49426

Tuckston UMC Pre-School

4175 Lexington Road Athens, GA 30605 Clarke County
 (706) 255-6577

Exemption Unit Lead
 Rosalyn Elder
 Phone: (404) 780-0868
 Fax: (770) 232-1931
 roselyn.elder@dec.al.ga.gov
 Joint with: Lindsey Ray

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.
04/16/2026	Licensing Study	Good Standing	
01/15/2026	Monitoring Visit	Good Standing	
05/14/2025	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	C/5R- 4 year olds and up	Four Year Olds and Five Year Olds	1	10	C	11	C	NA	NA	Lunch
Main	D4R- 3's	Two Year Olds and Four Year Olds	2	8	C	10	C	NA	NA	Lunch
Main	E/3R- 2's and 1's	Three Year Olds	2	9	C	11	C	NA	NA	Lunch
Main	G/1R	Infants and One Year Olds	2	7	C	12	C	NA	NA	Floor Play
Main	Infant First Right	Infants	2	6	C	6	C	NA	NA	Free Play
Main	Room 105	One Year Olds	2	10	C	11	C	NA	NA	Nap,Lunch
Main	Room 106	Infants	2	6	C	10	C	NA	NA	Free Play
Main	Room 110	One Year Olds and Two Year Olds	2	9	C	10	C	NA	NA	Lunch
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 81					Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0					
Total # Children this Date: 65					Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0					

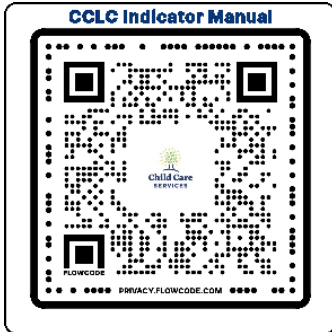
Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	Playground A- All ages	63	C

Enrolled Children						
Under 1 years	1 years	2 years	3 years	4 years	5 years (Prekonly)	5 years and older
10	17	12	16	10	2	0

Comments

The following Resources were emailed to the program today
First Aid Kit Information
Training FAQ
DECAL QR Codes
UPDATED CHILD AND ADULT CARE FOOD PROGRAM MEAL PATTERNS
CCLC Indicator Manual
How to Use the CCLC Indicator Manual
Link to the Choking Prevention Campaign

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.al.ga.gov/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.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 Licensing Study:

Activities and Equipment

591-1-1-.03 Activities

Met

Comment

Age-appropriate activities observed throughout the center.

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)

N/A

Comment

Center does not provide swimming activities.

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)

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. Based on observation, the following hazards were determined to be accessible to children:

Room 101: In the back left corner of the classroom, a trash bin was located next to a crib. The lid was open, contained no liner, and held a soiled diaper, creating a sanitation and safety concern.

Room 102:

Upon entry to the classroom, a vacuum cleaner was observed on the front right side, positioned against a bookshelf and accessible to children. Two tubes of diaper rash cream were also observed on top of the diaper changing table and accessible to children. In addition, a large spider web was present on the window sill on the right side of the classroom, indicating a cleaning and maintenance concern.

Room 108:

Plastic grocery bags were hanging on a hook on the side of the diaper changing table and were accessible to children, posing a suffocation risk.

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: 4/17/2026

Recited on 4/16/2026

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, the door leading to the first stall on the right in the large boys bathroom located on the far end of the hallway, was not properly secured and requires repair to ensure safety and proper functionality.

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: 6/16/2026

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.25(8) - 591-1-1-.25(8) requires protective caps on all unused electrical outlets within children's reach and requires that electrical outlets in use be made inaccessible to children. Consultant reminded staff to charge all electronics, including laptops, out of the reach of children.

Correction Deadline: 6/16/2026

591-1-1-.25 Physical Plant-Structural/Mechanical**Not Met****Finding**

591-1-1-.25(19) prohibits the use of unapproved areas for children's activity. It was determined based on observation, that seven children, ages birth through one year, were temporarily housed in unapproved areas—Rooms 101 and 102—while renovations were underway in their licensed classroom, Room G/1R. The Consultant advised the Director on the amendment process in DECAL KOALA.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will submit an amendment to the department for approval.

Correction Deadline: 4/24/2026

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

Correction Deadline: 6/16/2026

Corrected on 4/16/2026

.26(4) - The previous citation was observed corrected on this date. The Consultant observed the fence was repaired accordingly.

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.26(6) - On the back playground, the trampoline swing was observed to have a large tear and did not appear to be safe for children's use. Additionally, there was no resilient surfacing installed beneath the swing, creating a fall hazard. Due to the condition of the equipment and the absence of required surfacing, the trampoline swing must be removed immediately to prevent potential injury.

Correction Deadline: 4/26/2026

Correction Deadline: 1/25/2026

Corrected on 4/16/2026

.26(8) - The previous citation was observed corrected on this date. The Consultant observed that additional resilient surfacing had been installed beneath the equipment and within the fall zones; however, the surfacing requires refluffing and leveling to ensure proper depth and continuity throughout the area.

Correction Deadline: 6/16/2026

Corrected on 4/16/2026

.26(9) - The previous citation was observed corrected on this date. The Consultant observed that the roots had been covered with mulch and the black fabric had been cut and removed from the play area.

Food Service

Finding

591-1-1-.15(1) requires that meals and snacks are served, with serving sizes dependent upon the age of the child, that meet nutritional guidelines as established by the United States Department of Agriculture Child and Adult Care Food Program. Meals and snacks shall be varied daily, and additional servings of nutritious food shall be offered to children over and above the required daily minimum, if not contraindicated by special diets. It was determined based on observation, in classrooms E3/R, D4/R, Room 110, the meals were being served from home that were not in compliance with the nutritional guidelines established by the United States Department of Agriculture Child and Adult Care Food Program. .

POI (Plan of Improvement)

Center Staff will serve foods that meet the USDA guidelines.

Correction Deadline: 5/1/2026

Finding

591-1-1-.15(7) requires that food be served according to manufacturer's instructions and recommendations. Foods that are associated with young children's choking incidents, such as, but not limited to, peanuts, hot dogs, raw carrots, popcorn, fish with bones, cheese cubes, grapes and any other food that is of similar shape and size of the trachea/windpipe shall not be served to the children less than four (4) years of age. Children older than four (4) years of age may be served these foods provided that the foods are cut in such a way as to minimize choking. Food shall not be accessible or served to children until it has been chopped, diced, cut or mashed and is appropriate for each child's age and individual eating, chewing and swallowing ability. It was determined based on observation children were observed eating grapes, which are not permissible, and foods that required cutting into smaller bite-sized pieces. These food items were observed in the following classrooms: Rooms E3/R, D4/R, and 110.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will train Staff and monitor food served and accessible to children to ensure that the food does not present a choking hazard.

Correction Deadline: 4/17/2026

591-1-1-.18 Kitchen Operations**Technical Assistance****Technical Assistance**

591-1-1-.18(2) - Food preparation areas must be clean and well maintained. Based on observation, the Consultant noted that the food preparation area was in disarray. Items observed in the area included two grocery carts, buckets of paper, folders, tape, and art supplies stored on the counter tops, indicating improper use and maintenance of the food preparation space.

Correction Deadline: 4/26/2026

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

Correction Deadline: 1/15/2026

Corrected on 4/16/2026

.10(4) - The previous citation was observed corrected on this date. The Consultant observed that the diaper changing pads were in good repair.

591-1-1-.17 Hygiene(CR)**Not Met****Finding**

591-1-1-.17(8) requires staff to wash their hands with liquid soap and warm running water upon arrival for the day, when moving from one child care group to another, upon re-entering the child care area after outside play, before and after diapering each child, dispensing medication, applying topical medications, handling and preparing food, eating, drinking, preparing bottles, feeding each child, assisting children with eating and drinking, after toileting or assisting children with toileting, using tobacco products, handling garbage and organic waste, touching animals or pets, handling bodily fluids and after contamination by any means. It was determined, based on observation, that a two-year-old child did not wash their hands following the diapering process in Room 105.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will ensure liquid soap and warm running water are available for handwashing, train Staff on the handwashing requirements, review the requirements with Staff periodically, and monitor handwashing.

Correction Deadline: 4/21/2026

591-1-1-.20 Medications(CR)**Met****Correction Deadline: 1/15/2026****Corrected on 4/16/2026**

.20(1) - The previous citation was observed corrected on this date. The Consultant observed that all medication administration dates were recorded appropriately.

Policies and Procedures

591-1-1-.21 Operational Policies & Procedures**Not Met****Finding**

591-1-1-.21(3) requires that the Center conduct drills for fire, tornado and other emergency situations. The fire drills will be conducted monthly and tornado and other emergency situation drills will be conducted every six months. The Center shall maintain documentation of the dates and times of these drills for two years. It was determined based on the review of records, that no drills had been conducted since December 5, 2025.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will hold the drills as required and keep the documentation of the drills on file for two years.

Correction Deadline: 5/1/2026**591-1-1-.29 Required Reporting****Met****Technical Assistance**

591-1-1-.29(3)(a) - Guidance was provided to ensure that the Director or designated person-in-charge reports to the Department within twenty-four (24) hours or the next business day any structural disaster or emergency situation requiring the temporary relocation of children.

Correction Deadline: 4/16/2026

Safety

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

Age-appropriate discussion and/or redirection observed.

591-1-1-.13 Field Trips(CR)**N/A****Comment**

Center does not participate in field trips at this time.

591-1-1-.36 Transportation(CR)**N/A****Comment**

Center does not provide routine transportation.

Sleeping & Resting Equipment

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

591-1-1-.30(1)(a)3 requires that each crib shall have only an individual, tight-fitting sheet which is changed daily or more often as needed and prior to a change of occupant. It was determined based on observation, that one crib in Room G/1R, located in the back right area of the room, had a sheet that was not properly fitted on the crib mattress.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The center will ensure that each crib has an individual, tight-fitting sheet which is changed daily or more often as needed and prior to a change of occupant. The teacher removed the sheets during the visit.

Correction Deadline: 4/17/2026**Recited on 4/16/2026**

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**

Correction Deadline: 1/15/2026

Corrected on 4/16/2026

.14(2)(b) - The previous citation was observed corrected on this date. The Consultant verified, through a review of records, that at least one staff member with CPR and First Aid certification was present in each classroom.

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

591-1-1-.33(5)(a) - New - The Consultant advised the Director and Manager on ensuring that all Staff complete ten hours of Annual Training.

Correction Deadline: 5/16/2026

591-1-1-.31 Staff(CR)**Not Met****Finding**

591-1-1-.31(2)(b)2. requires teachers and lead caregivers to meet minimum academic requirements and qualifying experience at the time of employment. It was determined based on a review of records that staff #5, hired on June 1, 2020 and staff #15 hired October 7, 2025 did not have current evidence of education credentials available for review.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

A teacher/lead caregiver will be hired that meets the minimum academic requirements and qualifying work experience.

Correction Deadline: 6/16/2026

Recited on 4/16/2026

Staffing and Supervision

591-1-1-.32 Staff:Child Ratios and Group Size(CR)**Met****Comment**

Adequate supervision observed on this date.

591-1-1-.32 Supervision(CR)**Not Met****Finding**

591-1-1-.32(7) requires that children be supervised at all times appropriate to the individual age, needs and capabilities of each child. Such supervision must include, but not be limited to, indoor and outdoor activities, mealtimes, naptime, transportation, field trips, and transitions between activities. "Supervision" means that the appropriate number of Staff members are physically present in the area where children are being cared for and are providing watchful oversight to the children, volunteers and Students-in-Training. The persons supervising in the child care area must be alert, positioned to maximize their ability to hear and see the children at all times, and able to respond promptly to the needs and actions of the children being supervised, as well as the actions of the volunteers and Students-in-Training, and provide timely attention to the children's actions and needs. 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. It was determined based on observation, two children were observed leaving Classroom E/3R to go to the restroom without supervision. Additionally, during mealtime, one teacher was serving lunch and not seated with the children while the other teacher was changing a child's diaper.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will train Staff and monitor to ensure they are providing supervision and watchful oversight to the children at all times.

Correction Deadline: 5/1/2026