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: 8/24/2026 **VisitType:** Licensing Study **Arrival:** 10:30 AM **Departure:** 3:45 PM

CCLC-39788
Building Blocks Learning Center
802 Fort Howard Road Rincon, GA 31326 Effingham County
(912) 295-2511

Regional Consultant
Emily Patterson
Phone: (470) 532-4434
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emily.patterson@decal.ga.gov
Joint with: Rebekah Mullinax

Mailing Address
Same

Quality Rated: ★ ★ ★

Compliance Zone Designation		
08/24/2026	Licensing Study	Support
03/19/2026	Licensing Study	Good Standing
09/09/2025	Monitoring Visit	Good Standing

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.

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		0	0	C	11	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
Main	B	Infants	1	4	C	19	C	NA	NA	Floor Play,Lunch
Main	C		0	0	C	33	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
Main	D	One Year Olds	2	5	C	21	C	NA	NA	Lunch,Free Play
Main	E	Two Year Olds	2	14	C	27	C	NA	NA	Free Play,Transitioning,Lunch
Main	F	Four Year Olds	1	9	C	20	C	NA	NA	Free Play
Main	G	Three Year Olds	1	13	C	27	C	NA	NA	Outside,Transitioning,TV,Lunch, Free Play
		Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 158				Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0				
Total # Children this Date: 45		Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 158				Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0				

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	A	60	C
Main	B	125	C

Enrolled Children

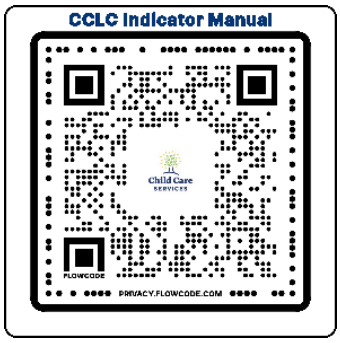
Infant (0-12 months)	Toddler (1-2 yrs)	Preschool (3-5yrs/full time care)	School Age (before/after care only)	GA PreK only	Summer Only

Comments
The Consultant reviewed the visit report with the Director.

A one-day criminal background check letter was left with the Director on this date.

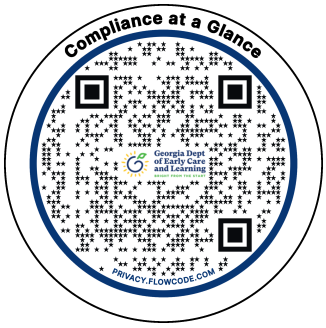
An affidavit verifying completion of criminal background check units should be returned completed within five business days and a one-day criminal background check letter was left with the Director/Provider on this date.

Plan of Improvement: To Be Submitted 09/08/2026



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.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@decal.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**

Correction Deadline: 3/19/2026

Corrected on 8/24/2026
.03(2) - The previous citation was observed corrected on this date. The Consultant observed current lesson plans on site as required.

Comment
Age-appropriate activities observed throughout the center.

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.

Children's Records

591-1-1-.08 Children's Records **Technical Assistance**

Technical Assistance
591-1-1-.08(1) - Please maintain a completed file for each child.

Correction Deadline: 8/24/2026

Facility

591-1-1-.06 Bathrooms **Technical Assistance**

Technical Assistance
591-1-1-.06(7) - Please ensure bathrooms are cleaned daily with a disinfectant.

Correction Deadline: 8/24/2026

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. It was determined based on observation that the following classrooms had hazards accessible to children:

Main E:
- A toilet brush, a plunger, and a mop bucket were stored in an unlocked cabinet under the sink.
- 24 bags of baby wipes (Huggies, Pampers, Parents Choice) labeled "Keep Out of Reach of Children" were on shelves were located beside the bathroom.
- Five plastic bags of Pull-Ups and one plastic bag of diapers were located by the bathroom door.
- One broom and dust pan were stored next to the trash can.

Main F:
- A mop bucket and a container of empty plastic bags were stored in an unlocked cabinet under the sink.
- One broom, dust pan, and a mop were located next to the trash can.

Main G:
- A candle warmer was located on the art shelf within reach of children.
- One broom, dust pan, a vacuum, and a mop were located next to the hand washing sink.
- A toilet brush was located in an unlocked cabinet under the sink.
- Three bags of baby wipes (Huggies) and a box of gloves stored in unlocked plastic drawers next to the bathroom.

Correction Deadline: 8/24/2026

Recited on 8/24/2026

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 in the Main F bathroom the toilet seat was detached and stored next to the toilet, and there was a 3.5 by 7 inch hole in the wall that was in need of repair.

Correction Deadline: 9/4/2026

Recited on 8/24/2026

Finding
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. It was determined based on observation that the following rooms had unused electrical outlets without protective caps that were accessible to children:
-Main F: Two out of eight electrical outlets
-Main G: Two out of eight electrical outlets

Correction Deadline: 8/24/2026

Recited on 8/24/2026

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

Finding
591-1-1-.26(3) requires that the playground be adjacent to the Center or in an area which can be reached by a safe route or method approved by the Department. Except in School-age Centers, the playground shall have shaded areas. It was determined based on observation the following hazards existed:
- A garden hose which posed a potential tripping hazard.
- A butter knife and screw driver located on a sand table by the classroom door.

Correction Deadline: 8/24/2026

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 the following fencing hazards were accessible on the Main A and Main B Playground:
Main A:
- A 5 inch gap at the bottom of the back fence which posed a potential entrapment hazard.
- Four broken picket fence posts located on the fence separating Main A and Main B playgrounds.

Main B:
- Broken and unsecured fence posts on the far back side.
- One exposed screw located on the far back side.
- A 6 inch gap at the bottom of the back fence which posed a potential entrapment hazard.

Correction Deadline: 9/4/2026

Recited on 8/24/2026

Finding
591-1-1-.26(6) requires that playground equipment provide an opportunity for the children to engage in a variety of experiences and shall be age-appropriate. For example, toddlers shall not be permitted to swing in swings designed for School-age Children. The outdoor equipment shall be free of lead-based paint, sharp corners and shall be regularly maintained in such a way as to be free of rust and splinters that could pose significant safety hazard to the children. All equipment shall be arranged so as not to obstruct supervision of children. It was determined based on observation that on the Main B Playground, the rock climbing volcano-shaped structure had a blue plastic rock that was broken with exposed jagged edges which posed a potential pinching hazard.

Correction Deadline: 9/4/2026

Recited on 8/24/2026

Finding
591-1-1-.26(9) requires the playground to be kept clean, free from litter and free of hazards, such as but not limited to rocks, exposed tree roots and exposed sharp edges of concrete. It was determined based on observation that there were five active ant beds on the Main B playground.

Correction Deadline: 8/24/2026

Recited on 8/24/2026

Food Service

591-1-1-.15 Food Service & Nutrition **Not Met**

Finding
591-1-1-.15(2)(f) requires that food for infants or children less than one (1) year of age be cut into pieces one-quarter inch or smaller and food for toddlers shall be cut into pieces one-half inch or smaller to prevent choking. It was determined based on observation that the Infants in Room B, one-year-old children in Room D, and 2-year old children in Room E, were served a whole slice of bread, meat balls, and broccoli for lunch that were not cut in such a way as to minimize choking..

Correction Deadline: 8/24/2026

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

Comment
Kitchen appears clean and well organized on this date.

Technical Assistance
591-1-1-.18(12) - Please ensure children are prohibited from access to the kitchen except as part of a planned, supervised learning experience.

Correction Deadline: 8/24/2026

Health and Hygiene

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

Comment
Staff stated proper knowledge of diapering procedures.

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

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.

Safety

591-1-1-.05 Animals **N/A**

Comment
Center does not keep animals on premises.

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

Comment
Staff were observed to maintain a positive learning environment on this date.

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) **Met**

Comment
Pleasant naptime environment observed.

Staff Records

Records Reviewed: 9 **Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 2**

Staff # 5 Not Met

Date of Hire: 06/14/2024

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(3)-Health & Safety Certificate,.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training

Staff # 9 Not Met

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(6)-Training Documentation Missing

591-1-1-.09 Criminal Records and Comprehensive Background Checks(CR) **Not Met**

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 a review of records that Staff # 5 did not submit both a Records Check Application to the Department and Fingerprints to an authorized fingerprinting site as required.

Correction Deadline: 8/24/2026

Finding
591-1-1-.09(1)(l)3. requires the Center to immediately require a new Comprehensive Records Check Determination for a Director, Employee or Provisional Employee at least once every five years. It was determined based on a review of records that Staff # 5 had an expired Comprehensive Records Check Determination dated April 7, 2026. The Staff member was observed to be a classroom Main D and caring for children on this date.

Correction Deadline: 8/24/2026

591-1-1-.09 Criminal Records Check(CR) **Met**

Comment
Consultant requested to view all Criminal Record checks for employees hired after last visit. Director stated that there have been no new hires since last visit

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

Correction Deadline: 4/3/2026

Corrected on 8/24/2026
.14(1)(a) - The previous citation was observed corrected on this date. The Consultant observed evidence of all staff certification in a biennial training program in pediatric cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and a triennial training program in pediatric first aid on this date.

591-1-1-.33 Staff Training **Not Met**

Finding
591-1-1-.33(5)(a) requires that every calendar year after the first year of employment, all supervisory and caregiver Personnel, except independent contractors, Students-in-Training and volunteers, shall attend ten (10) clock hours of diverse training which is offered by an accredited college, university or vocational program or other Department-approved source. It was determined based on a review of records that Staff # 6, and Staff #10 did not have evidence of ten (10) clock hours of diverse training for 2025 as required.

Correction Deadline: 9/23/2026

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 #2 did not have evidence of the minimum academic requirements on file as required.

Correction Deadline: 9/4/2026

Recited on 8/24/2026

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) **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 that Staff members in classrooms Main B, Main D and Main E were not seated with an arm's length away from children during mealtime.

Correction Deadline: 8/24/2026