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: 9/21/2026 **VisitType:** Licensing Study **Arrival:** 10:00 AM **Departure:** 5:30 PM

CCLC-53000
Thrive Early Learning
465 Harris Trail Road Richmond Hill, GA 31324 Bryan County
(912) 445-4637

Regional Consultant
Connie Boatright
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connie.boatright@decal.ga.gov
Joint with: Marybeth Wheeler

Mailing Address
Same

Quality Rated: ★ ★

Compliance Zone Designation		
09/21/2026	Licensing Study	Good Standing
04/21/2026	Complaint Closure	Good Standing
04/20/2026	Complaint Investigation Follow Up	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	Two Year Olds and Three Year Olds	4	16	C	32	C	NA	NA	Centers
Main	B	Three Year Olds	2	10	C	32	C	NA	NA	Circle Time,Outside
Main	C	Two Year Olds	3	14	C	32	C	NA	NA	Outside,Art
Main	D	Two Year Olds and Three Year Olds	3	15	C	32	C	NA	NA	Centers
Main	E	Two Year Olds	2	8	C	20	C	NA	NA	Centers
Main	F	One Year Olds	2	6	C	20	C	NA	NA	Centers,Music
Main	G	Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds	2	13	C	31	C	NA	NA	Nap,Clean Up,Art
Main	H	Infants	2	6	C	20	C	NA	NA	Nap,Centers
Main	I	Infants and One Year Olds	3	7	C	20	C	NA	NA	Nap,Centers
Main	J	Infants	3	6	C	15	C	NA	NA	Diapering,Centers
Main	K	Infants	2	4	C	15	C	NA	NA	Diapering,Music,Centers
Main	L	One Year Olds and Two Year Olds	2	7	C	21	C	NA	NA	Clean Up,Lunch
		Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 290				Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0				
Total # Children this Date: 112		Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 290				Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0				

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	A	74	C

Main	B	73	C
Main	C	15	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**
26	71	47	0	0	0

Comments
The consultant discussed the licensing study with the Director

Plan of Improvement: Developed This Date

CCLC Indicator Manual

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.

Compliance at a Glance

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 **Technical Assistance**

Technical Assistance
591-1-1-.03(2) - The Center Director will ensure that the Center to keep current lesson plans on site that reflect appropriate instruction practices and activities to support children's development The Center shall have sufficient and varied play and learning equipment and materials to support the above program of activities in all developmental areas. During this visit the Director posted current lesson plans for classroom F, J and I.

Correction Deadline: 9/21/2026

591-1-1-.12 Equipment & Toys(CR) **Technical Assistance**

Technical Assistance
591-1-1-.12(2) - The Director will ensure that toys and equipment are free of hazards:
Classroom B: The back of one wooden book shelf was peeling.
Classroom C: One wooden box was not secured at one corner.
Classroom D: Two knobs by the hand washing sink on the Get Well Center was missing.
Classroom E: Four of four red sofa cushions were worn and frayed, and one sink was missing from the wooden kitchen set.
Classroom F: The top shelf of one wooden book shelf was split leaving a small gap.

Correction Deadline: 9/21/2026

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 **Met**

Comment
Parent agreements observed obtained/completed.

Comment
Parent authorizations obtained/completed.

Comment
Records were observed to be complete and well organized.

Comment
591-1-1-.08(6) - The consultant observed 112 children present and 112 children signed in.

Correction Deadline: 9/21/2026

Facility

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

Comment
Licensed capacity observed to be routinely met by center on this date. The consultant observed 112 children present.

591-1-1-.25 Physical Plant - Safe Environment(CR) **Met**

Technical Assistance
591-1-1-.25(13) - The Director will ensure that potentially hazardous equipment, materials and supplies be stored in a locked area inaccessible to children to include zip lock bags, diaper wipes, and gloves.

Correction Deadline: 9/21/2026

591-1-1-.26 Playgrounds(CR) **Technical Assistance**

Technical Assistance
591-1-1-.26(9) - The Center Director will ensure that top metal protruding rod on the spigot located on playground A and B are covered, and the cracked PVC pipe coming out of classroom A onto playground A is replaced, removed, or repaired.

Correction Deadline: 9/21/2026

Food Service

591-1-1-.15 Food Service & Nutrition **Technical Assistance**

Comment
CACFP Meal Pattern Requirements effective October 1, 2017 will be implemented October 1, 2018: 3 Components for breakfast: Grains, Vegetables, Fruits or both, Milk
5 Components for lunch – Grains, Meat/Meat alternates, Fruits, Vegetable, and Milk OR Grains, Meat/Meat alternates, 2 different types of vegetables, and Milk
2 of 5 Components for snack

Provided Updated CACFP Infant Meal pattern and Child/Adult Meal pattern flyers.

The Crediting Handbook for the CACFP can be located on DECAL and USDA's website:
DECAL
http://decal.ga.gov/CACFP/Handbook.aspx
USDA
http://www.fns.usda.gov/cacfp/cacfp-handbooks

Technical Assistance
591-1-1-.15(2)(f) - The Director will ensure 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. Apples, oranges, bread, crackers, pepperoni and cookies were not cut into 1/2 inch size or smaller in Classroom L for one to two year old children. The Director and Staff cut the food into the appropriate size in the presence of the consultant..

Correction Deadline: 9/21/2026

591-1-1-.18 Kitchen Operations **Met**

Comment
Kitchen appears clean and well organized 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
The Provider currently does not dispense/administer medication.

Policies and Procedures

591-1-1-.21 Operational Policies & Procedures **Met**

Comment
Program observed complete emergency drills

591-1-1-.27 Posted Notices **Met**

Comment
Observed all required posted notices.

591-1-1-.29 Required Reporting **Met**

Comment
Thank you for reporting as required.

Safety

591-1-1-.05 Animals **Met**

Comment
Center does not keep animals on premises.

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

Comment
Age-appropriate discussion and/or redirection observed.

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

591-1-1-.13 Field Trips(CR) **Met**

Comment
Center does not participate in field trips at this time.

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

Comment
Center does not provide routine transportation.

Sleeping & Resting Equipment

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

Comment
Discussed SIDS and infant sleeping position.

Comment
Pleasant naptime environment observed.

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.

Finding

591-1-1-.30(2) requires the Center to provide a safe sleep environment in accordance with American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) and American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) recommendations as listed in these rules for all infants. Center Staff shall place an infant to sleep on the infant's back in a crib unless the Center has been provided a physician's written statement authorizing another sleep position for that particular infant that includes how the infant shall be placed to sleep and a time frame that the instructions are to be followed. When an infant can easily turn over from back to front and back again, Staff shall continue to put the infant to sleep initially on the infant's back but allow the infant to roll over into his or her preferred position and not re-position the infant. Sleepers, sleep sacks and wearable blankets that fit according to the commercial manufacturer's guidelines and will not slide up around the infant's face may be used when necessary for the comfort of the sleeping infant. Swaddling shall not be used unless the Center has been provided a physician's written statement authorizing its use for a particular infant that includes instructions and a time frame for swaddling the infant. Center Staff shall not place objects or allow objects to be placed in or on the crib with an infant such as but not limited to toys, pillows, quilts, comforters, bumper pads, sheepskins, stuffed toys, or other soft items and shall not attach objects or allow objects to be attached to a crib with a sleeping infant, such as, but not limited to, crib gyms, toys, mirrors and mobiles. It was determined based on observation that one 1-year-old child was sleeping in a crib in classroom H with a nap sac hanging on the side of the crib. This was corrected in the presence of the consultant.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
The Center will take all steps necessary to provide a safe sleep environment for infants as listed in these rules; will train Staff to follow these rules; and will monitor for compliance.

Correction Deadline: 9/21/2026

Staff Records

Records Reviewed: 52 **Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 4**

Staff # 4 Not Met
Date of Hire: 03/13/2023
"Missing/Incomplete Components"
.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training

Staff # 15 Not Met
Date of Hire: 08/04/2021
"Missing/Incomplete Components"
.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training

Staff # 36 Not Met
Date of Hire: 12/04/2024
"Missing/Incomplete Components"
.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training

Staff # 39 Not Met
Date of Hire: 06/16/2023
"Missing/Incomplete Components"
.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training

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

Comment
Criminal record checks were observed to be complete.

Comment
Director provided 39 file(s) for employees hired since last visit.

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

Comment
Complete first aid kits observed in center and on vehicles on this date.

Comment
Evidence observed of 100% of center Staff certified in First Aid and CPR containing emergency care for infants and children on this date.

591-1-1-.33 Staff Training **Met**

Comment
Discussed staff training. Please obtain required documentation.

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
Staff observed to provide direct supervision and be attentive to children's needs.