



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

Investigation Report

Date: 4/6/2026 **VisitType:** Complaint Investigation Closure from CI FollowUp on 03/23/2026

CCLC-3329

The Preschool Academy

2800 Atlanta Highway Athens, GA 30606 Clarke County
(706) 353-8183 the.preschool.acad@gmail.com

CCS Coordinator

Margarita Collier

Phone: (770) 342-7934

Fax: (678) 891-5989

margarita.collier@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.
04/06/2026	Complaint Closure	Good Standing	
03/23/2026	Complaint Investigation Follow Up	Support	
01/06/2026	Complaint Closure	Good Standing	

Comments

The investigative findings were not concluded on this date. The investigation remains open pending additional information. Upon completion, the findings will be reviewed with the child care program and a final copy of the report will be sent.

Advisement of Potential for Repeated Rule Violations during Pending Investigations

This report shall serve as official notice of potential rule violations. These potential rule violations have been detailed in this report and discussed with you by the consultant. The department shall conduct a thorough investigation to determine if in fact the alleged rule violation(s) should or should not be substantiated. Please be aware that the investigation may take some time to be finalized to ensure fairness and accuracy. During this investigation period, any violations of an identical rule or rules will require the department to treat any and all substantiated rule violations identified in the investigation as repeated rule violation(s).

Further, from time to time the department discovers additional rule violations during the course of an investigation. If there are new rule violation(s), your consultant shall inform you of the violation(s) as soon as possible. However, as stated above, any violations of identical rule(s) will require the department to treat any and all additional rule violations identified in the investigation as repeated rule violations.

All rule violations found in relation to a complaint or incident investigation will be associated with the date the investigation was closed.



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)

I have read and understand the Rules and Regulations for Child Care Learning Centers, 591-1-1. I acknowledge that the items noted in this report have been discussed with me and I have agreed to a Plan of Improvement (POI) as indicated in this report. I understand that correction of these deficiencies, while required, will not necessarily prevent DECAL from taking adverse action against this facility. I understand that if I disagree with any of the deficiencies cited, I have the right to refute them on this report or any other form that I choose to send to Child Care Services.



Summary Report

Date: 4/6/2026 **VisitType:** Complaint Investigation Closure **Arrival:** 11:15 AM **Departure:** 2:30 PM
from CI FollowUp on 03/23/2026

CCLC-3329**The Preschool Academy**

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The following information is associated with a Complaint Closure:

	Facility
591-1-1-.25 Physical Plant - Safe Environment(CR)	Not Met

Finding Associated with Complaint

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 investigative findings that the toilets across from the 2-year-old classroom were observed to have black, moldy rings around the inside. It was further determined that spider webs were observed on the windowpane, dead bugs and a black unknown substance was observed on a yellow bookshelf, a roach egg, and dead gnats were observed in a refrigerator located on the back-right side of classroom 5R Right Side. Dead roaches were observed in the staff refrigerator located on the front-right side of the kitchen pantry area, in a kitchen cabinet, and a 6 to 8 inch hole was observed on the wall located on the front-left side of the wall next to a refrigerator located in the pantry located on the front-right side of the kitchen.

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. The Center will repair the hole in the wall observed in the pantry area to ensure potential vermin are unable to access the kitchen area. The Center will clean all identified refrigerators and check them weekly for potential bugs. The Center will ensure to clean the windowpane and equipment to check for spider webs and other insects.

Correction Deadline: 3/26/2026

	Food Service
591-1-1-.18 Kitchen Operations	Not Met

Finding Associated with Complaint

591-1-1-.18(1) requires that food be in sound condition, free from spoilage and contamination and safe for human consumption. Eggs, pork, pork products, poultry and fish shall be thoroughly cooked. All raw fruits and vegetables shall be washed thoroughly before being cooked or served. Foods not subject to further washing or cooking before serving shall be stored in such a manner as to be protected against contamination. Meats, poultry, fish, dairy products and processed foods shall have been inspected under an official regulatory program. Hot foods shall be maintained at a temperature of one hundred forty (140) degrees Fahrenheit or above except during serving. Food and drinks shall be prepared as close to serving time as possible to protect children and Personnel from food-borne illness. It was determined based on observation that a packet of "Vermont Maple Premium Sausage" with an expiration date of February 23, 2026, was stored in the back-left refrigerator located in the kitchen pantry. It was further determined based observation that two gallons of milk, expired on February 23, 2026 and March 17, 2026, were stored in the back-left refrigerator located in the kitchen pantry.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will train Staff to ensure that food served is in sound condition and free from spoilage and contamination. The Center will further ensure to remove all items identified as spoiled and/or expired to prevent the food items being served and consumed by Staff and/or children. The Director or designated person will monitor the storage and preparation of food to ensure that it is safe for human consumption.

Correction Deadline: 3/24/2026

Finding Associated with Complaint

591-1-1-.18(2) requires the Center to have a designated space for food preparation separate from rooms used by children and in an area not used for diaper changing. The area shall be kept clean and free of accumulation of dust, dirt, food particles and grease deposits. Food preparation surface areas shall be nonporous with no unsealed cracks or seams. It was determined based on observation that stove located on the back-left side of the kitchen was not kept clean and free of accumulation of food particles in that dried food particles were observed throughout the stove top.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will ensure that a separate food preparation area is provided that meets the requirements. If needed, the area will be cleaned and cracks and seams will be sealed. The Center will ensure that Staff cleans the stove after each use to prevent food particles from sticking to the stove top and monitor the stove for normal wear and tear.

Correction Deadline: 3/26/2026