



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: 3/4/2025 **VisitType:** Licensing Study **Arrival:** 8:15 AM **Departure:** 12:45 PM

CCLC-52498

Growing Room Christian Academy

7196 North Lake Court Columbus, GA 31909 Muscogee County
(706) 221-3248 jcarpenter@growingroomusa.com

Regional Consultant

Penny Svenson

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Mailing Address

P.O. Box 4216
Columbus, GA 31914

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.
03/04/2025	Licensing Study	Good Standing	
12/18/2024	Monitoring Visit	Good Standing	
04/03/2024	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	Room A	GA PreK	2	16	C	24	C	34	C	Circle Time
Main	Room B	Four Year Olds and Five Year Olds	2	10	C	24	C	33	C	Story
Main	Room C	One Year Olds	1	8	C	16	C	NA	NA	Circle Time, Free Play
Main	Room D	Infants	2	8	C	12	C	NA	NA	Nap, Floor Play, Feeding
Main	Room E	Infants and One Year Olds	2	7	C	12	C	NA	NA	Breakfast, Floor Play, Feeding
Main	Room F	One Year Olds and Two Year Olds	2	15	C	22	C	NA	NA	Breakfast, Transitioning, Free Play
Main	Room G	Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds	2	19	C	22	C	NA	NA	Free Play, Art
Main	Room H	Three Year Olds	2	15	C	22	C	NA	NA	Story
Main	Room I	Two Year Olds	2	13	C	24	C	34	C	Transitioning, Circle Time
Main	Room J	Two Year Olds	2	19	C	25	C	35	C	Transitioning, Circle Time

Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 203

Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 225

Total # Children this Date: 130

Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 203

Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 225

Building @25 capacity limited by Insufficient Toilets/Sinks

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	Playground A	51	C
Main	Playground B	35	C
Main	Playground C	10	C

Enrolled Children						
Under 1 years	1 years	2 years	3 years	4 years	5 years (Prekonly)	5 years and older
17	22	38	38	31	15	28

Comments

March 4, 2025--The Licensing Study was conducted on this date. The findings were discussed with Management.

Plan of Improvement: Developed This Date

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@dec.al.ga.gov for more information. Free technical assistance is available!



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(Findings Report)

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The following information is associated with a Licensing Study:

Activities and Equipment

591-1-1-.12 Equipment & Toys(CR) Met

Comment
A variety of equipment and toys were observed throughout the center.

591-1-1-.35 Swimming Pools & Water-related Activities(CR) Met

Comment
Center does not provide swimming activities.

Children's Records

591-1-1-.08 Children's Records Met

Comment
Records were observed to be complete and well organized.

Facility

591-1-1-.06 Bathrooms Technical Assistance

Technical Assistance
The Consultant discussed with the Director to ensure vents in bathrooms were cleaned on a regular basis so that dust was not present.

Correction Deadline: 3/4/2025

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

Comment
Licensed capacity observed to be routinely met by center.

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 the two purple chairs in the quiet corner in Room A had visible cracks in the front of both chairs.

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: 3/4/2025

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

Playground observed to be clean and in good repair.

Food Service

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

The Consultant discussed with the Director that center Personnel shall ensure that children do not have excessive amounts of food in their mouths while eating and are chewing their food appropriately to prevent instances of choking. Children shall always be seated when eating and shall not be allowed to lie down or be put to sleep while food is present in their mouths.

Correction Deadline: 3/4/2025

Technical Assistance

The Consultant discussed with the Director that food shall 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.

Correction Deadline: 3/4/2025

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

Kitchen appears clean and well organized.

Health and Hygiene

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

Hand washing requirements for diapering were discussed with the director on this date.

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

591-1-1-17(7) requires that children wash their hands with liquid soap and warm running water upon arrival for care, when moving from one child care group to another, upon re-entering the child care area after outside play, before and after eating meals and snacks, handling or touching food, playing in water; after toileting and diapering, playing in sand, touching animals or pets, and contact with bodily fluids and after contamination by any other means. It was determined based on observation that staff did not wash children's hands in two classrooms after the children entered the classroom.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will train Staff on required handwashing for children and Staff will ensure children's hands are washed when required. The Director will monitor for compliance. Consultant observed staff and children wash hands in other classrooms.

Correction Deadline: 3/4/2025**591-1-1-.20 Medications(CR)****Met****Comment**

Documentation for medication dispensing observed complete.

Policies and Procedures**591-1-1-.29 Required Reporting****Met****Comment**

Thank you for reporting as required.

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

Age-appropriate discussion and/or redirection observed.

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**

Complete documentation of transportation observed.

Sleeping & Resting Equipment**591-1-1-.30 Safe Sleeping and Resting Requirements(CR)****Met****Comment**

Pleasant naptime environment observed.

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**Met****Comment**

Evidence observed of 50% of center staff certified in First Aid and CPR.

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

Documentation observed of required staff training.

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)**Technical Assistance****Technical Assistance**

The Consultant discussed with the Director that children shall 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.

Correction Deadline: 3/4/2025