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: 8/31/2026 **VisitType:** Licensing Study **Arrival:** 1:20 PM **Departure:** 4:00 PM

CCLC-53257
Excel Early Learning Center
54 Seventh Street Emerson, GA 30137 Bartow County
(770) 382-9040

Regional Consultant
Angela Hall
Phone: (404) 977-2140
Fax:
angela.hall@decal.ga.gov

Mailing Address
Same

Quality Rated:

Compliance Zone Designation		
08/31/2026	Licensing Study	Good Standing
06/17/2026	Complaint Closure	Good Standing
06/11/2026	Complaint Closure	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	Cafeteria		0	0	C	72	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
Main	Room A		0	0	C	23	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
Main	Room B		0	0	C	23	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
Main	Room C		0	0	C	23	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
Main	Room D: infants		0	0	C	12	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
Main	Room E		0	0	C	23	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
Main	Room F		0	0	C	23	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
Main	Room G	GA PreK	2	9	C	23	C	NA	NA	Transitioning,Snack,Nap
		Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 222				Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0				
Total # Children this Date: 9		Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 222				Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0				

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	Back Playgriybd	37	C
Main	Front Playground	48	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
0	0	0	0	9	0

Comments
The purpose of the visit was to follow up on previous citations.The Provider has closed Classroom A through F, only the Pre K classroom remains. The Provider is in the process of hiring a new 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 **Met**

Correction Deadline: 6/11/2026

Corrected on 8/31/2026
.03(8) - The previous citation was observed corrected. Consultant observed teachers being attentive to the children on this date.

Correction Deadline: 6/17/2026

Corrected on 8/31/2026
.03(9) - The previous citation was observed corrected. Consultant observed a positive interaction between staff and parents.

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

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

Correction Deadline: 6/11/2026

Corrected on 8/31/2026
.12(1) - The previous citation was observed corrected. Consultant observed age appropriate activities 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(2) - Consultant discussed immunizations with the Provider.

Correction Deadline: 9/10/2026

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) **Met**

Comment
Please be mindful to keep items that pose a hazard inaccessible to children.

Comment
Please secure cleaning tools (i.e., broom, plunger) out of reach of children.

591-1-1-.25 Physical Plant-Structural/Mechanical **Met**

Correction Deadline: 6/11/2026

Corrected on 8/31/2026
.25(19) - The previous citation was observed corrected. Consultant observed children in approved areas on this date.

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

Comment
Playground observed to be clean and in good repair on this date.

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) **Met**

Comment
Staff were observed to remind children to wash hands on this date.

591-1-1-.20 Medications(CR) **Met**

Comment
Discussed proper medication documentation and procedures.

Policies and Procedures

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

Comment
Program observed complete emergency drills

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

Comment
Discussed reporting requirements.

Correction Deadline: 6/11/2026

Corrected on 8/31/2026
.29(3) - The previous citation was observed corrected. Consultant spoke with the President of the child care program who shared that the center is aware of the reporting procedures.

Safety

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

Comment
Animals maintained clean and appropriately caged.

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) **Met**

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
Please ensure that cribs/cots are labeled for individual use.

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

Comment
Criminal records checks were observed to be complete.

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

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
Documentation observed of required staff training.

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

Comment
Discussed that all lead staff must enroll in an approved education program within 6 months of hire and complete degree within 18 months.

Finding
591-1-1-.31(1)(a) requires the Center to have a Director who is responsible for the supervision, operation and maintenance of the Center. The Director must be on the Center's premises. If the Director is absent from the Center at any time during the hours of the Center's operation, there shall be an officially designated person on the Center site to assume responsibility for the operation of the Center, and this person shall have full access to all records required to be maintained under these rules. It was determined based on review of documentation that the center does not have a Director.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
The Center will ensure a director, responsible for the supervision, operation and maintenance of the Center is on the premises. during operating hours. The Center will officially designate a person to assume responsibility for the operation of the Center when the director is not present who has full access to all records.

Correction Deadline: 10/31/2026

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) **Met**

Correction Deadline: 6/11/2026

Corrected on 8/31/2026
.32(7) - The previous citation was observed corrected on this date. Consultant observed appropriate supervision on this date.