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: 11/18/2025 **VisitType:** Complaint Investigation & Monitoring Visit **Arrival:** 11:00 AM **Departure:** 3:00 PM

CCLC-52204
AMAZING BEGINNINGS ACADEMY
551 Highway 138 W Jonesboro, GA 30238 Clayton County
(770) 471-2222

Regional Consultant
Nadia Bernard
Phone: (404) 670-9398
Fax: (706) 434-7710
nadia.bernard@decal.ga.gov

Mailing Address
Same

Quality Rated: ★ ★

Compliance Zone Designation		
11/18/2025	Complaint Investigation & Monitoring Visit	Good Standing
04/24/2025	Complaint Closure	Good Standing
04/24/2025	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-1	Infants	1	4	C	11	C	NA	NA	Nap,Feeding,Transitioning,Diapering
Main	A-2		0	0	C	11	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
Main	B-3		0	0	C	10	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
Main	C-4	Two Year Olds	1	5	C	11	C	NA	NA	Nap
Main	D- Cafe		0	0	C	27	C	NA	NA	
Main	E-5		0	0	C	12	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
Main	F-6		0	0	C	14	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
Main	G-7	Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds	1	6	C	25	C	NA	NA	Transitioning,Nap,Lunch
Main	H-8	GA PreK	1	9	C	22	C	NA	NA	Transitioning
Main	I-9		0	0	C	24	C	NA	NA	
		Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 167			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0					
Total # Children this Date: 24		Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 167			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0					

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	A- Right	52	C
Main	B- Left	80	C

Main	C- Rear	38	C

Enrolled Children						
Under 1 years	**1 years**	**2 years**	**3 years**	**4 years**	**5 years (Prekonly)**	**5 years and older**
6	1	5	5	14	0	25

Comments
July 1, 2025 Rule changes were discussed with the Director.

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@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 Monitoring Visit:

Activities and Equipment

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

Comment
Discussed adding equipment and toys to enhance variety.

Comment
Equipment and furniture observed to be properly secured, as applicable.

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

Comment
Center does not provide swimming activities.

Facility

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) **Technical Assistance**

Technical Assistance
591-1-1-.25(3) - The Consultant discussed with the director to ensure all vents are clean and free from debris and dust.

Correction Deadline: 11/18/2025

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

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 Playground A that the perimeter fence entry and exit gate had a nine inch gap at the bottom. It was further observed that the fence near the swing on Playground B had a five and half inch gap from the foundation pole.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
The Center will routinely check the fence to determine if it is in good repair and remains at least 4 feet high, and will repair any hazards. The Center will train Staff to identify and report any fence hazards and to keep the fence gates closed when not in use. The consultant requested the center staff email picture of repairs to the fence.

Correction Deadline: 11/28/2025

Recited on 11/18/2025

Finding
591-1-1-.26(8) requires climbing and swinging equipment to have a resilient surface beneath the equipment and the fall zone from such equipment must be adequately maintained by the Center to assure continuing resiliency. It was determined based on observation that Playground B had three inches of resilient surface around the fall zones of the large slide when six inches or resilient surface was required.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
The Center will add additional resilient surfacing to the fall zones where needed and check daily, adding resilient surfacing as needed to maintain adequate resiliency.

Correction Deadline: 11/28/2025

Recited on 11/18/2025

Correction Deadline: 5/2/2025

Corrected on 11/18/2025
.26(9) - The Consultant observed the citation to be corrected. A new drainage pipe was observed on Playground C.

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 was an active ant bed on playground B. It was further observed that two of the Little Tikes Cozy Car had a broken door and cracked plastic with exposed sharp edges.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
The Center will remove any litter and fix or remove hazards from the playground and will routinely monitor the playground and remove litter and hazards.

Correction Deadline: 11/18/2025

Health and Hygiene

591-1-1-.10 Diapering Areas & Practices(CR) **Not Met**

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

Finding
591-1-1-.10(4) requires that if diapers are changed on a diaper changing surface, the surface shall be smooth, nonporous, and equipped with a guard or rails to prevent falls. Between each diaper change, the diaper changing surface shall be cleaned with a disinfectant and dried with a single-use disposable towel. It was determined based on observation that staff in Room A-1 did not disinfect the diapering changing surface after changing an infant.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
The Center will ensure there is a smooth, nonporous changing surface that has a guard or rails for safety in each classroom that houses children wearing diapers. Center Staff will be trained and have adequate supplies to properly clean the diaper changing surface between each diaper change.

Correction Deadline: 11/18/2025

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

Finding
)591-1-1-.17(7)(a) requires washcloth handwashing be used only for infants when the infant is too heavy to hold or cannot stand safely and for children with special needs; requires that an individual washcloth be used only once for each child before laundering. It was determined based on observation that in Room A-1 handwashing was not completed for an infant after their diaper was changed.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
The Center will train Staff on how to correctly use washcloth handwashing and will review and monitor.

Correction Deadline: 11/18/2025

Finding
591-1-1-.17(8) requires staff to wash their hands with liquid soap and warm running water upon arrival for the day, when moving from one child care group to another, upon re-entering the child care area after outside play, before and after diapering each child, dispensing medication, applying topical medications, handling and preparing food, eating, drinking, preparing bottles, feeding each child, assisting children with eating and drinking, after toileting or assisting children with toileting, using tobacco products, handling garbage and organic waste, touching animals or pets, handling bodily fluids and after contamination by any means. It was determined based on observation that the staff in Room A-1 did not wash their hands after diapering an infant.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
The Center will ensure liquid soap and warm running water are available for handwashing, train Staff on the handwashing requirements, review the requirements with Staff periodically, and monitor handwashing.

Correction Deadline: 11/18/2025

Policies and Procedures

591-1-1-.21 Operational Policies & Procedures **Technical Assistance**

Technical Assistance
591-1-1-.21(2)(r) - New - Discussed updating the Center's policies and procedures to include the program's practices regarding the expulsion and suspension of children enrolled for care within the description of behavior management and discipline actions used by the Center.
• Also discussed to ensure a description of the practices followed by the Center to prevent shaken baby syndrome and abusive head trauma in children up to five years of age that includes the following information: how to recognize, respond to, and report the signs and symptoms of shaken baby syndrome and abusive head trauma; strategies to assist staff members in understanding how to care for infants and how to cope with a crying, fussing, or distraught child; strategies to ensure staff members understand the brain development of children up to five years of age; and a list of prohibited behaviors when dealing with children.
• Additional information can be found in the CCLC Indicator Manual found on DECAL's website at: https://www.decal.ga.gov/CCS/RulesAndRegulations.aspx or through the Center on Shaken Baby Syndrome found at: https://dontshake.org/.

Correction Deadline: 11/23/2025

Safety

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

Comment
Age-appropriate discussion and/or redirection observed.

591-1-1-.36 Transportation(CR) **Not Met**

Comment
A current/completed inspection was observed for all vehicles used in transporting children this date.

Comment
Paperwork, checklist, permission forms, annual inspection form and proper check of the vehicle after transportation were discussed with the director.

Finding
591-1-1-.36(7)(d)1. requires that the first check be conducted immediately upon unloading the last child at any location including, but not limited to, a field trip destination, arrival at the Center, and the last stop during transportation to home or school. The responsible person on the vehicle shall physically walk through the entire vehicle; visually inspect all seat surfaces, under all seats and in all compartments or recesses in the vehicle's interior; sign the passenger transportation checklist (s), indicating all of the children have exited the vehicle; and give the passenger transportation checklist(s) to the second designated Staff person. It was determined based on a review of records that the first check signature was missing for children that were transported on the morning route to EJ Swint Elementary on November 18, 2025.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
The Center will train Staff who are or may be involved in transporting children in how to thoroughly inspect a vehicle and properly complete transportation documentation. The Center will review and monitor.

Correction Deadline: 11/19/2025

Finding
591-1-1-.36(7)(d)2. requires that the second designated Staff person conduct a check of the vehicle immediately upon the completion of the first check of the vehicle. The responsible person shall physically walk through the entire vehicle; visually inspect all seat surfaces, under all seats and in all compartments or recesses in the vehicle's interior; and sign the passenger transportation checklist(s), indicating all of the children have exited the vehicle. There shall be continuous watchful oversight of the vehicle between the first check and second check. It was determined based on a review of records that the second check signature was missing for children that were transported on the morning route to EJ Swint Elementary on November 18, 2025.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
The Center will train Staff who are or may be involved in transporting children in how to thoroughly inspect a vehicle and properly complete transportation documentation. The Center will review and monitor.

Correction Deadline: 11/18/2025

Sleeping & Resting Equipment

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

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 in Room A-1 and infant was sleeping in the crib while drinking a bottle.

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: 11/18/2025

Staff Records

Records Reviewed: 11 **Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 1**

Staff # 2 Not Met

Date of Hire: 08/15/2025

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(3)-Health & Safety Certificate

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

Comment
Criminal record checks were observed to be complete.

Correction Deadline: 4/24/2025

Corrected on 11/18/2025
.09(1)(a) - The Consultant observed the citation to be corrected. Staff #1 did not return to the center after April 15, 2025.

Correction Deadline: 4/24/2025

Corrected on 11/18/2025
.09(1)(c) - The Consultant observed the citation to be corrected on this date. Staff # 8 had a valid and current satisfactory Comprehensive Records Check Determination on file prior to being present.

Correction Deadline: 4/24/2025

Corrected on 11/18/2025
.09(1)(j) - The citation was observed to be corrected on this date. Staff # 9 did not provide therapy services at the center after April 15, 2025.

Correction Deadline: 4/24/2025

Corrected on 11/18/2025
.09(1)(l)3. - The Consultant observed the citation to be corrected on this date. The Consultant observed Staff # 4 to have a current Comprehensive Records Check Determination on file.

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

Comment
Director provided five files for employees hired since last visit.

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

Comment
At least one staff person with current and valid pediatric first aid and pediatric CPR observed in each classroom where children were present.

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

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

Technical Assistance
591-1-1-.33(2)(a)-(n) - : Discussed that all Employees, including volunteers, independent contractors, students-in-training, etc. should have a completed initial program orientation form on file.

Correction Deadline: 11/19/2025

Finding
591-1-1-.33(3)(a)-(k) requires each Staff member with direct care responsibilities to complete health and safety orientation training within the first 90 days of employment. The state-approved training hours obtained will count toward required first year training hours. The training must address the following health and safety topics: a)prevention and control of infectious diseases (including immunizations); b) prevention of sudden infant death syndrome and use of safe sleeping practices; c) administration of medication, consistent with standards for parental consent; d) prevention of and response to emergencies due to food and allergic reactions; e) building and physical premises safety, including identification of and protection from hazards that can cause bodily injury such as electrical hazards, bodies of water, and vehicular traffic; f) prevention of shaken baby syndrome, abusive head trauma and child maltreatment; g) emergency preparedness and response planning for emergencies resulting from a natural disaster or a human-caused event (such as violence at a child care facility); h) handling and storage of hazardous materials and the appropriate disposal of bio contaminants; i) precautions in transporting children; j) recognition and reporting of child abuse and neglect; and k) child development to include all major domains:cognitive; social and emotional; physical development and motor skills; communication, language, and literacy; and approaches to play and learning. It was determined based on a review of records that Staff # 2 did not have evidence of completing their health and safety orientation training within the first 90 days of employment.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
The Center will develop and implement a plan to schedule and track this training for all employees based on their hire dates and will ensure that the training includes all required components as required.

Correction Deadline: 12/18/2025

Technical Assistance
591-1-1-.33(5)(b)1. - New - Discussed that effective July 1, 2025, all staff are required to obtain at least two hours in evidence based, developmentally appropriate language and literacy practices and at least two hours in on-going child development and health and safety related topics as part of their 10 hours of annual training.

Correction Deadline: 12/18/2025

591-1-1-.31 Staff(CR) **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.

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
Adequate supervision observed on this date.

591-1-1-.32 Supervision(CR) **Met**

Comment
Center observed to maintain appropriate staff:child ratios.

The following information is associated with a Complaint Investigation Visit:

Health and Hygiene

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

Correction Deadline: 4/24/2025

Corrected on 11/18/2025
.20(4) - The Consultant observed the citation to be corrected on this date. The center staff stated that medication was not dispensed at the center.