



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: 11/14/2025 **VisitType:** Incident Investigation & Follow Up **Arrival:** 11:00 AM **Departure:** 5:30 PM

CCLC-35299

Apple Tree Prep

810 Olympic Drive Athens, GA 30601 Clarke County
 (706) 546-9446

Special Investigations Unit Sr. Specialist

Brittany Mathews

Phone: (229) 317-9647

Fax: (229) 317-9646

brittany.mathews@decal.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.
11/14/2025	Incident Investigation & Follow Up	Good Standing	
10/23/2025	Incident Investigation Closure	Good Standing	
10/23/2025	Incident Investigation/Licensing Study	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	1L	Infants	1	4	C	18	C	NA	NA	Floor Play
Main	1R	GA PreK	2	18	C	20	C	NA	NA	TV
Main	2L	Infants and One Year Olds	1	6	C	17	C	NA	NA	Lunch
Main	2R	Three Year Olds	1	10	C	20	C	NA	NA	Lunch
Main	3L	One Year Olds	1	8	C	21	C	NA	NA	Lunch
Main	3R	Four Year Olds	1	12	C	22	C	NA	NA	Lunch
Main	4L	One Year Olds	1	8	C	19	C	NA	NA	Lunch
Main	5L	Two Year Olds and Three Year Olds	2	16	C	20	C	NA	NA	Lunch
Main	6L	Two Year Olds	2	16	C	20	C	NA	NA	Lunch
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 177						Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0				
Total # Children this Date: 98						Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0				

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	Playground A - Infant/Toddler	25	C
Main	Playground B - Preschool	48	C
Main	Playground C - Field	38	C

Comments

The following items were discussed during the visit:

- Staff Annual Training
- Staff Health & Safety Orientation
- Weather Watch Chart

Plan of Improvement: No Plan Developed

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.decgal.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@decgal.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 Incident Investigation & Follow Up:

	Facility
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591-1-1-.26 Playgrounds(CR)

Met

Correction Deadline: 10/23/2025

Corrected on 11/14/2025

.26(4) - The previous citation was observed corrected on this date. The Consultant observed a pool noodle in between the wall of the building and the gate to the playground. Furthermore, the center secured the bottom fence wire on Playground A - Infant/Toddler with a zip tie.

	Health and Hygiene
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591-1-1-.10 Diapering Areas & Practices(CR)

Met

Correction Deadline: 10/23/2025

Corrected on 11/14/2025

.10(4) - The previous citation was observed corrected on this date. The diaper changing surface was replaced and was observed in good condition.

	Staff Records
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591-1-1-.14 First Aid & CPR(CR)

Defer

Defer

591-1-1-.14(1)(a)- The previous citation was deferred on this date. The staff #7 was scheduled to complete their hands-on skill practice and assessment on November 22, 2025.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

Staff will complete the hands-on skill practice and assessment.. The Director will send copies via email verification of completed CPR/First Aid certification to the consultant upon completion and will develop a plan to ensure all caregiver Staff have completed this training within the first 45 days of employment and that evidence of successful completion of the training is on file available for inspection.

Correction Deadline: 10/23/2025

591-1-1-.33 Staff Training

Met

Correction Deadline: 10/23/2025

Corrected on 11/14/2025

.33(1) - The previous citation was observed corrected on this date. The Consultant observed that staff #8 and staff #16 had evidence of completed orientation on file.

Correction Deadline: 11/22/2025

Corrected on 11/14/2025

.33(3)(a)-(k) - The previous citation was observed corrected on this date. The Consultant observed that staff #1 had evidence of completed Health and Safety: Health and Nutrition portion of the orientation training.

Correction Deadline: 11/22/2025

Corrected on 11/14/2025

.33(5)(a) - Required annual training for 2024 has passed. Therefore, annual training for the past year cannot be obtained for staff #2.