



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: 7/30/2026 VisitType: POI Follow Up

Arrival: 8:20 AM Departure: 9:20 AM

CCLC-39324

First Step Learning Academy, Inc.

750 Haskell Ward Drive Griffin, GA 30223 Spalding County
(678) 572-4440

Regional Consultant

Brandi Mangino

Phone: (404) 548-4987

Fax:

brandi.mangino@decal.ga.gov

Mailing Address

Same

Quality Rated: ★

<u>Compliance Zone Designation</u>			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.
07/30/2026	POI Follow Up	Good Standing	
07/14/2026	Licensing Study	Support	
04/07/2026	Licensing Study	Good Standing	

Ratios/License Capacity

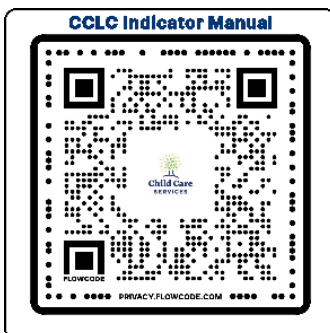
Building	Room	Age Group	Staff	Children	NC/C	Max 35 SF.	35 SF. Comp.	Max 25 SF.	25 SF. Comp.	Notes
Main	A Main	Six Year Olds and Over	1	11	C	18	C	NA	NA	Outside
			Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 18		Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0					
Total # Children this Date: 11			Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 18		Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0					

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	Playground	55	C

Comments

The purpose of the visit was a Plan of Improvement follow-up.

Plan of Improvement: Developed This Date



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>.

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.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)

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!



Summary Report

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The following information is associated with a POI Follow Up:

Children's Records

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

Not Met

Correction Deadline: 7/14/2026

Corrected on 7/30/2026

.08(1) - Citation corrected.

Finding

591-1-1-.08(6) requires the Center to maintain records of a child's daily arrival and departure for the twelve (12) preceding months that the Parent or person(s) authorized by the Parent documents, in written or electronic format, each time the Parent or authorized person drops off and picks up the child. The documentation shall include at least the date, the child's name, the arrival and departure times, and the signature or initials of the Parent or authorized person at the time of arrival and departure. These records shall be made available to the Department in printed or written form upon request. It was determined based on a review of records that on July 29, 2026, children were signed in by parents, but not signed out.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will maintain arrival and departure records as required, will ensure the documentation includes all of the required information, and will provide the records to the Department when requested.

Correction Deadline: 7/30/2026

Recited on 7/30/2026

Facility

591-1-1-.06 Bathrooms

Met

Correction Deadline: 7/14/2026

Corrected on 7/30/2026

.06(6) - Citation corrected.

591-1-1-.25 Physical Plant - Safe Environment(CR)

Not Met

Finding

591-1-1-.25(11) requires that floor coverings be tight, smooth, free of odors and washable or cleanable. It was determined based on observation that flooring was not smooth in several areas in that it was observed to have holes.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

Floors will be maintained to be safe and sanitary.

Correction Deadline: 8/13/2026

Recited on 7/30/2026

Correction Deadline: 7/14/2026

Corrected on 7/30/2026

.25(13) - Citation corrected. Consultant discussed all hazards must remain inaccessible and no items that read "keep out of reach of children" should be accessible.

Defer

591-1-1-.25(3)-Citation will be deferred until the next regulatory visit as the carpets are scheduled to be cleaned on July 31, 2026. The extension cord was secured.

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: 7/21/2026

Correction Deadline: 8/6/2026

Corrected on 7/30/2026

.25(8) - Citation corrected as item was removed.

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

Defer

Defer

591-1-1-.26(8)-Citation deferred as the center has a scheduled delivery for mulch and will be placed down by August 3, 2026.

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 resilient.

Correction Deadline: 8/13/2026

Recited on 1/1/0001

Correction Deadline: 8/13/2026

Corrected on 7/30/2026

.26(9) Citation corrected.

Food Service

591-1-1-.15 Food Service & Nutrition

Not Met

Correction Deadline: 7/14/2026

Corrected on 7/30/2026

.15(1) - Citation corrected.

Finding

591-1-1-.15(5) requires that the Center provide a menu listing all meals and snacks to be served during the current week except for School-age Centers where the food may be provided by the Parent(s) by agreement between the School-age Center and the Parent(s). Substitutions shall be recorded on the posted menu and menus shall be retained at the Center for six (6) months. It was determined based on observation that the menu did not match what was provided to the children on this date. The menu listed showed Yogurt Parfaits with berries and milk. The center has poparts, applesauce and milk.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will list all of the current week's meals and snacks and all substitutions on the menu and keep past menus on file for six months and will implement a system to monitor this.

Correction Deadline: 7/30/2026

Recited on 7/30/2026

591-1-1-.18 Kitchen Operations

Not Met

Correction Deadline: 7/14/2026

Corrected on 7/30/2026
.18(5) - Citation corrected.

Finding

591-1-1-.18(7) requires each Center to have a designated space for storage of food and kitchen items and that the area be kept clean and free of accumulation of dust, dirt, food particles and grease deposits. It was determined based on observation that the following items in the kitchen were in need of being cleaned or repaired: the corner of the counter was cracked

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will designate an area for the storage of these items, will thoroughly clean the space, if needed, develop and implement a plan to train Staff, as needed, and inspect the storage area daily.

Correction Deadline: 8/13/2026

Recited on 7/30/2026

Policies and Procedures

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

Not Met

Finding

591-1-1-.21(1)(r) requires Center policies and procedures include 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. It was determined based on a review of records that the center did not have a list of prohibited behaviors in the parent handbook. The center does not serve infants or children under the age of five.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will write or revise policies and procedures to include the required description of the Center's practices used to prevent shaken baby syndrome and abusive head trauma in children up to five years or age.

Correction Deadline: 8/13/2026

Recited on 7/30/2026

Correction Deadline: 7/31/2026

Corrected on 7/30/2026

.21(3) - Citation corrected. Consultant discussed requirements and ensuring that emergency procedures are reviewed with staff every six months.

Sleeping & Resting Equipment

591-1-1-.30 Safe Sleeping and Resting Requirements(CR)

Technical Assistance

Technical Assistance

Consultant discussed cots should be covered or removed since school-age only are served.

Correction Deadline: 8/9/2026

Staff Records

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

Met

Correction Deadline: 8/13/2026

Corrected on 7/30/2026

.14(2)(a) - Citation corrected.

Correction Deadline: 7/14/2026

Corrected on 7/30/2026

.14(2)(b) - Citation corrected.

Correction Deadline: 8/13/2026

Corrected on 7/30/2026
.14(2)(d) - Citation corrected.

591-1-1-.24 Personnel Records

Met

Correction Deadline: 7/19/2026

Corrected on 7/30/2026
.24(1) - Citation corrected.

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

Technical Assistance

Technical Assistance

Consultant discussed staffing requirements for the center and two staff are needed to and must be present during meal times and snack times.

Correction Deadline: 7/30/2026