



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: 4/29/2026 **VisitType:** Incident Investigation & Follow Up **Arrival:** 2:50 PM **Departure:** 6:30 PM

CCLC-47191

Cornerstone Academy of Lithonia

1645 Redan East Lithonia, GA 30058 DeKalb County
 (678) 526-7357

Special Investigations Unit Specialist

Stephanie Ellis

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stephanie.ellis@dec.al.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.
04/29/2026	Incident Investigation & Follow Up	Good Standing	
04/06/2026	Complaint Closure	Good Standing	
03/10/2026	Complaint Investigation & Licensing Study	Good Standing	

Ratios/License Capacity

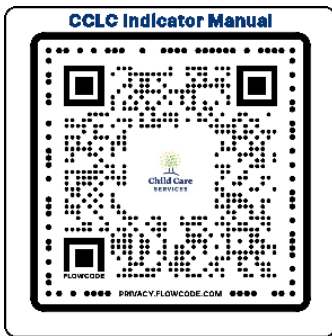
Building	Room	Age Group	Staff	Children	NC/C	Max 35 SF.	35 SF. Comp.	Max 25 SF.	25 SF. Comp.	Notes
Main	A- 3 y/o +	Two Year Olds and Three Year Olds and Five Year Olds and Six Year Olds and Over	2	15	C	18	C	NA	NA	Snack
Main	B- 3-4 y./o		0	0	C	15	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
Main	C-18-23 mos	Infants and One Year Olds and Two Year Olds	1	7	C	21	C	NA	NA	Snack
Main	D- 0-17 mos		0	0	C	16	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 70			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0							
Total # Children this Date: 22			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0							

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	Playground A - Infant	12	C
Main	Playground B - Toddler	19	C
Main	Playground C - Preschool - School-Age	72	C

Comments

The purpose of this visit was to conduct an incident investigation and follow up visit.

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.dec.al.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 Incident Investigation & Follow Up:

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

Correction Deadline: 3/11/2026

Corrected on 4/29/2026

.25(13) - The previous citation was observed to be corrected. The Consultant did not observe potentially hazardous equipment, materials and supplies accessible to children on this date.

Correction Deadline: 3/11/2026

Corrected on 4/29/2026

.25(8) - The previous citation was observed to be corrected. The Consultant observed protective caps on unused electrical outlets on this date.

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

Correction Deadline: 3/31/2026

Corrected on 4/29/2026

.26(9) - The previous citation was observed to be corrected. The Consultant observed the playground to be free from hazards on this date.

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

Correction Deadline: 3/10/2026

Corrected on 4/29/2026

.15(3) - The previous citation was observed to be corrected. The Consultant observed infant bottles labeled with first and last names as required on this date.

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

Correction Deadline: 3/23/2026

Corrected on 4/29/2026

.09(1)(j) - The previous citation was observed corrected on this date. The Consultant reviewed the centers records and Staff hired on March 2, 2026, satisfactory Comprehensive Records Check Determination letter was ported successfully.

Correction Deadline: 3/10/2026

Corrected on 4/29/2026

.14(1)(a) - The previous citation was observed corrected on this date. The Consultant reviewed staff records and observed completed certification in a biennial training program in pediatric cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and a triennial training program in pediatric first aid.

591-1-1-.33 Staff Training

Defer

Correction Deadline: 4/9/2026

Corrected on 4/29/2026

.33(4) - The previous citation was observed to be corrected. The Consultant review staff records and observed a completed training in food nutrition planning, preparation, serving, proper dish washing and food storage on this date.

Defer

591-1-1-.33(5)(a)-Evaluation of the previous citation was deferred on this date to the next regulatory visit to observe training for the 2026 calendar year.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will plan and schedule the required 10 hours of annual training each year and follow up to ensure the training is completed.

Correction Deadline: 4/9/2026

Correction Deadline: 4/9/2026

Corrected on 4/29/2026

.33(5)(b)(2)(i)-(iv) - The previous citation was observed to be corrected. The Consultant reviewed staff records and observed completed health and safety training on this date.

Staffing and Supervision

591-1-1-.32 Staff:Child Ratios and Group Size(CR)

Not Met

Finding

591-1-1-.32(4) requires that children under three years old be housed in separate physical areas from older children and cannot be mixed with older children except at specified times and circumstances. It was determined based on observation that in classroom A-3 y/o + two staff members were present in the classroom with two 2-year-old children, five 3-year-old children, and eight 5-year-old children and up. None of the children had a written parental agreement on file for the group to be housed together.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will maintain separation of these children under three years old.

Correction Deadline: 4/29/2026

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

Not Met

Finding

591-1-1-.32(7) requires that children 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. It was determined based on observation that Staff in classroom C- 18-23 mos was not seated within an arm's length away from children thirty-six (36) months of age and younger as required on this date.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will train Staff and monitor to ensure they are providing supervision and watchful oversight to the children at all times.

Correction Deadline: 4/29/2026

