



**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:** 11/24/2025 **VisitType:** Licensing Study

**Arrival:** 9:00 AM **Departure:** 12:30 PM

**CCLC-2363**

**Kids Express Learning Center**

16 2nd Street Hawkinsville, GA 31036 Pulaski County  
(478) 783-1274

Regional Consultant

Charlene Story

Phone: (770) 405-7942

Fax: (770) 408-0759

charlene.story@decal.ga.gov

**Mailing Address**

Same

**Quality Rated:** ★ ★

| <u>Compliance Zone Designation</u> |                  |               | <b>Compliance Zone Designation</b> - 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.<br><br><b>Good Standing</b> - Program is demonstrating an acceptable level of performance in meeting the rules.<br><b>Support</b> - Program performance is demonstrating a need for improvement in meeting rules.<br><b>Deficient</b> - Program is not demonstrating an acceptable level of performance in meeting the rules. |
|------------------------------------|------------------|---------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 11/24/2025                         | Licensing Study  | Good Standing |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| 05/21/2025                         | Monitoring Visit | Good Standing |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| 10/16/2024                         | 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                           | Classroom F | Infants and One Year Olds                                     | 2                              | 3        | C    | 10                              | C            | NA         | NA           | Diapering, Floor Play, Nap |
| Main                           | Classroom H |                                                               | 0                              | 0        | C    | 9                               | C            | NA         | NA           |                            |
| Main                           | Room A      |                                                               | 0                              | 0        | C    | 16                              | C            | 22         | C            |                            |
| Main                           | Room B      |                                                               | 0                              | 0        | C    | 6                               | C            | NA         | NA           |                            |
| Main                           | Room C      |                                                               | 0                              | 0        | C    | 6                               | C            | NA         | NA           |                            |
| Main                           | Room D/E    | One Year Olds                                                 | 2                              | 6        | C    | 12                              | C            | NA         | NA           | Free Play                  |
| Main                           | Room G      | Two Year Olds and Three Year Olds                             | 2                              | 7        | C    | 8                               | C            | NA         | NA           | Art                        |
| Main                           | Room I      | Three Year Olds and Five Year Olds and Six Year Olds and Over | 2                              | 4        | C    | 19                              | C            | 27         | C            | Free Play                  |
|                                |             |                                                               | Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 86 |          |      | Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 100 |              |            |              |                            |
| Total # Children this Date: 20 |             |                                                               | Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 86 |          |      | Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 100 |              |            |              |                            |

| Building | Playground      | Playground Occupancy | Playground Compliance |
|----------|-----------------|----------------------|-----------------------|
| Main     | Back Playground | 16                   | C                     |
| Main     | Left Playground | 40                   | C                     |

| Enrolled Children |         |         |         |         |                    |                   |
|-------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|--------------------|-------------------|
| Under 1 years     | 1 years | 2 years | 3 years | 4 years | 5 years (Prekonly) | 5 years and older |
| 3                 | 8       | 9       | 5       | 0       | 0                  | 7                 |

#### Comments

Children's files, staff records, emergency preparedness plan, emergency drills and first aid kit were available for the consultant to review on this date.

An exit conference discussing the Licensing study report was conducted with the Director on this date. An email with the Licensing study report was sent to the Director for signature on this date.

The CCS Consultant discussed and left a copy of the updated Child Care Weather Watch Chart with the program today. Weather does not permit outdoor play when there is active precipitation or when weather advisories are in effect. Consult the Child Care Weather Watch Chart resource for further guidance, considering specific weather conditions.

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.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.

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#### 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](http://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.

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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](mailto:qualityrated@dec.al.ga.gov) for more information. Free technical assistance is available!**



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Summary Report

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Arrival: 9:00 AM Departure: 12:30 PM

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The following information is associated with a Licensing Study:

Activities and Equipment

591-1-1-.03 Activities

Met

Comment

Lesson Plans were observed to be posted and reflected the current weeks activities in each classroom.

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

Met

Comment

Equipment and furniture observed to be properly secured 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

Met

Comment

Records were observed to be complete and well organized.

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 met by center on this date.

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

Met

Comment

No hazards observed accessible to children on this date.

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

Met

Comment

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

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

CACFP Meal Pattern Requirements effective October 1, 2017 will be implemented October 1, 2018: 3 Components for breakfast: Grains, Vegetables, Fruits or both, Milk  
 5 Components for lunch – Grains, Meat/Meat alternates, Fruits, Vegetable, and Milk OR Grains, Meat/Meat alternates, 2 different types of vegetables, and Milk  
 2 of 5 Components for snack

Provided Updated CACFP Infant Meal pattern and Child/Adult Meal pattern flyers.

The Crediting Handbook for the CACFP can be located on DECAL and USDA's website:

DECAL

<http://dec.al.ga.gov/CACFP/Handbook.aspx>

USDA

<http://www.fns.usda.gov/cacfp/cacfp-handbooks>

**591-1-1-.18 Kitchen Operations****Met****Comment**

Kitchen appears clean and well organized on this date.

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

Proper diapering procedures observed.

**Comment**

Staff stated proper knowledge of diapering procedures.

**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)****N/A****Comment**

The Provider currently does not dispense/administer medication.

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

591-1-1-.21(1)(a-o) - 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.

**Correction Deadline: 11/29/2025**

**Technical Assistance**

591-1-1-.21(1)(r) - New - Consultant discussed with the Provider 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.dec.al.ga.gov/CCS/RulesAndRegulations.aspx> or through the Center on Shaken Baby Syndrome found at: <https://dontshake.org/>.

**Correction Deadline: 11/29/2025**

**Technical Assistance**

591-1-1-.21(2)(r) - New - Consultant discussed with the Provider 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:

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**Correction Deadline: 11/29/2025**

**591-1-1-.27 Posted Notices****Met****Comment**

Observed all required posted notices.

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

Thank you for reporting as required.

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

Center does not keep animals on premises.

**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**

Discussed SIDS and infant sleeping position.

**Comment**

The correct number of mats, sheets and blankets were observed on this date. Cleaning and disinfecting of mats was discussed with the director on this date.

**Staff Records****Records Reviewed: 19****Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 1**

Staff # 14

Not Met

Date of Hire: 09/22/2025

Reminder - Health & Safety training is required within 90 calendar days of hired

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.14(2)-CPR missing,.14(2)-First Aid Missing

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|                                                                             |            |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|
| <b>591-1-1-.09 Criminal Records and Comprehensive Background Checks(CR)</b> | <b>Met</b> |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|

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**Comment**

Criminal record checks were observed to be complete.

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|                                               |            |
|-----------------------------------------------|------------|
| <b>591-1-1-.09 Criminal Records Check(CR)</b> | <b>Met</b> |
|-----------------------------------------------|------------|

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**Comment**

Criminal records checks were observed to be complete.

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|                                            |                |
|--------------------------------------------|----------------|
| <b>591-1-1-.14 First Aid &amp; CPR(CR)</b> | <b>Not Met</b> |
|--------------------------------------------|----------------|

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**Comment**

Please replace any expired item in first aid kit.

**Finding**

591-1-1-.14(1)(a) requires all Staff who provide direct care to children must obtain certification in a biennial training program in pediatric cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and a triennial training program in pediatric first aid within the first 45 days of employment. Current and valid evidence of the successful completion of such training shall be maintained on the Center's premises. The hours obtained completing this certification will not count towards the required annual training hours. It was determined based on review of staff records that Staff Member #14, who was hired on September 22, 2025, had not obtained CPR and First Aid Certification within the 45 day of hire that is required by the department.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

All caregiver Staff will complete the required training. 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: 12/24/2025**

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|                                   |                             |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| <b>591-1-1-.33 Staff Training</b> | <b>Technical Assistance</b> |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|

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**Comment**

Documentation observed of required 10 hours of annual training for the year 2024.

**Technical Assistance**

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

**Correction Deadline: 11/24/2025**

**Technical Assistance**

591-1-1-.33(5)(b)1. - New - Consultant discussed with the Director that effective July 1, 2025, all staff are required to obtain at least two hours in evidence based, developmentally appropriate language and literacy practices.

**Correction Deadline: 12/24/2025**

**Technical Assistance**

591-1-1-.33(5)(b)(2)(i)-(iv) - New - Consultant discussed with the Director that effective July 1, 2025, all staff are required to obtain 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: 12/24/2025**

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|                              |            |
|------------------------------|------------|
| <b>591-1-1-.31 Staff(CR)</b> | <b>Met</b> |
|------------------------------|------------|

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**Comment**

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

|                                 |
|---------------------------------|
| <b>Staffing and Supervision</b> |
|---------------------------------|

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|                                                          |            |
|----------------------------------------------------------|------------|
| <b>591-1-1-.32 Staff:Child Ratios and Group Size(CR)</b> | <b>Met</b> |
|----------------------------------------------------------|------------|

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**Comment**

Center observed to maintain appropriate staff:child ratios.

Correction Deadline: 1/30/2025

Corrected on 11/24/2025

.32(7) - This citation was observed to be corrected on this date. Staff were observed to be sitting with the children within arm's length while eating lunch.