



**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:** 9/24/2025    **VisitType:** Licensing Study    **Arrival:** 8:55 AM    **Departure:** 12:30 PM

**CCLC-35644**  
**Child Development Center**  
 2701 11th Avenue Columbus, GA 31904 Muscogee County  
 (706) 801-9428

Regional Consultant  
 Penny Svenson  
 Phone: (470) 346-1037  
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**Mailing Address**  
 Same

**Quality Rated:** ★

| <b>Compliance Zone Designation</b> |                  |               | <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. |
|------------------------------------|------------------|---------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 09/24/2025                         | Licensing Study  | Good Standing |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| 05/13/2025                         | Monitoring Visit | Good Standing |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| 09/25/2024                         | 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     | 1    | Infants and One Year Olds       | 2     | 5        | C    | 13         | C            | NA         | NA           | Feeding, Floor Play        |
| Main     | 10   | GA PreK                         | 2     | 15       | C    | 21         | C            | NA         | NA           | Outside, Transitioning     |
| Main     | 11   | GA PreK                         | 2     | 9        | C    | 16         | C            | NA         | NA           | Circle Time, Transitioning |
| Main     | 12   | GA PreK                         | 3     | 7        | C    | 16         | C            | NA         | NA           | Transitioning, Circle Time |
| Main     | 13   | GA PreK                         | 2     | 8        | C    | 25         | C            | NA         | NA           | Transitioning              |
| Main     | 3    | One Year Olds and Two Year Olds | 2     | 5        | C    | 13         | C            | NA         | NA           | Circle Time, Diapering     |
| Main     | 4    |                                 | 0     | 0        | C    | 13         | C            | NA         | NA           |                            |
| Main     | 5    | Two Year Olds                   | 2     | 6        | C    | 17         | C            | NA         | NA           | Outside, Transitioning     |
| Main     | 6    | Three Year Olds                 | 3     | 11       | C    | 17         | C            | NA         | NA           | Story                      |
| Main     | 7    |                                 | 0     | 0        | C    | 16         | C            | NA         | NA           |                            |
| Main     | 8    | Three Year Olds                 | 2     | 9        | C    | 16         | C            | NA         | NA           | Music                      |
| Main     | 9    | Three Year Olds                 | 2     | 13       | C    | 21         | C            | NA         | NA           | Music, Circle Time         |

Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 204

Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0

Total # Children this Date: 88

Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 204

Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0

| <b>Building</b> | <b>Playground</b> | <b>Playground<br/>Occupancy</b> | <b>Playground<br/>Compliance</b> |
|-----------------|-------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Main            | Playground        | 69                              | C                                |

| <b>Enrolled Children</b> |                |                |                |                |                           |                          |
|--------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| <b>Under 1 years</b>     | <b>1 years</b> | <b>2 years</b> | <b>3 years</b> | <b>4 years</b> | <b>5 years (Prekonly)</b> | <b>5 years and older</b> |
| 4                        | 12             | 20             | 63             | 30             | 5                         | 0                        |

#### **Comments**

September 24, 2025--Technical Assistance provided for new rule changes.

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.decga.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

Date: 9/24/2025 VisitType: Licensing Study

Arrival: 8:55 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**

Age-appropriate activities observed throughout the center.

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

**Comment**

A variety of equipment and toys were observed throughout the center on this date.

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

**Comment**

Center does not provide swimming activities.

**Children's Records**

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

**Comment**

Parent agreements observed obtained/completed.

**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 routinely met by center on this date.

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

**Technical Assistance**

The Consultant discussed with the Director to monitor vents and filters for dust and to clean and change as needed.

Correction Deadline: 9/24/2025

**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 exposed concrete with rough edges at classroom doors as you entered the playground used for Early Headstart. Further, there were exposed bolts on the fence gate that was greater than three threads.

**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: 9/30/2025**

**Recited on 9/24/2025**

**Food Service****591-1-1-.15 Food Service & Nutrition****Not Met****Finding**

591-1-1-.15(4) requires that a feeding chair or similar equipment designed for feeding children shall be provided for the use of each child being fed who is capable of sitting up but who is unable to sit unassisted at a table and must be cleaned with a disinfectant after each use. Such chair or similar equipment shall have a broad base to prevent tipping, a surface that the child cannot raise, a strap or other device which prevents the child from sliding out of the chair, and a feeding surface free of cracks. It was determined based on observation that infants in Room 1 were observed to have bottles in their hands or on the floor and they were not provided a feeding chair or similar equipment as required.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

The Center will inspect feeding equipment to ensure it meets each of the listed criteria and to verify a feeding chair or equipment is provided for each child who requires one. The Center will train staff and monitor to ensure that the feeding equipment is cleaned with a disinfectant after each use.

**Correction Deadline: 9/24/2025**

**Finding**

591-1-1-.15(7) requires that food be served according to manufacturer's instructions and recommendations. Foods that are associated with young children's choking incidents, such as, but not limited to, peanuts, hot dogs, raw carrots, popcorn, fish with bones, cheese cubes, grapes and any other food that is of similar shape and size of the trachea/windpipe shall not be served to the children less than four (4) years of age. Children older than four (4) years of age may be served these foods provided that the foods are cut in such a way as to minimize choking. Food shall not be accessible or served to children until it has been chopped, diced, cut or mashed and is appropriate for each child's age and individual eating, chewing and swallowing ability. It was determined based on a review of records that meatballs and string cheese were on the current menu. Further, string cheese was observed in the refrigerator. Also, technical assistance was provided for this rule on May 13, 2025.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

The Center will train Staff and monitor food served and accessible to children to ensure that the food does not present a choking hazard.

**Correction Deadline: 9/24/2025**

**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**

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

**591-1-1-.17 Hygiene(CR)****Met****Comment**

Please ensure soiled items are stored inaccessible to children.

**Comment**

Documentation for medication dispensing observed completed on this date.

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

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: 9/29/2025****Technical Assistance**

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: 9/29/2025****591-1-1-.29 Required Reporting****Met****Comment**

Discussed reporting requirements.

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

Center does not keep animals on premises.

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

Please be mindful of voice tone in redirecting children.

**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)****Met****Comment**

Center does not provide routine transportation.

**Sleeping & Resting Equipment****591-1-1-.30 Safe Sleeping and Resting Requirements(CR)****Met****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****591-1-1-.09 Criminal Records and Comprehensive Background Checks(CR)****Met****Comment**

Criminal record checks were observed to be complete.

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

Criminal records checks were observed to be complete.

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

Discussed that effective July 1, 2025, new staff are required to obtain pediatric First Aid and pediatric CPR training within 45 days of employment. It was further discussed that programs must have at least one person with current pediatric First Aid and pediatric CPR training in each classroom at all times.

**Correction Deadline: 10/24/2025**

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**591-1-1-.33 Staff Training****Technical Assistance****Technical Assistance**

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

**Correction Deadline: 9/24/2025****Technical Assistance**

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.

**Correction Deadline: 10/24/2025****Technical Assistance**

Discussed 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: 10/24/2025**

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

Staff observed to be compliant with applicable laws and regulations.

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

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

Center observed to maintain appropriate staff:child ratios.

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

Adequate supervision observed on this date.