



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: 3/25/2026 VisitType: Monitoring Visit

Arrival: 10:30 AM Departure: 3:25 PM

CCLC-713
Appletree Prep Watkinsville
1471 Jennings Mill Road Watkinsville, GA 30677 Oconee County
(706) 546-9400

Regional Consultant
Francine Arnone
Phone: (770) 357-4919
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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.
03/25/2026	Monitoring Visit	Good Standing	
07/11/2025	Incident Investigation Closure	Good Standing	
07/11/2025	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	100	Infants	1	6	C	17	C	NA	NA	Nap,Floor Play
Main	150		0	0	C	15	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
Main	200	One Year Olds	1	8	C	18	C	NA	NA	Nap,Transitioning
Main	250		0	0	C	22	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
Main	300	Two Year Olds	2	14	C	23	C	NA	NA	Lunch
Main	350		0	0	C	22	C	NA	NA	
Main	400	Three Year Olds	1	15	C	22	C	NA	NA	Nap,Lunch,Transitioning
Main	450	GA PreK	2	11	C	20	C	NA	NA	Transitioning
Main	500	GA PreK	4	11	C	21	C	NA	NA	Transitioning
Main	550		0	0	C	26	C	36	C	
Main	Dining		0	0	C	24	C	NA	NA	
Main	Gym	Three Year Olds	1	13	C	60	C	83	C	Nap,Transitioning
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 320					Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 323			Building @35 capacity limited by Heath Department Limitations		
Total # Children this Date: 78					Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 320			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 323		

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	Playground A	67	C
Main	Playground B	200	C
Main	Playground C	95	C

Enrolled Children						
Under 1 years	1 years	2 years	3 years	4 years	5 years (Prekonly)	5 years and older
9	7	20	28	4	25	6

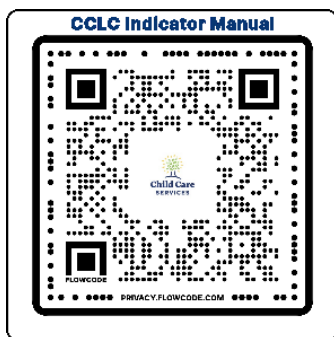
Comments

A copy of this report was provided on this date.

The Consultant discussed the following:

- Chop, Lock and Listen anti choking campaign and the importance of teachers sitting within arms length of the children 2-year-olds and younger.

Plan of Improvement: No Plan Developed



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.decal.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

You have received permission to operate and the form received with this report is intended to serve as a temporary license which is **valid for thirty(30) days**. Your actual license/ will be emailed to you upon receipt of the licensing fee. You may pay the licensing fee either online at <http://www.decal.ga.gov/> or by certified check or money order mailed to: Bright from the Start, 2 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive SE, Suite 670 East Tower, Atlanta, GA 30334

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@decal.ga.gov for more information. Free technical assistance is available!



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Summary Report

Date: 3/25/2026 **VisitType:** Monitoring Visit

Arrival: 10:30 AM **Departure:** 3:25 PM

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The following information is associated with a Monitoring Visit:

Activities and Equipment

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)

N/A

Comment

Center does not provide swimming activities.

Facility

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)

Not Met

Finding

591-1-1-.25(13) requires that potentially hazardous equipment, materials and supplies be stored in a locked area inaccessible to children. It was determined based on observation the following hazards were observed to be accessible to children:

-Main-400- A staff members purse was observed on the counter opened along with a thermometer and adult sized scissors. In the 8th cubicle a container of shaving gel marked Keep out of Reach of children was observed to be in an open container with a roll of plastic garbage liners and approximately 15 Zip lock bags that were empty.

-Gym - A plastic drawer with more than ten containers of sun block were observed on top of a shelf that was in reach and accessible to the children. Additionally the plastic covering on the front top of the drinking water fountain was peeled exposing rusted metal beneath.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will identify all hazardous items and keep them in a locked area inaccessible to children. The Center will inform all Staff about hazardous items and the safe storage of those items. The Director covered the rusted area of the drinking fountain until it can be removed from the room. The water is turned off.

Correction Deadline: 3/25/2026

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

Met

Comment

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

Health and Hygiene

591-1-1-.10 Diapering Areas & Practices(CR) Met

Comment

Proper diapering procedures observed.

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.

Safety

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

Correction Deadline: 7/11/2025

Corrected on 3/25/2026

.11(2) - The previous citation has been corrected. Staff member #3, hired February 5, 2025, received additional training in Child Development, Positive Guidance, Protecting Infants and Reducing Sudden Infant Death Syndrome and Shaken Baby Syndrome. The Consultant observed a positive learning environment on this date.

591-1-1-.36 Transportation(CR) Met

Comment

A current/completed inspection was observed for all vehicles used in transporting children this date.

Comment

Complete documentation of transportation observed on this date.

Sleeping & Resting Equipment

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

Comment

Pleasant naptime environment observed.

Staff Records

Records Reviewed: 17

Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 1

Staff # 5

Not Met

Date of Hire: 11/17/2025

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.09-Criminal Records Check Missing

591-1-1-.09 Criminal Records and Comprehensive Background Checks(CR) Not Met

Finding

591-1-1-.09(1)(a) requires that a Center ensure that every actual and potential Director, Employee and Provisional Employee of a Child Care Learning Center submit both a Records Check Application to the Department and Fingerprints to an authorized fingerprinting site. It was determined based on review of the records that staff # 5, hired on November 17, 2025, was present at the Center in the cafeteria with 11 children and one staff member without submitting both a Records Check Application to the Department and Fingerprints to an authorized fingerprinting site. The Provider was unable to port the staff member due to being beyond the time frame of portability. The staff member was observed to leave the Center at 2;30 p.m.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

IMMEDIATE CORRECTION - The Center will monitor monthly to ensure that every actual and potential Director, Employee and Provisional Employee of a Child Care Learning Center submit both a Records Check Application to the Department and Fingerprints to an authorized fingerprinting site as required. The program's owner or an officer/member of the corporation must view the A to Z Background Check video units pertaining to this records check rule and return the signed affidavit within one week from this visit date. The Center will monitor to ensure the CRC rules are maintained.

Correction Deadline: 3/25/2026

Finding

591-1-1-.09(1)(c) requires the Center to ensure that every Employee has a valid and current satisfactory Comprehensive Records Check Determination on file prior to being present at the Center while any child is present for care or before an individual age 17 or older resides in the Center. The Comprehensive Records Check Determination must have a Records Check Clearance Date that is no older than the preceding 12 months of the hire date; provided, however, if the Employee has had a lapse of employment from the child care industry that lasted for 180 days (6 months) or longer, a new satisfactory Comprehensive Records Check Determination is required. It was determined based on review of the records that staff member # 5, hired on November 17, 2025, was present at the Center in the cafeteria with 11 children and one staff member without a valid and current satisfactory Comprehensive Records Check Determination ported into the Center. The Provider was unable to port the staff member due to being beyond the time frame of portability. The staff member was observed to leave the Center at 2:30 p.m.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

IMMEDIATE CORRECTION - The Center will monitor monthly to ensure that every Employee has a valid and current satisfactory Comprehensive Records Check Determination on file prior to being present at the Center while any child is present for care or before an individual age 17 or older resides in the Center. The Comprehensive Records Check Determination must have a Records Check Clearance Date that is no older than the preceding 12 months of the hire date; provided, however, if the Employee has had a lapse of employment from the child care industry that lasted for 180 days (6 months) or longer, a new satisfactory Comprehensive Records Check Determination is required. The program's owner or an officer/member of the corporation must view the A to Z Background Check video units pertaining to this records check rule and return the signed affidavit within one week from this visit date. The center will monitor monthly to ensure the CRC rules are maintained.

Correction Deadline: 3/25/2026

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

Met

Comment

Evidence observed of 100% of center Staff certified in First Aid and CPR containing emergency care for infants and children on this date.

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

Met

Comment

Staff observed to be compliant with applicable laws and regulations.

Staffing and Supervision

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

Met

Comment

Center observed to maintain appropriate staff:child ratios.

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 in Room 400, with one staff member and 15 children, the staff member was laying on the floor during naptime patting a child to sleep with her back to the rest of the 14 children. The staff was not positioned to maximize their ability to hear and see the children at all times as required.

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: 3/25/2026