



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: 1/8/2026 **VisitType:** Complaint Investigation & Licensing Study **Arrival:** 9:45 AM **Departure:** 1:15 PM

CCLC-34766
The Bright Futures Academy
3602 Highlands Pkwy Smyrna, GA 30082 Cobb County
(678) 424-1076

Lead Consultant
Neli Todorova
Phone: (770) 359-5167
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Mailing Address
Same

Quality Rated: No

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.
01/08/2026	Complaint Investigation & Licensing Study	Good Standing	
09/30/2025	Monitoring Visit	Good Standing	
02/25/2025	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 1st Left	Infants and One Year Olds	1	3	C	7	C	NA	NA	Feeding, Floor Play
Main	B 2nd Left	One Year Olds	1	5	C	8	C	NA	NA	Free Play
Main	C 3rd Left	Two Year Olds	1	10	C	15	C	NA	NA	Free Play
Main	D Right Room	Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds	1	9	C	10	C	NA	NA	Centers, Free Play
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.:			40		Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0					
Total # Children this Date: 27			Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.:		Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0					

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	Playground	15	C

Enrolled Children						
Under 1 years	1 years	2 years	3 years	4 years	5 years (Prekonly)	5 years and older
2	6	1	3	0	0	2

Comments

The investigation was not completed on the day of the visit. The Director will be notified of the outcome.

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!



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Summary Report

Date: 1/8/2026 **VisitType:** Complaint Investigation & Licensing **Arrival:** 9:45 AM **Departure:** 1:15 PM
Study

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The following information is associated with a Licensing Study Visit:

Activities and Equipment

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

Comment

Equipment and furniture observed to be properly secured, as applicable.

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 routinely met by center on this date.

591-1-1-.25 Physical Plant - Safe Environment(CR) Not Met

Comment

Please be mindful to keep items that pose a hazard inaccessible to children.

Finding

591-1-1-.25(3) requires the Center and surrounding premises to be kept clean, free of debris and in good repair. Hygienic measures such as, but not limited to, screened windows and proper waste disposal procedures shall be utilized to minimize the presence of rodents, flies, roaches and other vermin at the Center. It was determined based on observation that a large portion of the baseboard under the windows in room C 3rd Left was separated and laying on the carpet. Additionally, the separated baseboards on the back right wall in room D Right Room were held in place with staples and screws that were protruding with sharp edges.

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: 1/15/2026

591-1-1-.26 Playgrounds(CR)**Not Met****Finding**

591-1-1-.26(6) requires that playground equipment provide an opportunity for the children to engage in a variety of experiences and shall be age-appropriate. For example, toddlers shall not be permitted to swing in swings designed for School-age Children. The outdoor equipment shall be free of lead-based paint, sharp corners and shall be regularly maintained in such a way as to be free of rust and splinters that could pose significant safety hazard to the children. All equipment shall be arranged so as not to obstruct supervision of children. It was determined based on observation that:

* The left side of the wooden stairs on the green and wooden play structure was broken posing a safety hazard to children. There was caution tape around the structure that was partially torn and on the ground. The citation for the structure was deferred at previous visit as the owners stated that they are in the process of removing the structure.

* There were protruding rusting bolts at the base of the school bus structure.

* The red and blue Little Tykes pull wagon was broken around the seat with missing pieces.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will provide a variety of age-appropriate equipment that is arranged so as not to obstruct supervision of children. Staff will check the equipment daily to ensure that the equipment is free of hazards, rust and splinters.

Correction Deadline: 1/15/2026

Recited on 1/8/2026**Finding**

591-1-1-.26(8) requires climbing and swinging equipment to have a resilient surface beneath the equipment and the fall zone from such equipment must be adequately maintained by the Center to assure continuing resiliency. It was determined based on observation that:

* There was artificial grass installed in the fall zones of the swings, Mary-Go-Round, five-feet high green slide and the climbing dome. There was no evidence that the surface offered the required resiliency for the equipment. The program was offered Technical Assistance at previous visit in September, 2025 and asked to provide verification of the ASTM specifications.

* There was a yellow/blue and red tunnel in fall zones for the regular swings.

* The climbing dome had the yellow/blue/red tunnel and a little tykes slide in the fall zones. Additionally, the dome was about a foot from the fence that was also obstructing the fall zone.

* The green slide on the Jeep toy was positioned by the fence with no fall zone available.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The center will ensure that the resilient surface meets the ASTM requirements for different equipment. The Center will add additional resilient surfacing to the fall zones where needed and check daily, adding resilient surfacing as needed to maintain adequate resiliency.

Correction Deadline: 1/18/2026

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

Please ensure that bottles are covered and fully labeled with child's full name.

Comment

The program uses a caterer for lunch and prepares breakfast and afternoon snack on site. A score of 100 for the caterer was observed.

Center menu meets USDA guidelines.

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
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Comment

Hand washing requirements for diapering were discussed with the director on this date.
The Diapering handout from the agency's website was shared on this date.

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

Proper hand washing observed throughout the center on this date.

591-1-1-.20 Medications(CR)	N/A
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Comment

The Provider currently does not dispense/administer medication.

Policies and Procedures

591-1-1-.21 Operational Policies & Procedures	Not Met
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Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.21(1)(p) - Discussed that the Emergency Plans need to cover all required topics. A copy of a sample Emergency Plan was e-mailed to the Director on this date.

Correction Deadline: 1/13/2026

Finding

591-1-1-.21(3) requires that the Center conduct drills for fire, tornado and other emergency situations. The fire drills will be conducted monthly and tornado and other emergency situation drills will be conducted every six months. The Center shall maintain documentation of the dates and times of these drills for two years. It was determined based on review of records that there were no Lockdown Drills conducted in 2025.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will hold the drills as required and keep the documentation of the drills on file for two years.

Correction Deadline: 1/13/2026

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

Discussed reporting requirements.

Safety

591-1-1-.05 Animals	Met
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Comment

Center does not keep animals on premises.

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

Staff were observed to maintain a positive learning environment on this date.

591-1-1-.13 Field Trips(CR)	N/A
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Comment

Center does not participate in field trips at this time.

591-1-1-.36 Transportation(CR)	N/A
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Comment

Center does not provide routine transportation.

Sleeping & Resting Equipment

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

Records Reviewed: 5

Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 2

Staff # 2

Not Met

Date of Hire: 06/25/2020

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(6)-Training Documentation Missing

Staff # 4

Not Met

Date of Hire: 03/16/2014

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(6)-Training Documentation Missing

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

Discussed that if the owner is present on site, a current Satisfactory Comprehensive Background check is required.

Correction Deadline: 9/30/2025**Corrected on 1/8/2026**

.09(1)(c) - Previous citation was corrected as all Staff had Comprehensive Background Check on file.

Correction Deadline: 9/30/2025**Corrected on 1/8/2026**

.09(1)(I)3. - - Previous citation was corrected as all Staff had Comprehensive Background Check on file.

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

At least one staff person with current and valid pediatric first aid and pediatric CPR observed in each classroom where children were present.

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-.33 Staff Training**Not Met****Technical Assistance**

591-1-1-.33(4) - Discussed that the Director needed to complete one additional hour of Nutrition training.

Correction Deadline: 2/7/2026**Finding**

591-1-1-.33(5)(b)1. requires the annual ten (10) clock hours of training shall include at least two (2) hours in evidence based, developmentally appropriate language and literacy practices. It was determined based on review of records that two Staff did not have evidence of two hours of language and literacy training for 2025.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will plan and schedule the required 10 hours of annual training each year to include a least two (2) hours in evidence based, developmentally appropriate language and literacy practices and follow up to ensure the training is completed.

Correction Deadline: 2/7/2026**591-1-1-.31 Staff(CR)****Met****Comment**

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

Comment

Staff observed to be compliant with applicable laws and regulations.

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 one Staff in room D Right Room left the room to use the restroom in the hallway. The children in D Right Room were left without a Staff present for about one minute.

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: 1/8/2026