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: 5/27/2026 **VisitType:** Licensing Study **Arrival:** 11:00 AM **Departure:** 2:30 PM

CCLC-49742
Simply The Best Academy
3800 Big Miller Grove Way Lithonia, GA 30038 DeKalb County
(678) 404-8821

Regional Consultant
Maryn Accord
Phone: ()
Fax: Maryn Accord
maryn.accord@decal.ga.gov

Mailing Address
Same

Quality Rated: ★ ★

Compliance Zone Designation		
05/27/2026	Licensing Study	Good Standing
08/07/2025	Complaint Closure	Good Standing
07/09/2025	Complaint Investigation & Monitoring Visit	Good Standing

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.

Comments
Staff records and child records were evaluated. Core Rules and Non-Core rules were evaluated.

Plan of Improvement: Developed This Date

CCLC Indicator Manual

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.

Compliance at a Glance

For additional information regarding the full compliance inspection results of this program or any licensed program in the state, access the Child Care Services Compliance-at-a Glance website by scanning this QR code or visiting: https://families.decal.ga.gov.

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

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

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The following information is associated with a Licensing Study:

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) **Met**

Comment
No hazards observed accessible to children on this date.

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

Finding
591-1-1-.26(4) requires that playgrounds be protected from traffic or other hazards by a (4) four foot high fence or other barrier approved by this Department. Fencing material shall not present a hazard to children and shall be maintained so as to prevent children from leaving the playground area by any means other than through an approved access route. Fence gates shall be kept closed except when persons are entering or exiting the area. It was determined based on observation that the top rail, located on the left side of the fencing material, was detached from the rail end, causing the fencing material to be in disrepair on this date.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
The Center will routinely check the fence to determine if it is in good repair and remains at least 4 feet high, and will repair any hazards. The Center will train Staff to identify and report any fence hazards and to keep the fence gates closed when not in use.

Correction Deadline: 6/17/2026

Recited on 5/27/2026

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 canopy located on the left side of the playground had a damaged roof, creating a potential hazard on this date.

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: 6/17/2026

Finding
591-1-1-.26(7) requires that climbing and swinging equipment be anchored. It was determined based on observation that the yellow slide located on the playground was not securely anchored to the ground, creating a potential hazard, on this date.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
The Center will remove or repair equipment that is not anchored and will regularly inspect the equipment to ensure it remains anchored.

Correction Deadline: 6/10/2026

Health and Hygiene

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

Comment
Staff stated proper knowledge of diapering procedures.

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

Comment
Proper hand washing observed throughout the center 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**

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

591-1-1-.36 Transportation(CR) **Not Met**

Finding
591-1-1-.36(3)(a-b) requires any Center that provides any type of transportation to obtain two (2) hours of state-approved or state-accepted transportation training, biannually, for the Director and for each person responsible for or who participates in the transportation of children. The training shall include, but is not limited to, a review of the transportation rules, a review of approved transportation forms and procedures, and instruction on the usage and completion of the forms and procedures. This training may be counted as part of the annual training requirements for Staff. It was determined based on a review of records that Staff #5 and Staff #10 were listed on the transportation checklist, but did not have the biannual two hours of state-approved transportation training on file, as required.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
The Center will ensure that the Director, Center Staff, and any person responsible for the transportation of children has completed the required transportation training.

Correction Deadline: 6/10/2026

Sleeping & Resting Equipment

591-1-1-.30 Safe Sleeping and Resting Requirements(CR) **Not Met**

Finding
591-1-1-.30(1)(a)3 requires that each crib shall have only an individual, tight-fitting sheet which is changed daily or more often as needed and prior to a change of occupant. It was determined based on observation that three of three cribs did not have tight-fitting sheets, as required, on this date.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
The center will ensure that each crib has an individual, tight-fitting sheet which is changed daily or more often as needed and prior to a change of occupant.

Correction Deadline: 5/27/2026

Technical Assistance
591-1-1-.30(4). requires that if cots and mats are stored in the children's activity room or area, they shall be stored to prevent children's access to them and to allow maximum use of play space. When storage is available and used for the storage of cots and mats that allows the cots, mats and any bedding to be stored without touching any other cots, mats or bedding, the bedding may be left on the cot or mat. When such storage is not available for the cots and mats, each child’s bedding shall be kept separate from other children’s bedding and stored in containers marked for individual use, such as, but not limited to, bins, cubbies, or bags. The Consultant discussed with the Director to ensure that cots and mats were stored to prevent children's access to them. The Consultant further discussed with the Director to ensure that bedding was kept separate from other children's bedding and stored in containers marked for individual use, as required.

Correction Deadline: 5/27/2026

Staff Records

Records Reviewed: 9 **Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 2**

Staff # 5 Not Met

Date of Hire: 09/04/2019

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.14(2)-CPR missing,.14(2)-First Aid Missing,.36(3)(a-b)-2 hrs. Transportation Training missing

Staff # 9 Not Met

Date of Hire: 09/04/2019

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.36(3)(a-b)-2 hrs. Transportation Training missing

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

Comment
Criminal record checks were observed to be complete.

591-1-1-.14 First Aid & CPR(CR) **Not Met**

Technical Assistance
591-1-1-.14(1)(b) requires the training must be done by certified or licensed health care professionals or trainers and must deal with the provision of emergency care to infants and children. The Consultant discussed with the Director to ensure that if a CPR training is taken online, then a hands-on and in-person skills evaluation must also be conducted by a certified or licensed trainer to meet the First Aid and CPR training rules and regulations.

Correction Deadline: 6/26/2026

Finding
591-1-1-.14(2)(c) requires that during any field trip or transportation of children, there must always be a staff member present who has current evidence of the successful completion of pediatric cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and pediatric first aid. It was determined based on a review of records that Staff #5 was listed as the staff member on the vehicle used for transportation on the transportation checklist and had a CPR and pediatric first aid certification that expired February 11, 2023.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
The Director will schedule and/or position caregiver Staff throughout the Center to ensure at least one currently pediatric CPR and First Aid trained Staff person is present in each classroom where children are present.

Correction Deadline: 6/19/2026

591-1-1-.33 Staff Training **Met**

Correction Deadline: 7/31/2025

Corrected on 5/27/2026
.33(4) - The previous citation was observed corrected on this date. The Consultant observed that all required Staff completed the four clock hours of training in food nutrition, planning, preparation, serving, proper dish washing, and food storage, as required.

Correction Deadline: 12/31/2025

Corrected on 5/27/2026
.33(5) - The previous citation was observed corrected on this date. The Consultant observed that the required Staff attended ten clock hours of diverse training for the 2025 calendar year, as required.

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) **Met**

Correction Deadline: 8/7/2025

Corrected on 5/27/2026
.32(7) - The previous citation was observed corrected on this date. The Consultant observed Staff providing direct and watchful oversight of children at all times, as required.