



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: 1/12/2026 VisitType: Licensing Study

Arrival: 8:20 AM Departure: 10:20 AM

CCLC-58059
Stonewell Academy
204 Park Lane Thomaston, GA 30286 Upson County
(706) 938-0835

Regional Consultant
Brandi Mangino
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Mailing Address
Same

Quality Rated: ★

<u>Compliance Zone Designation</u>			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.
01/12/2026	Licensing Study	Deficient	
01/07/2026	TA Follow Up	NA	
12/02/2025	TA Follow Up	NA	

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	Two Year Olds	1	7	C	13	C	NA	NA	Free Play
Main	B	Infants and One Year Olds	2	7	C	12	C	NA	NA	Floor Play
Main	C		0	0	C	9	C	NA	NA	
Main	D	Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds	1	9	C	9	C	NA	NA	Circle Time
			Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 43			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0				
Total # Children this Date: 23			Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 43			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0				

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	Playground	3	C
Main	Right (Large)	12	C

Enrolled Children						
Under 1 years	1 years	2 years	3 years	4 years	5 years (Prekonly)	5 years and older
2	6	12	5	7	0	0

Comments

The purpose of the visit was to conduct a Licensing Study.

A plan of Improvement was left on this date. A plan that indicated the date of correction for the rule violation, how the violation was corrected and how it will be maintained needs to be submitted through decal koala by January 27, 2026.



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



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Summary Report

Date: 1/12/2026 **VisitType:** Licensing Study

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The following information is associated with a Licensing Study:

Activities and Equipment

591-1-1-.03 Activities

Not Met

Finding

591-1-1-.03(2) requires the Center to keep current lesson plans on site that reflect appropriate instruction practices and activities to support children's development. The Center shall have sufficient and varied play and learning equipment and materials to support the above program of activities in all developmental areas. It was determined based on observation that Room's B, C and D did not have current lesson plans for viewing.

Correction Deadline: 1/12/2026

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

Met

Comment

Discussed rotating toys to support the procedures of daily disinfecting.

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

N/A

Comment

Center does not provide swimming activities.

Children's Records

Records Reviewed: 5

Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 2

Child # 3

Not Met

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.08(1)-Parent Names, Work Numbers

Child # 5

Not Met

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.08(1)-Parent Names, Work Numbers

591-1-1-.08 Children's Records**Technical Assistance****Technical Assistance**

Please ensure that parents work numbers are listed on enrollment applications.

Correction Deadline: 1/12/2026**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)**Technical Assistance****Comment**

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

Technical Assistance

Consultant discussed the area rugs throughout needed to be vacuumed. In addition, in Room D cord hanging over the chalkboard was in need of being secured.

Correction Deadline: 1/12/2026**591-1-1-.26 Playgrounds(CR)****Technical Assistance****Technical Assistance**

Consultant discussed the orange and blue climber by the gate was cracked at the bottom and the pink house was in need of being turned over to as it was on it's side.

Correction Deadline: 1/12/2026**Food Service****591-1-1-.15 Food Service & Nutrition****Not Met****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 observation that hot dogs were served on January 8, 2026.

Correction Deadline: 1/12/2026**Recited on 1/12/2026****Health and Hygiene****591-1-1-.10 Diapering Areas & Practices(CR)****Not Met**

Finding

591-1-1-.10(2) requires Centers first licensed after March 1, 1991, and Centers that renovate existing plumbing facilities, to have a hand washing sink with running heated water located adjacent to the diapering area. Flush sinks shall not be used for hand washing. Cleansing procedures in other facilities shall be approved by the Department. It was determined based on observation that Room A and Room B both had portable diapering sinks that were not in working order.

Correction Deadline: 1/12/2026

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

Not Met

Comment

Please ensure lids remain on trash containing organic waste.

Finding

591-1-1-17(7) requires that children wash their hands with liquid soap and warm running water upon arrival for care, when moving from one child care group to another, upon re-entering the child care area after outside play, before and after eating meals and snacks, handling or touching food, playing in water; after toileting and diapering, playing in sand, touching animals or pets, and contact with bodily fluids and after contamination by any other means. It was determined based on observation that sinks in the classrooms were not in working order and the children never left the rooms to go to the restroom to wash hands prior to eating in any of the three operating classes.

Correction Deadline: 1/12/2026

591-1-1-.20 Medications(CR)

Met

Comment

The Provider currently does not dispense/administer medication.

Policies and Procedures

Finding

591-1-1-.21(1)(r) requires Center policies and procedures include 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. It was determined based on a review of records the center did not update the policies and procedures as required to show how the center will 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

Correction Deadline: 1/12/2026

Recited on 1/12/2026

Safety

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

Met

Comment

Age-appropriate discussion and/or redirection observed.

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)

Not 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.

Finding

591-1-1-.30(1)(a)2 requires that a crib mattress is firm, tight-fitting without gaps, at least 2 inches thick and covered with a waterproof, washable material. Before a change of occupant, each mattress shall be cleaned with a disinfectant. It was determined based on observation that two crib mattresses were not covered in a waterproof material and were quilted.

Correction Deadline: 1/12/2026

Staff Records

Records Reviewed: 9

Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 8

Staff # 2 Not Met

Date of Hire: 04/03/2023

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training

Staff # 3 Not Met

Date of Hire: 08/11/2025

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(3)-Health & Safety Certificate,.14(2)-First Aid Missing,.14(2)-CPR missing

Staff # 4 Not Met

Date of Hire: 08/11/2025

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(3)-Health & Safety Certificate,.14(2)-First Aid Missing,.14(2)-CPR missing

Staff # 5 Not Met

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training,.33(4)-Food Prep Training Missing 4 hrs.

Staff # 6 Not Met

Date of Hire: 04/14/2024

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training

Staff # 7 Not Met

Date of Hire: 03/21/2023

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training

Staff # 8 Not Met

Date of Hire: 04/03/2023

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(4)-Food Prep Training Missing 4 hrs.

Staff # 9

Not Met

Date of Hire: 04/18/2024

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training

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****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 a review of records that staff members #3 and #4 did not have first aid and CPR within 45 days of hire in that they were hired August 11, 2025 and did not have it as of January 12, 2026.

Correction Deadline: 1/12/2026

Finding

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. It was determined based on a review of first aid records the emergency care of infant and children was not listed and the area was left blank for the staff members that had current first aid and CPR.

Correction Deadline: 1/14/2026

Recited on 1/12/2026

Finding

591-1-1-.14(2)(b) requires that there must always be one staff person present in each classroom where children are present that has current and valid pediatric cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and pediatric first aid training. It was determined based on a review of records that Room B had two staff members present and neither staff had first aid and CPR on file.

Correction Deadline: 1/12/2026

591-1-1-.33 Staff Training

Not Met

Finding

591-1-1-.33(1) requires all Employees and Provisional Employees to receive Initial Center orientation prior to assignment to children or task. It was determined based on a review of records that staff member #4 did not have orientation paperwork on file.

Correction Deadline: 1/12/2026

Correction Deadline: 10/8/2025

Corrected on 1/12/2026

.33(2)(a)-(n) - Citation corrected.

Finding

591-1-1-.33(3)(a)-(k) requires each Staff member with direct care responsibilities to complete health and safety orientation training within the first 90 days of employment. The state-approved training hours obtained will count toward required first year training hours. The training must address the following health and safety topics:

a) prevention and control of infectious diseases (including immunizations); b) prevention of sudden infant death syndrome and use of safe sleeping practices; c) administration of medication, consistent with standards for parental consent; d) prevention of and response to emergencies due to food and allergic reactions; e) building and physical premises safety, including identification of and protection from hazards that can cause bodily injury such as electrical hazards, bodies of water, and vehicular traffic; f) prevention of shaken baby syndrome, abusive head trauma and child maltreatment; g) emergency preparedness and response planning for emergencies resulting from a natural disaster or a human-caused event (such as violence at a child care facility); h) handling and storage of hazardous materials and the appropriate disposal of bio contaminants; i) precautions in transporting children; j) recognition and reporting of child abuse and neglect; and k) child development to include all major domains: cognitive; social and emotional; physical development and motor skills; communication, language, and literacy; and approaches to play and learning. It was determined based on a review of records that staff members #3 and #4 did not have health and safety orientation within 90 days of hire.

Correction Deadline: 2/11/2026

Finding

591-1-1-.33(4) requires within the first year of employment, the Director and person with primary responsibility for food preparation shall have four clock hours of training in food nutrition planning, preparation, serving, proper dish washing and food storage. It was determined based on a review of records that the director and cook did not have food service and nutrition training on file.

Correction Deadline: 2/11/2026

Correction Deadline: 3/6/2025

Corrected on 1/12/2026

.33(5) - See new citation.

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 a review of records that staff members #2, #3, #4, #7 and #9 did not have the required language and literacy training for the 2025 year.

Correction Deadline: 2/11/2026

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

Not Met

Finding

591-1-1-.31(2)(c) requires the Center to maintain a copy and/or written verification of the credential or degree awarded to the lead teacher that is required by these rules in the lead teacher's file, to make the document available for inspection and to provide the document to Department staff upon request. It was determined based on a review of records that the lead teacher in Room D did not meet the educational requirements in that the staff member did not have any form of credential on file.

Correction Deadline: 1/12/2026

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

Comment

Adequate supervision observed on this date.