



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: 6/9/2026

VisitType: Licensing Study

Arrival: 1:00 PM Departure: 4:05 PM

CCLC-54295

Cozy Childcare & Learning Center

2731 Tobacco Rd. Hephzibah, GA 30815 Richmond County
(706) 793-5550

Regional Consultant

April Christian

Phone: ()

Fax: April Christian

april.christian@decal.ga.gov

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.
06/09/2026	Licensing Study	Good Standing	
07/20/2025	Complaint Closure	Good Standing	
07/15/2025	Complaint Investigation & Monitoring Visit	Good Standing	
			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.

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 (1's&2's)	One Year Olds	1	7	C	24	C	NA	NA	Nap
Main	B-2nd Left (Preschool)	Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds	2	17	C	36	C	NA	NA	Nap
Main	C- Back (PreK-Schoolage)	Four Year Olds and Five Year Olds and Six Year Olds and Over	1	14	C	38	C	NA	NA	Nap
Main	D-2nd Right (1's)	Two Year Olds and Three Year Olds	1	13	C	31	C	NA	NA	Nap
Main	E-1st Right (Infants)		0	0	C	14	C	NA	NA	Not In Use

Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 143

Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0

Total # Children this Date: 51

Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 143

Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0

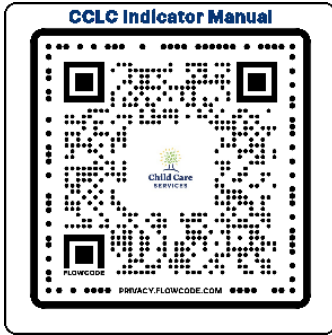
Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	PG- Left Playgd- 3yrs-12yrs	91	C
Main	PG- Right Playgd- 6wks-2yrs	23	C

Enrolled Children						
Under 1 years	1 years	2 years	3 years	4 years	5 years (Prekonly)	5 years and older
1	7	14	16	0	0	14

Comments

The findings on this report were reviewed with the Director on this date.

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.dec.al.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.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!



Summary Report

Date: 6/9/2026 VisitType: Licensing Study

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The following information is associated with a Licensing Study:

Activities and Equipment

591-1-1-.03 Activities

Met

Comment

Please ensure lesson plans are posted and reflect the current weeks activities in each classroom.

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

Not Met

Correction Deadline: 7/25/2025

Corrected on 6/9/2026

.12(2) - The previous citation was observed corrected on this date. Classroom A and Classroom C are free and clean from toxic paint.

Finding

591-1-1-.12(4) requires that equipment and furniture is secured if it is of a weight or mass that could cause injury from tipping, falling, or being pulled or pushed over. It was determined based on observation that the following tipping hazards were observed and accessible to children:

Classroom B:

- A grey storage cabinet was not properly secured on the left side of the classroom door.
- 24 cots were stacked against the wall on the right side of the classroom.

Classroom C:

- 24 blue cots were stacked on top of each other on the back right side of the classroom.

Classroom D:

- A grey storage cabinet was not properly secured on the back left corner of the classroom.
- A drawer under the changing table was not properly locked.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will ensure that the identified equipment or furniture and any other such existing or future items are secured adequately and will have a system for checking these for stability.

Correction Deadline: 7/9/2026

Recited on 6/9/2026

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

Not Met

Finding

591-1-1-.06(4) requires a Center first licensed after March 1, 1991, and Centers that remodel or add to existing plumbing facilities, to have the bathroom area fully enclosed and ventilated to the outside of the building with either an open screened window or functioning exhaust fan and duct system and requires Centers without fully enclosed bathrooms to ensure there is adequate ventilation to control odors and adequate sanitation measures to prevent the spread of contagious diseases. It was determined based on observation that the exhaust fans were not free of dust and prevented the exhaust fans to operate properly in two out of two children's bathrooms in Classroom C.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will fully enclose and ventilate bathroom areas, as required, and will provide adequate ventilation and sanitation in bathrooms that are not fully enclosed.

Correction Deadline: 6/30/2026

Recited on 6/9/2026

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

Correction Deadline: 7/25/2025

Corrected on 6/9/2026

.25(11) - The previous citation was observed corrected on this date. The Consultant observed the flooring to be tight and smooth as required.

Correction Deadline: 7/15/2025

Corrected on 6/9/2026

.25(13) - The previous citation was observed corrected on this date. The center was free of hazards on this date.

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 the following repairs were needed and accessible to children:

Classroom B:

- The metal drain in the bowl of the children's water fountain was rusted.
- One of the metal clips on the corner of the return vent under the bulletin board was not properly secured and had an exposed sharp edge on the left side of the classroom.

Classroom D

- The return vent had a thick layer of a dark colored dust and was rusted on the right side of the classroom door.

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: 7/31/2026

Recited on 6/9/2026

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

Not Met

Comment

Please ensure to monitor the playground areas for the following hazards: - Normal wear and tear of playground equipment and toys. Biting and/or stinging insects (i.e. ants, bees, etc.). Loose and/or weak tree branches surrounding the playground area.

Correction Deadline: 7/31/2025

Corrected on 6/9/2026

.26(4) - The previous citation was observed corrected on this date. The Consultant observed the fencing to measure four feet as required.

Correction Deadline: 7/31/2025

Corrected on 6/9/2026

.26(6) - The previous citation was observed corrected on this date. The Consultant observed the right and left playground to be free of hazards.

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 one half inch of sand was measured in the fall zones of the large play structure on the Left Playground when six inches of resilient surfacing was required.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

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: 6/30/2026

Recited on 6/9/2026

Correction Deadline: 7/25/2025

Corrected on 6/9/2026

.26(9) - The previous citation was observed corrected on this date. The Consultant observed wooden planks adhering to the fence to prevent potential tripping hazard.

Food Service

591-1-1-.15 Food Service & Nutrition

Met

Comment

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

Comment

Staff stated proper knowledge of diapering procedures.

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

Technical Assistance

Correction Deadline: 7/15/2025

Corrected on 6/9/2026

.17(7) - The previous citation was observed corrected on this date. The Consultant observed staff reminding children to wash hands throughout as required.

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.17(8) - The Consultant and the Director discussed ensuring all staff wash hands upon entering classroom as required.

Correction Deadline: 6/9/2026

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

The Provider currently does not dispense/administer medication.

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)**Not Met****Finding**

591-1-1-.36(7)(d)2. requires that the second designated Staff person conduct a check of the vehicle immediately upon the completion of the first check of the vehicle. The responsible person shall physically walk through the entire vehicle; visually inspect all seat surfaces, under all seats and in all compartments or recesses in the vehicle's interior; and sign the passenger transportation checklist(s), indicating all of the children have exited the vehicle. There shall be continuous watchful oversight of the vehicle between the first check and second check. It was determined based on observation that the transportation form did not indicate a second check upon completion of the first check of the vehicle.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will train Staff who are or may be involved in transporting children in how to thoroughly inspect a vehicle and properly complete transportation documentation. The Center will review and monitor.

Correction Deadline: 7/31/2026

Recited on 6/9/2026

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.

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

Criminal records checks were observed to be complete.

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

Correction Deadline: 7/15/2025

Corrected on 6/9/2026

.14(2)(b) - The previous citation was observed corrected on this date. The Consultant observed evidence of at least 50% of staff of current and valid pediatric cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and pediatric first aid training.

591-1-1-.33 Staff Training

Met

Comment

Documentation observed of required staff training.

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: 6/16/2025

Corrected on 6/9/2026

.32(7) - The previous citation was observed corrected on this date. The Consultant observed adequate supervision as required.