



**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:** 9/20/2024 **VisitType:** Licensing Study

**Arrival:** 10:15 AM **Departure:** 2:30 PM

**CCLC-57161**

**Clay Color Academy**

304 Emory Street Valdosta, GA 31605 Lowndes County  
(229) 232-9482 quandawooten@yahoo.com

Regional Consultant

Rena Keene

Phone: (706) 855-3458

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**Mailing Address**

Same

**Quality Rated:** ★ ★ ★

| Compliance Zone Designation |                                |               | <b>Compliance Zone Designation</b> - 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.<br><br><b>Good Standing</b> - Program is demonstrating an acceptable level of performance in meeting the rules.<br><b>Support</b> - Program performance is demonstrating a need for improvement in meeting rules.<br><b>Deficient</b> - Program is not demonstrating an acceptable level of performance in meeting the rules. |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 09/20/2024                  | Licensing Study                | Good Standing |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| 07/11/2024                  | POI Follow Up                  | Good Standing |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| 04/29/2024                  | Incident Investigation Closure | Deficient     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |

**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    | Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds | 1                           | 3        | C    | 8                           | C            | 11         | C            | Art                 |
| Main                           | B    |                                    | 0                           | 0        | C    | 4                           | C            | 5          | C            | Clean Up            |
| Main                           | C    | One Year Olds                      | 1                           | 3        | C    | 5                           | C            | NA         | NA           | Centers, Floor Play |
| Main                           | D    | Infants and One Year Olds          | 2                           | 7        | C    | 11                          | C            | NA         | NA           | Centers, Floor Play |
| Main                           | E    | Two Year Olds                      | 1                           | 5        | C    | 5                           | C            | NA         | NA           | Centers             |
| Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.:    |      |                                    | 33                          |          |      | Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: |              |            | 42           |                     |
| Total # Children this Date: 18 |      |                                    | Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: |          |      | Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: |              |            | 42           |                     |

| Building | Playground | Playground Occupancy | Playground Compliance |
|----------|------------|----------------------|-----------------------|
| Main     | A          | 13                   | C                     |

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

### Comments

The purpose of today's visit was to conduct a Licensing Study.

Plan of Improvement: Developed This Date 09/20/2024

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.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](http://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.ga.gov](mailto:qualityrated@dec.ga.gov) for more information. Free technical assistance is available!**



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**(Findings 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.

**591-1-1.35 Swimming Pools & Water-related Activities(CR)**

**Met**

**Comment**

Center does not provide swimming activities.

**Children's Records**

**591-1-1.08 Children's Records**

**Met**

**Comment**

Parent agreements observed obtained/completed.

**Comment**

Parent authorizations obtained/completed.

**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.

**591-1-1.25 Physical Plant - Safe Environment(CR)**

**Met**

**Comment**

Center appears clean and well maintained.

**591-1-1-.26 Playgrounds(CR)****Met****Comment**

Playground observed to be clean and in good repair.

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

Center menu meets USDA guidelines. The lunch served during the visit included pepperoni pizza, peas and carrots, applesauce, and milk.

**Comment**

CACFP Meal Pattern Requirements effective October 1, 2017 will be implemented October 1, 2018: 3

Components for breakfast: Grains, Vegetables, Fruits or both, Milk

5 Components for lunch – Grains, Meat/Meat alternates, Fruits, Vegetable, and Milk OR Grains, Meat/Meat alternates, 2 different types of vegetables, and Milk

2 of 5 Components for snack

Provided Updated CACFP Infant Meal pattern and Child/Adult Meal pattern flyers.

The Crediting Handbook for the CACFP can be located on DECAL and USDA's website:

DECAL

<http://dec.al.ga.gov/CACFP/Handbook.aspx>

USDA

<http://www.fns.usda.gov/cacfp/cacfp-handbooks>

**591-1-1-.18 Kitchen Operations****Met****Comment**

Kitchen appears clean and well organized.

**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.

**591-1-1-.20 Medications(CR)****Met****Comment**

The Provider currently does not dispense/administer medication.

**Policies and Procedures****591-1-1-.21 Operational Policies & Procedures****Met****Comment**

Program observed complete emergency drills

**591-1-1-.27 Posted Notices****Met****Comment**

Observed all required posted notices.

**Safety**

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**591-1-1-.05 Animals****Met****Comment**

Center does not keep animals on premises.

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

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

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**591-1-1-.13 Field Trips(CR)****Met****Comment**

Field trip documentation observed to be complete.

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**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 transportation records for the current week, a review of staff records, and staff statements, that Employee No. 2 has been driving the vehicle and transported two children to Hallmark Heights Head Start on the mornings of Monday, September 16, 2024, Tuesday, September 17, 2024, Wednesday, September 18, 2024, and on Thursday, September 19, 2024, and the most recent transportation training was last obtained on April 5, 2022.

**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: 9/30/2024****Finding**

591-1-1-.36(7)(c)3. requires that the driver or other designated person document in writing the date and time of arrival and departure each time the vehicle departs from the Center, is loaded or unloaded at each school and when the vehicle returns to the Center; each time the vehicle departs from the Center, arrives at the location where any child is picked up or dropped off and when the vehicle returns to the Center; each time the vehicle leaves the Center, arrives at a field trip destination, leaves a field trip destination, and returns to the Center. It was determined based on a review of transportation records for the current week that the time the vehicle returned to the center was not documented on Thursday, September 19, 2024, when four children were transported from S.L. Mason Elementary School to the center and when one child was transported from J. L. Lomax Elementary School to the center on the same date, Thursday, September 19, 2024.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

The Center will ensure that each date and time of arrival and departure is documented by the driver or designated person with training, review and monitoring.

**Correction Deadline: 9/21/2024****Technical Assistance**

591-1-1-.36(7)(d)1. requires that the first check be conducted immediately upon unloading the last child at any location including, but not limited to, a field trip destination, arrival at the Center, and the last stop during transportation to home or school. The responsible person on the vehicle 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; sign the passenger transportation checklist (s), indicating all of the children have exited the vehicle; and give the passenger transportation checklist(s) to the second designated Staff person. Please ensure that a full signature is written on the form, and not just initials.

**Correction Deadline: 9/21/2024****Technical Assistance**

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. Please ensure that a full signature is written on the form, and not just initials.

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## Sleeping & Resting Equipment

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

Met

**Comment**

Discussed SIDS and infant sleeping position.

**Comment**

Pleasant naptime environment observed.

## Staff Records

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

Met

**Comment**

Criminal record checks were observed to be complete.

**Comment**

Director provided three (3) files for employees hired since last visit.

### 591-1-1-.14 First Aid & CPR

Not Met

**Comment**

Evidence observed of 50% of center staff certified in First Aid and CPR.

**Finding**

591-1-1-.14(3) requires the Center to have a first aid kit in each building of the Center and in any vehicle used by the Center for transportation of children, that contains scissors, tweezers, gauze pads, adhesive tape, thermometer, band-aids, assorted sizes, antibacterial ointment, insect-sting preparation, an antiseptic cleansing solution, triangular bandages, rubber gloves, protective eye wear, a protective face mask, and a cold pack. The first aid kit, together with a first aid instruction manual which must be kept with the kit at all times, shall be stored so that it is not accessible to children but is easily accessible to Staff. It was determined based on consultant's observation that first aid kits were incomplete as follows:

1. The first aid kit on the Honda van, Tag No. SAP 4438, did not include safety goggles, tape, a thermometer, a triangular bandage, a face mask, and scissors.
2. The first aid kit on the Honda van, Tag No. SAP 4437, did not include safety goggles, a thermometer, a triangular bandage, scissors, and a face mask.
3. The first aid kit on the Ford Transit did not include tape, insect sting preparation, a thermometer, a triangular bandage, scissors and a face mask.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

Center Staff will provide any missing first aid kits, add any missing items to each first aid kit and will develop and use a plan for checking the kits and replacing missing items in each kit in the future. First aid kits and instruction manuals will be stored so that they kits are not accessible to children but are easily accessible to Center Staff.

**Correction Deadline: 9/30/2024**

### 591-1-1-.33 Staff Training

Not Met

**Finding**

591-1-1-.33(2) requires the initial Center orientation to include the following subjects: the Center's policies and procedures; the portions of these rules dealing with the care, health and safety of children; the Staff person's assigned duties and responsibilities; reporting requirements for suspected cases of child abuse, neglect or deprivation; communicable diseases and serious injuries; emergency weather plans; the program's emergency preparedness plan; childhood injury control; the administration of medicine; reducing the risk of Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS); hand washing; fire safety; water safety; and prevention of HIV/AIDS and blood borne pathogens. It was determined based on a review of staff records and staff statements that Employee No. 7, who was observed in the one-year-old classroom, was hired on Tuesday, September 17, 2024, and had been working since that day, and had not received the required orientation prior to being assigned duties with children.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

The Center will provide orientation in all missing subjects to the employee(s) and will take steps to provide a complete orientation to new Employees in the future.

**Correction Deadline: 9/21/2024**

**Finding**

91-1-1-.33(5) requires that every calendar year after the first year of employment, all supervisory and caregiver Personnel, except independent contractors, Students-in-Training and volunteers shall attend ten (10) clock hours of diverse training which is task-focused in on-going health, safety and early childhood or child development related topics and which is offered by an accredited college, university or vocational program or other Department-approved source. The annual ten (10) clock hours of training shall be chosen from the following fields: child development, including discipline, guidance, nutrition, injury control and safety; health, including sanitation, disease control, cleanliness, detection and disposition of illness; child abuse and neglect, including identification and reporting, and meeting the needs of abused and/or neglected children; and business related topics, including parental communication, recordkeeping, etc.; provided however that such business related training shall be limited to no more than two (2) of the required ten (10) clock hours of training. Records of completion of such training shall be maintained, as required by these rules. It was determined based on a review of staff records and staff statements that Employee No. 5 and Employee No. 7 did not obtain ten hours of required training during the 2023 calendar year.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

The Center will plan and schedule the required 10 hours of annual training each year and follow up to ensure the training is completed.

**Correction Deadline: 10/20/2024**

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**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.

|                                 |
|---------------------------------|
| <b>Staffing and Supervision</b> |
|---------------------------------|

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

**Met**

**Comment**

Center observed to maintain appropriate staff:child ratios.

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**591-1-1-.32 Supervision(CR)**

**Met**

**Comment**

Staff observed to provide direct supervision and be attentive to children's needs.