



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: 4/2/2026

VisitType: Licensing Study

Arrival: 11:25 AM **Departure:** 4:30 PM

CCLC-30916

Georgia Kids Academy

4336 Hwy. 53 Hoschton, GA 30548 Jackson County
(706) 654-5437

Regional Consultant

Lynn Schnitzer

Phone: (678) 717-5720

Fax: (770) 344-5683

lynn.schnitzer@dec.al.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. 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.
04/02/2026	Licensing Study	Good Standing	
12/10/2025	Monitoring Visit	Good Standing	
03/28/2025	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	1R	One Year Olds and Two Year Olds	2	12	C	17	C	NA	NA	Transitioning
Main	2R	Infants and One Year Olds	1	6	C	10	C	NA	NA	Nap, Diapering, Floor Play
Main	3R	Two Year Olds and Three Year Olds	1	10	C	18	C	NA	NA	Nap
Main	4R	Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds	1	15	C	19	C	NA	NA	Nap
Main	D 1L	GA PreK	2	12	C	21	C	29	C	Circle Time
Main	E 2L	GA PreK	2	14	C	21	C	NA	NA	Transitioning, Outside

Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 106

Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 114

Total # Children this Date: 69

Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 106

Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 114

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	PG Back	20	C
Main	PG Front	34	C

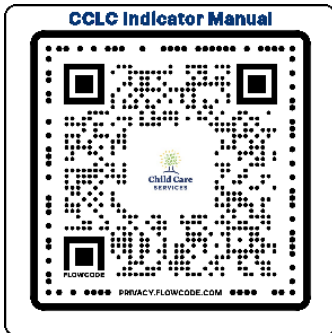
Enrolled Children						
Under 1 years	1 years	2 years	3 years	4 years	5 years (Prekonly)	5 years and older
2	11	15	12	28	18	26

Comments

The consultant discussed the visit report with the Assistant Director, Olivia Hicks on April 2, 2026.

The consultant provided a the center with the following documents: updated initial orientation form, transportation agreement, allergy action plan, and transportation poster.

Plan of Improvement: Developed This Date



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: 4/2/2026 VisitType: Licensing Study

Arrival: 11:25 AM Departure: 4:30 PM

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The following information is associated with a Licensing Study:

Activities and Equipment

591-1-1-.03 Activities

Met

Comment

Age-appropriate activities observed throughout the center.

Comment

Lesson Plans were observed to be posted and reflected the current weeks activities in each classroom.

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

Not Met

Comment

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

Finding

591-1-1-.12(2) requires that all equipment and furniture be free from hazardous conditions such as, but not limited to, sharp rough edges or toxic paint; and be kept clean. It was determined based on observation that the blue sofa had a puncture hole on the right arm and the gray pillow cover was torn in classroom D 1L.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will ensure that equipment and furniture are used by the age-appropriate group of children.

Correction Deadline: 4/2/2026

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

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 on this date.

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

591-1-1-.25(13) requires that potentially hazardous equipment, materials and supplies be stored in a locked area inaccessible to children. It was determined based on observation that the cord connecting the projector to the laptop was strung from the ceiling to within the reach of children, creating a potential hazard.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will identify all hazardous items and keep them in a locked area inaccessible to children. The Center will inform all Staff about hazardous items and the safe storage of those items.

Correction Deadline: 4/2/2026**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 there was a large hole behind the toilet in the restroom of classroom D 1L. Further, the vents had visible accumulated dust in classrooms 1R and 4R.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will have the wall repaired and have the vents cleaned. The Center will implement a plan to monitor and clean the vents as needed.

Correction Deadline: 4/2/2026

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

Playground observed to be clean and in good repair on this date.

Food Service**591-1-1-.15 Food Service & Nutrition****Technical Assistance****Technical Assistance**

591-1-1-.15(1) - Consultant discussed with the director to ensure that afternoon snacks have two components as per the USDA guidelines.

Correction Deadline: 4/2/2026**Technical Assistance**

591-1-1-.15(3) - Consultant discussed with the director to ensure that infants bottles are labeled with the child's full name.

Correction Deadline: 4/2/2026

591-1-1-.18 Kitchen Operations**Technical Assistance****Technical Assistance**

591-1-1-.18(8) - Consultant discussed with the director to ensure that leftover foods are stored in impervious containers and are labeled as to contents.

Correction Deadline: 4/2/2026

Health and Hygiene**591-1-1-.10 Diapering Areas & Practices(CR)****Met****Correction Deadline: 12/10/2025****Corrected on 4/2/2026**

.10(4) - The previous citation was observed corrected on this date. The Consultant observed the changing pads to be in good condition throughout the center.

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

Proper hand washing observed throughout the center on this date.

Finding

591-1-1-.20(1) requires Personnel to obtain specific written authorization from the child's physician or parent in order to dispense prescription or non-prescription medications, except for first aid. Such authorization will include when applicable, date; full name of the child; name of the medication; prescription number, if any; dosage; the dates to be given; the time of day to be dispensed; and signature of parent. It was determined based on review of records that the center had epinephrine on-site with no medication authorization. The medication was not dispensed.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will train Staff to obtain and review parental authorizations to ensure the authorization contains complete information. The designated person(s) will monitor daily.

Correction Deadline: 4/2/2026

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.20(5) - Consultant discussed with the director to ensure that unused medications are returned to the parent(s).

Correction Deadline: 4/2/2026

Policies and Procedures

591-1-1-.21 Operational Policies & Procedures

Not Met

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 the center did not conduct fire drills during February 2026 and March 2026.

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: 4/7/2026

591-1-1-.27 Posted Notices

Met

Comment

Observed all required posted notices.

Safety

591-1-1-.05 Animals

N/A

Comment

Center does not keep animals on premises.

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

Met

Comment

Age-appropriate discussion and/or redirection observed.

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(4)(b) requires that the interior of a transportation vehicle be clean, in safe repair and free of hazardous items, objects and/or other non-essential items which could cause injury. It was determined based on observation that the third, passenger side seat did not have an operation seat belt, the overhead light was dangling from it's wire, and there were unsecured booster seats on the floor of vehicle tag number BYJ1128.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The center will maintain that all transportation vehicles are clean, in safe repair, and free from hazards.

Correction Deadline: 4/24/2026

Recited on 4/2/2026

Finding

591-1-1-.36(6) requires written Parental authorization for routine transportation provided by or on behalf of the Center. Written authorization must include the routine pick-up location, routine pick-up time, routine delivery location, routine delivery times and the name of any person authorized to receive the child. It was determined based on review of records that the transportation authorization forms did not have the routine pick-up location, routine pick-up time, routine delivery location, routine delivery times for 30 of 30 children receiving school transportation services.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The consultant provided a sample transportation authorization form. The Center will obtain the required written parental authorization.

Correction Deadline: 4/6/2026

Recited on 4/2/2026

Correction Deadline: 12/11/2025

Corrected on 4/2/2026

.36(7)(b) - The previous citation was observed corrected on this date. The Consultant observed the center to have an emergency vehicle record for 30 children receiving transportation services. The Consultant discussed with the director to ensure that each form included the child's name, physician's phone number, and information regarding any allergies, special medical needs and conditions.

Sleeping & Resting Equipment

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

Met

Comment

Consultant observed infant safe sleep practices.

Comment

Pleasant naptime environment observed.

Staff Records

Records Reviewed: 17

Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 1

Staff # 7

Not Met

Date of Hire: 12/12/2023

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.14(2)-CPR missing,.14(2)-First Aid Missing

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

Met

Comment

Criminal record checks were observed to be complete.

Comment

Director provided four files for employees hired since last visit December 12, 2025.

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

Met

Comment

Complete first aid kits observed in center and on vehicles on this date.

Correction Deadline: 1/9/2026

Corrected on 4/2/2026

.14(1) -The previous citation was observed to be corrected. Consultant observed documentation of current certification in CPR/first aid for all staff.

591-1-1-.33 Staff Training

Technical Assistance

Correction Deadline: 12/11/2025

Corrected on 4/2/2026

.33(2)(a)-(n) - The previous citation was observed corrected on this date. The Consultant observed documentation of new staff receiving initial center orientation.

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.33(5)(b)1. - New - Consultant discussed with the director to ensure that center staff has two hours of annual training in evidence based, developmentally appropriate language and literacy practices as part of their ten hours of annual training.

Correction Deadline: 5/2/2026

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

Comment

Adequate supervision observed on this date.