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: 6/10/2026 **VisitType:** Licensing Study **Arrival:** 9:45 AM **Departure:** 4:30 PM

CCLC-1093
Creekstone Academy
475 South Deshon Rd. Lithonia, GA 30058 DeKalb County
(770) 879-9700

Regional Consultant
Cassandra Jakes-Beasley
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Mailing Address
Same

Quality Rated: ★ ★

Compliance Zone Designation		
06/10/2026	Licensing Study	Good Standing
11/21/2025	Complaint Closure	Good Standing
11/05/2025	Complaint Investigation Follow Up	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.

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	Two Year Olds	2	5	C	17	C	NA	NA	Lunch,Floor Play
Main	B-2nd Left		0	0	C	15	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
Main	C-3rd Left 150	One Year Olds	2	10	C	15	C	NA	NA	Nap,Outside
Main	D- 1st Right 200	Two Year Olds	1	5	C	23	C	NA	NA	Floor Play,Nap,Lunch
Main	E-2nd Right 250		0	0	C	22	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
Main	F-3rd Right 300	Three Year Olds	1	11	C	22	C	NA	NA	Lunch,Nap,Free Play
Main	G-4th Right 350	Four Year Olds	1	13	C	22	C	NA	NA	Nap,Story
Main	H-5th Right(Rear) 400	Four Year Olds and Five Year Olds	2	11	C	23	C	NA	NA	Lunch,Nap,Floor Play
Main	I-Center Rear 500		0	0	C	30	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
Main	J-Left Rear- GYM	Six Year Olds and Over	2	25	C	28	C	NA	NA	Free Play
Main	K-Center- Cafeteria		0	0	C	23	C	32	C	Not In Use
Main	L- Bldg II 1st Rt		0	0	C	16	C	22	C	Not In Use
Main	M- 2nd Rt- 1st Grade		0	0	C	16	C	23	C	Not In Use
Main	N- 1st Left-1st Grade		0	0	C	16	C	22	C	Not In Use
Main	O- 2nd Left	Six Year Olds and Over	1	5	C	16	C	23	C	Homework
Main	P - 1st Left Drake		0	0	C	12	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
Main	Q - next to gym		0	0	C	17	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
		Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 333			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 368					
Total # Children this Date: 85		Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 333			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 368					

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance

Enrolled Children						
Under 1 years	**1 years**	**2 years**	**3 years**	**4 years**	**5 years (Prekonly)**	**5 years and older**
8	11	6	24	0	0	34

Comments
The findings of this report were reviewed with the Director on this date. The consultant was unable to provide a copy of the visit due to computer issues.

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.

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

Date: 6/10/2026 **VisitType:** Licensing Study **Arrival:** 9:45 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
A variety of equipment and toys were observed throughout the center on this date.

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 there was rust on the legs of the chairs and brown stains on the legs of the white table in the cafeteria.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
The Center will ensure that equipment and furniture are used by the age-appropriate group of children.

Correction Deadline: 6/10/2026

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

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
Please ensure all area rugs are smooth, to prevent tripping hazards.

Comment
Please secure cleaning tools (i.e., broom, plunger) out of reach of children.

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

Comment
Discussed maintenance of resilient surface. Please fluff and redistribute after inclement weather.
Discussed removing the foliage from the back left side fence on the toddler playground and monitoring the rubber surface underneath and in the fall zones of the swings.

Finding
591-1-1-.26(9) requires the playground to be kept clean, free from litter and free of hazards, such as but not limited to rocks, exposed tree roots and exposed sharp edges of concrete. It was determined based on observation on the toddler playground here was small hole in the PVC pipe on the right side, facing the fence, creating a potential tripping hazard.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
The Center will remove any litter and fix or remove hazards from the playground and will routinely monitor the playground and remove litter and hazards.

Correction Deadline: 6/10/2026

Food Service

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

Comment
Please ensure that bottles are fully labeled with child's full name.

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

Comment
Please ensure that all food items are stored in airtight containers.

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) **Met**

Comment
Discussed proper medication documentation and procedures for emergency medication.

Policies and Procedures

591-1-1-.21 Operational Policies & Procedures **Not Met**

Finding
591-1-1-.21(1)(a-o) requires the Center to establish and implement written policies and procedures that describe the Center's operations as follows: a) services to be provided, ages of children served, days and times of operations and days and times closed; b) enrollment and admission requirements specifying Parents' responsibilities for supplying needed information and escorting the child to and from the Center; c) a fee and payment schedule with standard fees, fees related to absences and vacations and other fees such as for transportation and late fees; d) Center's transportation and field trip services; e) administration of medication and Parent notification of adverse reactions to prescribed medication; f) Parental notification in cases of illness/injury and exclusion of sick children; g) Parental notification when a notifiable communicable disease is present; h) handling of medical emergencies; i) meals and snacks served, including guidelines for food brought from child's home; j) access by the Parents to all Center areas used by the child; k) child abuse reporting law requirements; l) behavior management and discipline actions used to include expulsion and suspension of enrolled children; m) nondiscrimination statement; n) Center sponsored religious and cultural activities; and o) diapering, toilet training and feeding procedures for infants and toddlers. It was determined based on observation the center policies and procedures did not include a description of the suspension and expulsion practices followed by the Center as required.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
The Center will revise their policies and procedures to include all required information and update as needed.

Correction Deadline: 6/15/2026

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 observation the center policies and procedures did not 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 as required

POI (Plan of Improvement)
The Center will write or revise policies and procedures to include the required description of the Center's practices used to prevent shaken baby syndrome and abusive head trauma in children up to five years or age.

Correction Deadline: 6/15/2026

Safety

591-1-1-.05 Animals — **Met**

Comment
Center does not keep animals on premises.

591-1-1-.11 Discipline(CR) — **Met**

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

591-1-1-.13 Field Trips(CR) — **Met**

Comment
Proper field trip documentation and regulations regarding checklists, name tags and permission forms was discussed on this date.

591-1-1-.36 Transportation(CR) — **Met**

Comment
A current/completed inspection was observed for all vehicles used in transporting children this date.

Comment
The vehicle had an approved fire extinguisher and first aid kit on this date.

Sleeping & Resting Equipment

591-1-1-.30 Safe Sleeping and Resting Requirements(CR) — **Technical Assistance**

Comment
Discussed SIDS and infant sleeping position.

Technical Assistance
591-1-1-.30(1)(b)1 - 0(1 The Consultant discussed with the Director that cots and mats are of sound construction and of sufficient size to accommodate comfortably the size and weight of the child; and that mats are in good repair, washable, covered with a waterproof material and at least two inches (2") thick. Please remove any mats that are torn from the school-age classroom.

Correction Deadline: 6/10/2026

Staff Records

Records Reviewed: 30	**Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 7**

Staff # 1 — Not Met

Date of Hire: 05/18/2026

Reminder - Health & Safety training is required within 90 calendar days of hired

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.31(2)(b)2.-Staff Qualifications-Education Missing

Staff # 8 — Not Met

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.31(2)(b)2.-Staff Qualifications-Education Missing

Staff # 14 Not Met

Date of Hire: 05/12/2026 Reminder - Health & Safety training is required within 90 calendar days of hired

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.31(2)(b)2.-Staff Qualifications-Education Missing

Staff # 17 Not Met

Date of Hire: 10/29/2030 Reminder - Health & Safety training is required within 90 calendar days of hired

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.31(2)(b)2.-Staff Qualifications-Education Missing

Staff # 20 Not Met

Date of Hire: 09/20/2023

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.31(2)(b)2.-Staff Qualifications-Education Missing

Staff # 24 Not Met

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.31(2)(b)2.-Staff Qualifications-Education Missing

Staff # 25 Not Met

Date of Hire: 12/01/2025

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.09-Criminal Records Check Missing

591-1-1-.09 Criminal Records and Comprehensive Background Checks(CR) **Not Met**

Comment
Director provided [3] file(s) for employees hired since last visit.

Finding
591-1-1-.09(1)(j) requires that for portability for Directors, Employees and Provisional Employees, excluding Students-in-Training, only the most recently issued determination letter is eligible for portability and must be ported electronically. A Center may accept a satisfactory Fingerprint Records Check Determination letter or a satisfactory Comprehensive Records Check Determination letter issued by the Department if the Records Check Clearance Date is within the preceding 12 months from the hire date, the individual has not had a lapse of employment from the child care industry that lasted for 180 days (6 months) or longer, and the Center does not know or reasonably should not know that the individual's satisfactory status has changed. It was determined based on review staff #25 background check was not electronically ported as required.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
IMMEDIATE CORRECTION - The Center will ensure that only the most recently issued determination letter is electronically ported for Directors, Employees and Provisional Employees, excluding Students-in-Training. A Center may accept a satisfactory Fingerprint Records Check Determination letter or a satisfactory Comprehensive Records Check Determination letter issued by the Department if the Records Check Clearance Date is within the preceding 12 months from the hire date, the individual has not had a lapse of employment from the child care industry that lasted for 180 days (6 months) or longer, and the Center does not know or reasonably should not know that the individual's satisfactory status has changed. The program's owner or an officer/member of the corporation must view the A to Z Background Check video units pertaining to this records check rule and return the signed affidavit within one week from this visit date. The Center will ensure CRC rules are maintained.

Correction Deadline: 6/10/2026

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

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

591-1-1-.31 Staff(CR) **Not 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.

Technical Assistance
591-1-1-.31(2)(b)2. -The Consultant discussed with the Director that teachers and lead caregivers are required to meet minimum academic requirements and qualifying experience at the time of employment.

Correction Deadline: 6/10/2026

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 review staff # credentials had expired.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
The Center will review lead teacher records to ensure the required documentation is on file and will obtain and file it if not found.

Correction Deadline: 6/10/2026

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
Center observed to maintain appropriate staff:child ratios.