



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: 1/6/2026 **VisitType:** Licensing Study **Arrival:** 2:30 PM **Departure:** 5:15 PM

CCLC-1846
First United Methodist Church Daycare Center
 500 South Thornton Avenue Dalton, GA 30720 Whitfield County
 (706) 278-1075

Regional Consultant
 Megan OMary
 Phone: (706) 451-0920
 Fax: (706) 451-0819
 megan.omary@dec.al.ga.gov

Mailing Address
 Same

Quality Rated: No

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.
01/06/2026	Licensing Study	Good Standing	
07/30/2025	Incident Investigation Closure	Good Standing	
06/20/2025	Incident Investigation & Follow Up	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	1145 Younger Threes	Three Year Olds	3	7	C	10	C	NA	NA	Snack,Free Play
Main	1146 - Older Three's		0	0	C	9	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
Main	1149 - Four/Fives	Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds	3	10	C	18	C	NA	NA	Outside,Free Play
Main	1166 - Older Twos	Two Year Olds	2	7	C	8	C	NA	NA	Snack,Free Play
Main	1167 - Young Infants		0	0	C	7	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
Main	1169 - Younger Twos	Two Year Olds	1	7	C	8	C	NA	NA	Homework,Snack
Main	1171 - Older Infants	Infants and One Year Olds	2	6	C	10	C	NA	NA	Free Play,Feeding
Main	1172 - All Ones	One Year Olds	3	5	C	12	C	NA	NA	Free Play
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 82			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0							
Total # Children this Date: 42			Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 82							
			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0							

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	A-Playground	28	C
Main	B-Playground	24	C
Main	C-Playground	55	C

Enrolled Children						
Under 1 years	1 years	2 years	3 years	4 years	5 years (Prekonly)	5 years and older
8	6	14	7	12	0	0

Comments

The findings of this report were reviewed with the Director.

Plan of Improvement: No Plan Developed

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!



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Summary 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 on this date.

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

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) Technical Assistance

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.25(13) -Classroom 1149 Four/Fives had deodorant and body cream in an unlocked drawer next to the sink. Please ensure that hazardous items are kept out of reach of children.

Correction Deadline: 1/6/2026

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

Comment

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

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

Proper hand washing observed throughout the center on this date.

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

Comment

The Provider currently does not dispense/administer medication.

591-1-1-.29 Required Reporting

Met

Correction Deadline: 7/30/2025

Corrected on 1/6/2026

.29(3) - The previous citation was observed corrected on this date. Training had been completed on required reporting.

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

Met

Comment

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

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)**

Met

Comment

Pleasant naptime environment observed.

Staff Records**Records Reviewed: 20****Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 5**

Staff # 4

Not Met

Date of Hire: 02/22/2024

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

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

Staff # 13

Not Met

Date of Hire: 09/11/2025

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

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

Staff # 17

Not Met

Date of Hire: 11/28/2016

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

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

Staff # 19

Not Met

Date of Hire: 05/29/2025

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

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

Staff # 20

Not Met

Date of Hire: 04/10/2023

"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.

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 #13, with a hire date of September 11, 2025, and Staff #19, with a hire date of May 29, 2025; did not have evidence of current first aid and CPR training.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

All caregiver Staff will complete the required training. The Director will send copies via email verification of completed CPR/First Aid certification to the Consultant upon completion and will develop a plan to ensure all caregiver Staff have completed this training within the first 45 days of employment and that evidence of successful completion of the training is on file available for inspection.

Correction Deadline: 2/5/2026

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

591-1-1-.32(7) requires that children be supervised at all times appropriate to the individual age, needs and capabilities of each child. Such supervision must include, but not be limited to, indoor and outdoor activities, mealtimes, naptime, transportation, field trips, and transitions between activities. "Supervision" means that the appropriate number of Staff members are physically present in the area where children are being cared for and are providing watchful oversight to the children, volunteers and Students-in-Training. The persons supervising in the child care area must be alert, positioned to maximize their ability to hear and see the children at all times, and able to respond promptly to the needs and actions of the children being supervised, as well as the actions of the volunteers and Students-in-Training, and provide timely attention to the children's actions and needs. Staff shall be attentive and participating with all children during mealtimes and shall be seated within an arm's length away from children thirty-six (36) months of age and younger. It was determined based on observation that staff in Room 1166- Older twos and 1169- Younger Twos, were not seated and within arms length of children, under 36 months during snack time, minimizing the risk of children choking.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will train Staff and monitor to ensure they are providing supervision and watchful oversight to the children at all times.

Correction Deadline: 1/6/2026