



**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:** 5/31/2023    **VisitType:** Complaint Investigation Follow Up    **Arrival:** 9:30 AM    **Departure:** 11:30 AM

**CCLC-497**

**Rising Stars Kids Academy**

6224 Hillandale Dr. Lithonia, GA 30058 DeKalb County  
 (770) 981-8411 elainemar\_palmer@yahoo.com

**Region Consultant**

Christina Jennings

Phone:

Fax:

christina.jennings@dec.al.ga.gov

Joint with: Rebekah Mullinax

**Mailing Address**  
 Same

**Quality Rated:** ★

| <b>Compliance Zone Designation</b> |                                   |               | <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. |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 05/31/2023                         | Complaint Investigation Follow Up | Good Standing |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| 01/20/2023                         | Monitoring Visit                  | Good Standing |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| 08/29/2022                         | 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                            | B-2nd Right rear - 3 y/o       | Four Year Olds                    | 1     | 8        | C                               | 13         | C            | NA         | NA           | Story   |
| Main                            | BLDG-III-4th Left- 3 y/o       |                                   | 0     | 0        | C                               | 21         | C            | 30         | C            |         |
| Main                            | 3rd Left-Additon Pre-K- A      |                                   | 0     | 0        | C                               | 22         | C            | 30         | C            |         |
| Main                            | A-1st Right Frnt- 3 y/o        | Two Year Olds and Three Year Olds | 1     | 8        | C                               | 13         | C            | NA         | NA           | Centers |
| Main                            | C-Mid Frnt- Office             |                                   | 0     | 0        | C                               | 9          | C            | NA         | NA           |         |
| Main                            | D-2nd Left Back Room- 0-12 mos | Infants                           | 1     | 5        | C                               | 18         | C            | NA         | NA           | Feeding |
| Main                            | E-lower level- Downstairs-4+   | Six Year Olds and Over            | 1     | 10       | C                               | 26         | C            | 36         | C            | Outside |
| Main                            | F- Bldg-II-Pre-K-House         |                                   | 0     | 0        | C                               | 25         | C            | NA         | NA           |         |
| Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 147 |                                |                                   |       |          | Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 147 |            |              |            |              |         |
| Total # Children this Date: 31  |                                |                                   |       |          | Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 147 |            |              |            |              |         |

| Building | Playground  | Playground Occupancy | Playground Compliance |
|----------|-------------|----------------------|-----------------------|
| Main     | Large Right | 62                   | C                     |

### Comments

The purpose of this visit was to conduct a CI/FU

Plan of Improvement: Developed This Date 05/31/2023

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

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Elaine Palmer, Program Official

Date

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Rebekah Mullinax, Consultant

Date

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Christina Jennings, Consultant

Date



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**(Findings Report)**

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The following information is associated with a Complaint Investigation Follow Up:

**Facility**

**591-1-1-.25 Physical Plant - Safe Environment(CR)**

**Met**

**Correction Deadline: 1/20/2023**

**Corrected on 5/31/2023**

**.25(13) - Correction of previous citation in that the Consultant did not observe potentially hazardous items accessible to children on this date.**

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

**Not Met**

**Correction Deadline: 1/20/2023**

**Corrected on 5/31/2023**

**.26(4) - Correction of previous citation in that the Consultant observed the fencing to be attached to the poles on this date.**

**Finding**

591-1-1-.26(6) requires that playground equipment provide an opportunity for the children to engage in a variety of experiences and shall be age-appropriate. For example, toddlers shall not be permitted to swing in swings designed for School-age Children. The outdoor equipment shall be free of lead-based paint, sharp corners and shall be regularly maintained in such a way as to be free of rust and splinters that could pose significant safety hazard to the children. All equipment shall be arranged so as not to obstruct supervision of children. It was determined based upon observation that there were thorny vines growing through the back right of the fencing on the main Playground.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

The Center will provide a variety of age-appropriate equipment that is arranged so as not to obstruct supervision of children. Staff will check the equipment daily to ensure that the equipment is free of hazards, rust and splinters.

**Correction Deadline: 5/31/2023**

**Recited on 5/31/2023**

**Correction Deadline: 1/30/2023**

Corrected on 5/31/2023

.26(8) - Correction of previous citation in that the Consultant observed the resilient surfacing to be adequately maintained on this date.

Correction Deadline: 1/20/2023

Corrected on 5/31/2023

.26(9) - Correction of previous citation in that the Consultant observed the Playground to be clean and free of hazards on this date.

## Health and Hygiene

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591-1-1-.10 Diapering Areas & Practices(CR)

Met

Correction Deadline: 1/20/2023

Corrected on 5/31/2023

.10(4) - Correction of previous citation in that the Consultant observed proper diaper changing procedures on this date.

## Policies and Procedures

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591-1-1-.22 Parental Access

Met

Correction Deadline: 1/20/2023

Corrected on 5/31/2023

.22 - Correction of previous citation in that the Consultant observed parental access on this date.