



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: 6/20/2025 **VisitType:** Licensing Study

Arrival: 10:00 AM **Departure:** 4:10 PM

CCLC-62961

Redstone Children's Academy

8144 Jefferson Road Athens, GA 30607 Jackson County
(706) 310-8090 contact@redstonechildren.com

Process & QI Unit Consultant

Melyn Smith

Phone: (706) 855-3455

Fax: (706) 434-7640

melyn.smith@decal.ga.gov

Joint with: Karyn Presley

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.
06/20/2025	Licensing Study	Good Standing	
05/22/2024	Initial 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	A - Infant - 1 year olds	Infants	1	4	C	12	C	NA	NA	Floor Play,Nap
Main	B - 1 - 2 year olds	One Year Olds and Two Year Olds	2	8	C	16	C	NA	NA	Outside,Transiti oning,Lunch
Main	C - 2 - 3 year olds	Two Year Olds and Three Year Olds	4	16	C	20	C	NA	NA	Transitioning,Ce nters,Lunch
Main	D - infants	Infants	2	9	C	12	C	NA	NA	Floor Play,Feeding,Na p,Lunch
Main	E - 4 - 5 year olds	Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds	1	9	C	20	C	NA	NA	Lunch,Outside
Main	F - 5 - 10 year olds	Four Year Olds and Five Year Olds and Six Year Olds and Over	2	14	C	20	C	NA	NA	Centers
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 100					Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0					
Total # Children this Date: 60					Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0					

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	A - Infant and Toddlers	39	C
Main	B - Preschool - School Age	39	C

Enrolled Children						
Under 1 years	1 years	2 years	3 years	4 years	5 years (Prekonly)	5 years and older
7	21	21	7	7	0	13

Comments

The Consultant left a one-day criminal records check letter on this date. An affidavit verifying completion of Background Check videos was also left which was due back completed on June 27, 2025. The Consultant also discussed the upcoming rule changes effective July 1, 2025, with the Director.

Plan of Improvement: Developed This Date

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.decgal.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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(Findings Report)

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Mailing Address

Same

The following information is associated with a LS:

Activities and Equipment

Records Reviewed: 30

Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 3

Staff # 2

Not Met

Date of Hire: 06/02/2025

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

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.09-Criminal Records Check Missing

Staff # 12

Not Met

Date of Hire: 10/03/2024

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.09-Criminal Records Check Missing

Staff # 20

Not Met

Date of Hire: 06/02/2025

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

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.09-Criminal Records Check Missing

591-1-1.12 Equipment & Toys(CR)

Met

Comment

A variety of equipment and toys were observed throughout the center.

Comment

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

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

N/A

Comment

Center does not provide swimming activities.

Children's Records

Records Reviewed: 30

Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 3

Staff # 2

Not Met

Records Reviewed: 30**Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 3**

Date of Hire: 06/02/2025

Reminder - Health & Safety training is required within 90 calendar days of hired"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.09-Criminal Records Check Missing

Staff # 12

Not Met

Date of Hire: 10/03/2024

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.09-Criminal Records Check Missing

Staff # 20

Not Met

Date of Hire: 06/02/2025

Reminder - Health & Safety training is required within 90 calendar days of hired"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.09-Criminal Records Check Missing

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

Child # 1

Not Met

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.08(3)-Address of Release Person Missing

Child # 2

Not Met

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.08(3)-Address of Release Person Missing

Child # 3

Not Met

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.08(3)-Address of Release Person Missing

Child # 4

Not Met

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.08(3)-Address of Release Person Missing

Child # 5

Not Met

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.08(3)-Name of Release Person Missing

591-1-1-.08 Children's Records**Not Met**

Finding

591-1-1-.08(1) requires the Center Staff to maintain a file for each child while such child is in care and for one year after that child is no longer enrolled. In order for the file to be complete, the file shall contain the following: child's name, birth date, sex, address, living arrangement, name of school if applicable; names of both Parents, home and work addresses, and home and work telephone numbers; name(s) and addresses of the person(s) to whom the child may be released including address, telephone numbers, relationship to child and to Parent(s), and other identifying information; name(s) and telephone number(s) of person(s) to contact in emergencies when the Parent cannot be reached; name and telephone number of the child's primary source of health care; and a statement regarding known allergies, physical problems, mental health disorders, intellectual disabilities or developmental disabilities which limit the child's participation in the program. It was determined based on a review of records that five of five children's records were lacking the addresses for the authorized release persons on this date.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

Center staff will develop a plan that includes how to obtain all required information for currently enrolled children and how to ensure this is done for future enrollees as well. The plan will also include how and where to maintain files for the required amount of time. The plan will be implemented and followed.

Correction Deadline: 7/7/2025

		Facility
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Records Reviewed: 30

Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 3

Staff # 2 Not Met

Date of Hire: 06/02/2025

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

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.09-Criminal Records Check Missing

Staff # 12 Not Met

Date of Hire: 10/03/2024

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.09-Criminal Records Check Missing

Staff # 20 Not Met

Date of Hire: 06/02/2025

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

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.09-Criminal Records Check Missing

591-1-1-.19 License Capacity(CR)

Met

Comment

Licensed capacity observed to be routinely met by center.

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 following potential hazards were accessible to children on this date:

- Room B - 1 - 2 year olds - The left cabinet under the diaper changing table containing seven tubes of diaper rash cream and diaper wipes was observed unsecured and accessible to children.
- Room C - 2 - 3 year olds - The homeliving red sink bin was cracked in the corner with rough edges. The second drawer in the white storage drawer unit contained empty Ziploc bags which were labeled "Keep out of reach of children." A metal plate on the wall in the bathroom near the toilet was bent, unattached, and with a rough edge.
- Room E - 4 - 5 year olds - The plastic table covers were stored on a low shelf accessible to children.
- Room F 5 - 10 year olds - A plunger with the bottom in a plastic bag was stored in the bathroom. A staff purse was stored in a low cubby.

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: 6/25/2025

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.25(17) - The Consultant discussed with the Director to ensure the tomato plants were not accessible due to parts of the plant being toxic to children.

Correction Deadline: 6/20/2025

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

591-1-1-.26(6) - The Consultant discussed with the Director to ensure that the seats on the tricycles on Playground B - Preschool and School Age were in good repair.

Correction Deadline: 6/30/2025

Food Service**Records Reviewed: 30****Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 3**

Staff # 2

Not Met

Date of Hire: 06/02/2025

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

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.09-Criminal Records Check Missing

Staff # 12

Not Met

Date of Hire: 10/03/2024

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.09-Criminal Records Check Missing

Staff # 20

Not Met

Date of Hire: 06/02/2025

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

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.09-Criminal Records Check Missing

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

Please ensure that infant feeding forms are updated regularly.

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.15(2) - The Consultant discussed with the Director to ensure that the Infant Feeding Plans contained all the required information. The Consultant provided the Director with the Infant Feeding Plan approved by the Department by email on this date.

Correction Deadline: 6/20/2025

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.15(7) - The Consultant discussed with the Director that food be served according to manufacturer's instructions and recommendations. Foods that are associated with young children's choking incidents, such as, but not limited to, peanuts, hot dogs, raw carrots, popcorn, fish with bones, cheese cubes, grapes and any other food that is of similar shape and size of the trachea/windpipe should not be served to the children less than four (4) years of age.

Correction Deadline: 6/20/2025

Health and Hygiene

Records Reviewed: 30

Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 3

Staff # 2

Not Met

Date of Hire: 06/02/2025

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

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.09-Criminal Records Check Missing

Staff # 12

Not Met

Date of Hire: 10/03/2024

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.09-Criminal Records Check Missing

Staff # 20

Not Met

Date of Hire: 06/02/2025

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

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.09-Criminal Records Check Missing

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

Met

Comment

Staff state proper knowledge of diapering procedures.

591-1-1-.17 Hygiene(CR)

Met

Comment

Proper hand washing observed throughout the center.

Comment

Staff were observed to remind children to wash hands.

591-1-1-.20 Medications(CR)

Met

Comment

Documentation for medication dispensing observed complete.

Policies and Procedures

Records Reviewed: 30

Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 3

Staff # 2

Not Met

Date of Hire: 06/02/2025

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

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

Records Reviewed: 30**Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 3**

.09-Criminal Records Check Missing

Staff # 12

Not Met

Date of Hire: 10/03/2024

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.09-Criminal Records Check Missing

Staff # 20

Not Met

Date of Hire: 06/02/2025

Reminder - Health & Safety training is required within 90 calendar days of hired"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.09-Criminal Records Check Missing

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

Program observed complete emergency drills

Safety

Records Reviewed: 30**Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 3**

Staff # 2

Not Met

Date of Hire: 06/02/2025

Reminder - Health & Safety training is required within 90 calendar days of hired"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.09-Criminal Records Check Missing

Staff # 12

Not Met

Date of Hire: 10/03/2024

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.09-Criminal Records Check Missing

Staff # 20

Not Met

Date of Hire: 06/02/2025

Reminder - Health & Safety training is required within 90 calendar days of hired"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.09-Criminal Records Check Missing

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

Animals maintained clean and appropriately caged.

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

Age-appropriate discussion and/or redirection observed.

Comment

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

591-1-1-.13 Field Trips(CR)**N/A****Comment**

Center does not participate in field trips at this time.

Comment

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

Comment

Complete documentation of transportation observed.

Comment

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

Sleeping & Resting Equipment

Records Reviewed: 30**Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 3**

Staff # 2

Not Met

Date of Hire: 06/02/2025

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

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.09-Criminal Records Check Missing

Staff # 12

Not Met

Date of Hire: 10/03/2024

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.09-Criminal Records Check Missing

Staff # 20

Not Met

Date of Hire: 06/02/2025

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

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.09-Criminal Records Check Missing

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

Met

Comment

Pleasant naptime environment observed.

Staff Records

Records Reviewed: 30**Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 3**

Staff # 2

Not Met

Date of Hire: 06/02/2025

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

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.09-Criminal Records Check Missing

Staff # 12

Not Met

Date of Hire: 10/03/2024

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.09-Criminal Records Check Missing

Staff # 20

Not Met

Date of Hire: 06/02/2025

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

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.09-Criminal Records Check Missing

Comment

Director provided 24 files for employees hired since last visit.

Finding

591-1-1-.09(1)(a) requires that a Center ensure that every actual and potential Director, Employee and Provisional Employee of a Child Care Learning Center submit both a Records Check Application to the Department and Fingerprints to an authorized fingerprinting site. It was determined based on review of records that the following staff were present without submitting both a Records Check Application to the Department and Fingerprints to an authorized fingerprinting site:

- Staff #2 hired July 2, 2025, and present providing direct care responsibilities as a Student Apprentice in Room C - 2 - 3 year olds.
- Staff #12 hired October 3, 2024 and present providing direct care responsibilities as a teacher assistant in Room B - 1 - 2 year olds.
- Staff #20 hired July 2, 2025, and present providing direct care responsibilities as a Student Apprentice in the classrooms.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

IMMEDIATE CORRECTION - The Center will ensure that every actual and potential Director, Employee and Provisional Employee of a Child Care Learning Center submit both a Records Check Application to the Department and Fingerprints to an authorized fingerprinting site as required. 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 the CRC rules are maintained.

Correction Deadline: 6/23/2025

Finding

591-1-1-.09(1)(c) requires the Center to ensure that every Employee has a valid and current satisfactory Comprehensive Records Check Determination on file prior to being present at the Center while any child is present for care or before an individual age 17 or older resides in the Center. The Comprehensive Records Check Determination must have a Records Check Clearance Date that is no older than the preceding 12 months of the hire date; provided, however, if the Employee has had a lapse of employment from the child care industry that lasted for 180 days (6 months) or longer, a new satisfactory Comprehensive Records Check Determination is required. It was determined based on review of records that the following staff were observed present without a satisfactory Comprehensive Records Check Determination on this date:

- Staff #2 hired July 2, 2025, and present providing direct care responsibilities as a Student Apprentice in Room C - 2 - 3 year olds.
- Staff #12 hired October 3, 2024 and present providing direct care responsibilities as a teacher assistant in Room B - 1 - 2 year olds.
- Staff #20 hired July 2, 2025, and present providing direct care responsibilities as a Student Apprentice in the classrooms.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

IMMEDIATE CORRECTION - The Center will ensure that every Employee has a valid and current satisfactory Comprehensive Records Check Determination on file prior to being present at the Center while any child is present for care or before an individual age 17 or older resides in the Center. The Comprehensive Records Check Determination must have a Records Check Clearance Date that is no older than the preceding 12 months of the hire date; provided, however, if the Employee has had a lapse of employment from the child care industry that lasted for 180 days (6 months) or longer, a new satisfactory Comprehensive Records Check Determination is required. 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 the CRC rules are maintained.

Correction Deadline: 6/23/2025

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

Complete first aid kits observed in center and on vehicles.

Comment

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

591-1-1-.33 Staff Training**Met****Comment**

Documentation observed of required staff training.

Comment

Discussed: Health and Safety Training is required for each staff member with direct care responsibilities within 90 calendar days of their hire date.

591-1-1-.31 Staff(CR)**Met****Comment**

Staff observed to be compliant with applicable laws and regulations.

Staffing and Supervision**Records Reviewed: 30****Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 3**

Staff # 2

Not Met

Date of Hire: 06/02/2025

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

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.09-Criminal Records Check Missing

Staff # 12

Not Met

Date of Hire: 10/03/2024

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.09-Criminal Records Check Missing

Staff # 20

Not Met

Date of Hire: 06/02/2025

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

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.09-Criminal Records Check Missing

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)**Technical Assistance****Technical Assistance**

591-1-1-.32(7) - The Consultant discussed with the Director to ensure that staff should be attentive and participating with all children during mealtimes and should be seated within an arm's length away from children thirty-six (36) months of age and younger.

Correction Deadline: 6/20/2025