



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: 1/7/2026 **VisitType:** Complaint Investigation & Monitoring Visit **Arrival:** 11:00 AM **Departure:** 5:30 PM

CCLC-56568
Ivywood Academy - Snellville
 2931 West Main St, Hwy 78 Snellville, GA 30078 Gwinnett County
 (678) 825-2979

Lead Consultant
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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.
01/07/2026	Complaint Investigation & Monitoring Visit	Good Standing	
01/07/2026	Complaint Closure	Good Standing	
08/18/2025	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	A1L- 2's	Two Year Olds and Three Year Olds	1	6	C	18	C	NA	NA	Transitioning, Outside
Main	B2L- 1's	One Year Olds and Two Year Olds	1	6	C	11	C	NA	NA	Transitioning, Outside
Main	C-LR Infants		0	0	C	11	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
Main	D1R- 's	GA PreK	2	18	C	23	C	NA	NA	Outside, Transitioning
Main	E2R-4 and up		0	0	C	20	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
Main	F -PreK Back Bldg		0	0	C	22	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
Main	G-PreK- Back Bldg		0	0	C	31	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.:			136		Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0					
Total # Children this Date: 30			Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.:		Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0					

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	Lower - Preschool-School age	132	C
Main	Preschool-ASAP	260	C
Main	Toddler	56	C

Enrolled Children						
Under 1 years	1 years	2 years	3 years	4 years	5 years (Prekonly)	5 years and older
0	5	6	5	17	6	5

Comments

The report was discussed with the director.

Be sure to enter all temporary closures by 7 a.m. (vacation, emergencies, school closures, inclement weather, holidays etc...) in DECAL KOALA under the Required Report tab whenever your facility is temporarily closed when you are not caring for children for one or more days. Be sure to SAVE the report before exiting.

All amendments are required to be electronically submitted in DECAL KOALA.

Please be sure to hide staff who are no longer employed in your DECAL KOALA account. Please reach out for help with this, if needed.

Please ensure that the director and staff responsible for food preparation completes the four (4) hours of nutrition training as soon as possible but within the first year of employment. (if applicable)

Please remember that the transportation training certificates must be completed prior to participating in transportation and renewed every two years for anyone checking the vehicle, chaperoning on a trip, and signing the checklist, including the director. Please ensure that directors complete the transportation training upon being hired at the center. Please ensure to contact your consultant for guidance if you have not been conducting transportation before you plan to conduct transportation in the future. (if applicable)

****There is a free Transportation Training available on OLLI in Georgia PDS (GaPDS). Health and Safety Orientation Training 15-hour course is available free online in OLLI (staff must successfully complete all three trainings to meet licensing requirements). PLEASE NOTE: If the Health & Safety Orientation Training date is outside of the previous 12 months, the training was not approved for 10 credit hours, or the training certificate is not documented in the employee's GaPDS account, the Staff person will be required to take this training again, within their first 90 days of employment at a new facility. Reminder: Health and Safety Orientation Training can only be taken once every five years.**

Talk about updated orientation checklist.

Discussed indicator manual and utilizing it.

Discussed regarding ensuring to complete rechecks for Criminal Records checks at least 90 days before the five-year expiration. Suggestion: Check monthly or sooner to ensure that staff's criminal records checks are not expiring.

Don't forget to post a new license annually.

Discussed regarding nap/crib mats regarding not using tape to repair; must replace (if applicable).

Recent Changes/Updates: Core Rule: CPR and First Aid will be due within 45 days. 2 hours of Language and Literacy/2 hours of Health and Safety training annually beginning July 1, 2025, a required for all staff. Also, SUID (Sudden Unexpected Infant Death Syndrome formerly SIDS) must be included on the orientation checklist along with abusive head trauma. ****Please don't forget to add to your childcare policies and procedures concerning expulsion, suspension, and practices followed to prevent shaken baby syndrome and abusive head trauma.**

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.dec.state.ga.us/CCS/Regulations.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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VisitType: Complaint Investigation &
Monitoring Visit

Arrival: 11:00 AM **Departure:** 5:30 PM

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The following information is associated with a Monitoring Visit:

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)

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)

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 the following hazards were observed to be accessible:

-B2L: Toilet brush and disinfectant spray were accessible in the left bathroom.

-E2R: A plunger and Febreeze spray were accessible in the right bathroom.

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. The director stated that they will remove the plunger and sprays and will be kept in a locked area and only used when children are not in the classroom.

Correction Deadline: 1/7/2026

Recited on 1/7/2026

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 the following items were in need of repair:

-A1L: The drawer beneath the changing table was broken and in need of repair. Also, the screens were observed to be detaching on the right and missing on the left on the window facing the playground.

-B2L: The left knob was missing on the faucet and needs to be replaced.

-C-LR The screen on the window was observed to be detached and needing repairs.

-D1R: There was peeling paint observed in the pretend play area.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will have the Center and surrounding areas cleaned, make repairs where needed, and remove all debris is removed. The Center will implement a plan to keep areas clean and in good repair that includes regular monitoring. Will remove the drawer and cover the space and will have maintenance complete repairs by Friday.

Correction Deadline: 1/9/2026

Recited on 1/7/2026

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

591-1-1-.26(4) requires that playgrounds be protected from traffic or other hazards by a (4) four foot high fence or other barrier approved by this Department. Fencing material shall not present a hazard to children and shall be maintained so as to prevent children from leaving the playground area by any means other than through an approved access route. Fence gates shall be kept closed except when persons are entering or exiting the area. It was determined based on observation that the following hazards were observed on the fence:

-Toddler: A pole was missing at the top of the fence to the right. Also, at the bottom of the first and second section, the fence was detached posing an entrapment hazard.

-Preschool-ASAP: The fence gate to the left which connects the Lower Preschool-School Age was detached at the top and had a 1 foot 3 inches wide gap at the top of the fence.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will routinely check the fence to determine if it is in good repair and remains at least 4 feet high, and will repair any hazards. The Center will train Staff to identify and report any fence hazards and to keep the fence gates closed when not in use. The director stated that the fence will be repaired by maintenance.

Correction Deadline: 1/12/2026

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 that the following hazards were observed on the playground:

-Toddler: Sweet gum ball from the tree were observed throughout. A dark green hose was observed near the ramp on the Toddler playground and was accessible. Also, there was a missing nailhead near the fence on the boarder around the play structure. Further, two nailheads were observed to not be flushed on the boarder around the play structure.

-Preschool-ASAP: Sweet gum balls from the tree were observed throughout. Also, the green hose near the kitchen door was not thoroughly wrapped up and accessible. Further, exposed tree roots were observed near the climbing structure and swing area.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will maintain that the sweet gum ball are removed from on the playground and remove the metal hook on the toddler playground. Playground Maintenance Checklist provided to the director. The director will contacted someone to clean the playground from the sweet gum balls today and children will throw gumballs over the fence before they begin playing. The director will have staff conduct a playground first thing in the morning and conduct a second check in the afternoon. The director will spray the root and cover with wood chips daily.

Correction Deadline: 1/12/2026

Recited on 1/7/2026

Health and Hygiene**591-1-1-.10 Diapering Areas & Practices(CR)****Met****Comment**

Proper diapering procedures observed.

Correction Deadline: 8/18/2025

Corrected on 1/7/2026

.17(7) - The previous citation was observed to be corrected in that appropriate handwashing was observed.

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

Met

Comment

The Provider currently does not dispense/administer medication.

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

Technical Assistance

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.21(2)(r) - New - Discussed updating the Center's policies and procedures to include the program's practices regarding the expulsion and suspension of children enrolled for care within the description of behavior management and discipline actions used by the Center.

Discussed to ensure 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.

Additional information can be found in the CCLC Indicator Manual found on DECAL's website at:

<https://www.dec.al.gov/CCS/RulesAndRegulations.aspx> or through the Center on Shaken Baby Syndrome found at: <https://dontshake.org/>.

Correction Deadline: 1/12/2026

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

Met

Comment

Age-appropriate discussion and/or redirection observed.

591-1-1-.13 Field Trips(CR)

Met

Correction Deadline: 8/18/2025

Corrected on 1/7/2026

.13(6) - The director stated that the center has not conducted transportation or field trips since the last visit.

591-1-1-.36 Transportation(CR)

Met

Correction Deadline: 8/19/2025

Corrected on 1/7/2026

.36(6) - The previous citation was observed to be corrected in that the director stated that the center does not conduct transportation.

Correction Deadline: 8/19/2025

Corrected on 1/7/2026

.36(7)(b) - The previous citation was observed to be corrected in that the director stated that transportation has not been conducted.

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

Met

Correction Deadline: 8/18/2025

Corrected on 1/7/2026

.30(4) - The previous citation was observed to be corrected in that bedding were not observed to be touching.

Records Reviewed: 9

Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 2

Staff # 2

Not Met

Date of Hire: 01/02/2026

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

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

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

Staff # 8

Not Met

Date of Hire: 01/06/2026

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

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.09-Criminal Records Check Missing

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

Not Met

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 observation that staff #8, present at the facility but not yet officially started, did not have evidence of a completed satisfactory Comprehensive Records Check Determination on file.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

IMMEDIATE CORRECTION - The Center will ensure to receive a completed a records check determination for staff prior to them being present at 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 childcare 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 director and/or staff responsible for staffing will review the CRC modules regarding criminal records to ensure the CRC rules are maintained.

Correction Deadline: 1/7/2026

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

Not Met

Correction Deadline: 8/22/2025

Corrected on 1/7/2026

.14(1)(a) - The previous citation was observed to be corrected in that staff had the correct CPR on file.

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.14(2)(b) - Discussed that effective July 1, 2025, new staff are required to obtain pediatric First Aid and pediatric CPR training within 45 days of employment. It was further discussed that programs must have at least one person with current pediatric First Aid and pediatric CPR training in each classroom at all times.

Correction Deadline: 1/7/2026

Finding

591-1-1-.14(2)(b) requires that there must always be one staff person present in each classroom where children are present that has current and valid pediatric cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and pediatric first aid training. It was determined based on a review of records that staff #2, hired on January 2, 2026, did not have current evidence of CPR and was present in the classroom by themselves.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Director will schedule and/or position caregiver Staff throughout the Center to ensure at least one currently pediatric CPR and First Aid trained Staff person is present in each classroom where children are present. The director stated that a staff will be present with them until the training is completed.

Correction Deadline: 1/15/2026

591-1-1-.24 Personnel Records**Technical Assistance****Technical Assistance**

591-1-1-.24(1) - Please ensure that all staff have an application in their file at all times.

Correction Deadline: 1/12/2026

591-1-1-.33 Staff Training**Met****Technical Assistance**

591-1-1-.33(1) - Discussed that all Employees, including volunteers, independent contractors, students-in-training, etc. should have a completed initial program orientation form on file.

Correction Deadline: 1/7/2026

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.33(5)(b)1. - New - Discussed that effective July 1, 2025, all staff are required to obtain at least two hours in evidence based, developmentally appropriate language and literacy practices and at least two hours in on-going child development and health and safety related topics as part of their 10 hours of annual training.

Correction Deadline: 2/6/2026

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

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. Discussed the supervision rule during mealtimes which states: 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.