



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: 9/8/2025

VisitType: POI Follow Up

Arrival: 9:10 AM

Departure: 11:00 AM

CCLC-58059

Stonewell Academy

204 Park Lane Thomaston, GA 30286 Upson County
(706) 938-0835

Regional Consultant

Brandi Mangino

Phone: (478) 314-9726

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brandi.mangino@dec.al.ga.gov

Mailing Address

Same

Quality Rated: ★

<u>Compliance Zone Designation</u>		
09/08/2025	POI Follow Up	Deficient
08/14/2025	TA Follow Up	NA
07/15/2025	Monitoring Visit	Support

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	Two Year Olds	2	11	C	13	C	NA	NA	Free Play
Main	B	Infants and One Year Olds	2	11	C	12	C	NA	NA	Nap,Free Play
Main	C	Three Year Olds	1	5	C	9	C	NA	NA	Outside,Transiti oning
Main	D		0	0	C	9	C	NA	NA	
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 43					Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0					
Total # Children this Date: 27			Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 43			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0				

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	Playground	3	C
Main	Right (Large)	12	C

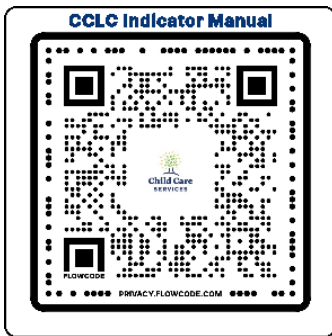
Comments

The purpose of this visit was to conduct a Plan of Improvement follow-up.

A plan of improvement will need to be submitted by September 22, 2025 through decal koala.

- The CCS Consultant discussed and left a copy of the updated Child Care Weather Watch Chart with the program today. Weather does not permit outdoor play when there is active precipitation or when weather advisories are in effect. Consult the Child Care Weather Watch Chart resource for further guidance, considering specific weather conditions.

Plan of Improvement: To Be Submitted 09/22/2025



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.dec.al.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.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

You have received permission to operate and the form received with this report is intended to serve as a temporary license which is **valid for thirty(30) days**. Your actual license/ will be emailed to you upon receipt of the licensing fee. You may pay the licensing fee either online at <http://www.dec.al.ga.gov/> or by certified check or money order mailed to: Bright from the Start, 2 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive SE, Suite 670 East Tower, Atlanta, GA 30334

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 POI Follow Up:

Activities and Equipment

591-1-1-.03 Activities Met

Correction Deadline: 7/15/2025

Corrected on 9/8/2025
.03(7) - Citation observed to be corrected.

591-1-1-.12 Equipment & Toys(CR) Not Met

Finding

591-1-1-.12(1) requires each Employee and child in attendance to use all indoor and outdoor furniture, activity materials, and equipment in a safe and appropriate manner and in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions, recommendations, and intended use. All equipment and furniture shall be used only by the age-appropriate group of children. It was determined based on observation that in Room B an infant was placed in a bouncer and the safety straps were not being used as required.

Correction Deadline: 9/8/2025

Recited on 9/8/2025

Facility

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

Correction Deadline: 7/15/2025

Corrected on 9/8/2025
.25(13) - Citation corrected. Hazards were observed to be inaccessible on this date.

Finding

591-1-1-.26(3) requires that the playground be adjacent to the Center or in an area which can be reached by a safe route or method approved by the Department. Except in School-age Centers, the playground shall have shaded areas. It was determined based on observation that the Right (Large) playground did not have shade as required.

Correction Deadline: 9/15/2025

Recited on 9/8/2025

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 on observation that active ant beds were present en route to the playground.

Correction Deadline: 9/18/2025

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

Not Met

Finding

591-1-1-.10(2) requires Centers first licensed after March 1, 1991, and Centers that renovate existing plumbing facilities, to have a hand washing sink with running heated water located adjacent to the diapering area. Flush sinks shall not be used for hand washing. Cleansing procedures in other facilities shall be approved by the Department. It was determined based on observation that the diapering sinks in Room A and Room B were not in working order. Sinks outside the classroom were having to be used.

Correction Deadline: 9/8/2025

Recited on 9/8/2025

Correction Deadline: 7/15/2025

Corrected on 9/8/2025
.10(4) - Citation corrected.

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

Not Met

Finding

591-1-1-.17(8) requires staff to wash their hands with liquid soap and warm running water upon arrival for the day, when moving from one child care group to another, upon re-entering the child care area after outside play, before and after diapering each child, dispensing medication, applying topical medications, handling and preparing food, eating, drinking, preparing bottles, feeding each child, assisting children with eating and drinking, after toileting or assisting children with toileting, using tobacco products, handling garbage and organic waste, touching animals or pets, handling bodily fluids and after contamination by any means. It was determined based on observation that a staff member in Room B did not wash hands after cleaning a child's nose.

Correction Deadline: 9/8/2025

Recited on 9/8/2025

Policies and Procedures

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

Technical Assistance

Technical Assistance

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.

Also 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: 9/13/2025

Safety

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

Met

Correction Deadline: 7/25/2025

Corrected on 9/8/2025

.36(3)(a-b) - Citation corrected as the center no longer provides transportation and are dropped off by the school bus at the center.

Correction Deadline: 7/16/2025

Corrected on 9/8/2025

.36(4)(b) - Citation corrected as the center no longer provides transportation and are dropped off by the school bus at the center.

Correction Deadline: 7/15/2025

Corrected on 9/8/2025

.36(4)(c) - Citation corrected as the center no longer provides transportation and are dropped off by the school bus at the center.

Correction Deadline: 7/16/2025

Corrected on 9/8/2025

.36(6) - Citation corrected as the center no longer provides transportation and are dropped off by the school bus at the center.

Correction Deadline: 7/16/2025

Corrected on 9/8/2025

.36(7)(a) - Citation corrected as the center no longer provides transportation and are dropped off by the school bus at the center.

Correction Deadline: 7/16/2025

Corrected on 9/8/2025

.36(7)(b) - Citation corrected as the center no longer provides transportation and are dropped off by the school bus at the center.

Correction Deadline: 7/16/2025

Corrected on 9/8/2025

.36(7)(c)2. - Citation corrected as the center no longer provides transportation and are dropped off by the school bus at the center.

Correction Deadline: 7/16/2025

Corrected on 9/8/2025

.36(7)(c)3. - Citation corrected as the center no longer provides transportation and are dropped off by the school bus at the center.

Correction Deadline: 7/16/2025

Corrected on 9/8/2025

.36(7)(d)1. - Citation corrected as the center no longer provides transportation and are dropped off by the school bus at the center.

Correction Deadline: 7/15/2025

Corrected on 9/8/2025

.36(7)(d)2. - Citation corrected as the center no longer provides transportation and are dropped off by the school bus at the center.

Sleeping & Resting Equipment

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

Not Met

Correction Deadline: 7/25/2025

Corrected on 9/8/2025

.30(1)(a) - Citation corrected.

Finding

591-1-1-.30(1)(a)2 requires that a crib mattress is firm, tight-fitting without gaps, at least 2 inches thick and covered with a waterproof, washable material. Before a change of occupant, each mattress shall be cleaned with a disinfectant. It was determined based on observation that one crib mattress had exposed foam.

Correction Deadline: 9/8/2025

Finding

591-1-1-.30(1)(a)3 requires that each crib shall have only an individual, tight-fitting sheet which is changed daily or more often as needed and prior to a change of occupant. It was determined based on observation that one crib had a cot sheet placed on it, and another crib sheet was observed to not be tight-fitting.

Correction Deadline: 9/8/2025

Finding

591-1-1-.30(1)(d) requires that all sleeping and resting equipment shall be arranged to avoid obstructing access to exit doors, to provide the caregivers access to each child, and to prevent children's access to cords hanging from window treatments and other hazardous objects. To reduce the transfer of airborne diseases, sleeping and resting equipment shall be arranged as follows. There shall be a minimum of twenty-four inch (24") corridor between each row of sleeping or resting equipment. There shall be a minimum of twelve inches (12") between each piece of sleeping or resting equipment in each row of equipment. Children shall be placed on cots and mats so that one child's head is toward another child's feet in the same row. It was determined based on observation that Room B had two cribs with sleeping children and the cribs were not spaced accordingly as they had no spacing in between them.

Correction Deadline: 9/8/2025

Finding

591-1-1-.30(2)(c) requires that infants shall not sleep in equipment other than safety-approved cribs, such as, but not limited to, a car safety seat, bouncy seat, highchair, or swing. Infants who arrive at the Center asleep or fall asleep in such equipment, on the floor or elsewhere, shall be transferred to a safety-approved crib. It was determined based on observation that an infant was sleeping in a bouncer upon arrival to Room B.

Correction Deadline: 9/8/2025

Staff Records

Records Reviewed: 12

Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 1

Staff # 4

Not Met

Date of Hire: 08/11/2025

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.24(1)-No Record,.09-Criminal Records Check Missing

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

Not Met

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 a review of records that staff member #3 did not have an application submitted for a fingerprint. The staff member started working at the center on August 11, 2025.

Correction Deadline: 9/8/2025

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 a review of records that staff member #3 started working at the center on August 11, 2025. The staff member worked at the center previously in 2023 and returned. The center had the background check from 2023 on file.

Correction Deadline: 9/8/2025

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

Technical Assistance

Correction Deadline: 8/14/2025

Corrected on 9/8/2025

.14(1) - Citation corrected.

Correction Deadline: 7/25/2025

Corrected on 9/8/2025
.14(3) - Citation corrected.

Technical Assistance

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: 9/18/2025

591-1-1-.24 Personnel Records

Not Met

Finding

591-1-1-.24(1) requires the center to maintain a personnel file on the Director, all Employees, Provisional Employees, Personnel, Staff, Students-in-Training, Volunteers, Clerical, Housekeeping, Maintenance, and other Support Staff for the duration of the term of employment plus one calendar year, and it shall contain the following: identifying information to include: name, date of birth, social security number, current address and current telephone number; employment history; as applicable to the position held: evidence of education and qualifying work experience; evidence of all training required by these rules which shall include: title of training, date of training, trainer's signature, location of training and number of clock hours obtained; a statement completed by the staff member that the information provided is true and accurate; any other records required by these rules; and as applicable to the position held, evidence of required orientation including date and signature of person providing the orientation; It was determined based on a review of records that staff member #3 did not have an application on file.

Correction Deadline: 9/13/2025

591-1-1-.33 Staff Training

Not Met

Finding

591-1-1-.33(1) requires all Employees and Provisional Employees to receive Initial Center orientation prior to assignment to children or task. It was determined based on observation that staff member #3 did not have orientation paperwork on file.

Correction Deadline: 9/8/2025

Technical Assistance

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

Correction Deadline: 9/9/2025

Technical Assistance

: 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: 9/9/2025

Correction Deadline: 8/14/2025

Corrected on 9/8/2025

.33(3)(a)-(k) - Citation corrected.

Defer

591-1-1-.33(5)-Citation will be deferred until the first regulatory visit of 2026 as staff have until December 31, 2025 to complete annual training for the 2025 year.

Correction Deadline: 3/6/2025

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

Technical Assistance

Technical Assistance

The listed director was not present at the center and has not been present at the center for visit within the past eight months. The center will need to make the needed director change in decal koala by September 22, 2025 to meet rule requirements.

Correction Deadline: 9/8/2025

Staffing and Supervision

591-1-1-.32 Supervision(CR)

Met

Correction Deadline: 7/15/2025

Corrected on 9/8/2025

.32(7) - Citation observed to be corrected on this date.