



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: 5/12/2026 **VisitType:** Monitoring Visit

Arrival: 2:30 PM **Departure:** 3:55 PM

CCLC-15964

Spirit Filled Academy

3898 Mulberry Drive Columbus, GA 31907 Muscogee County
(706) 763-9999

Regional Consultant

Penny Svenson

Phone: (470) 346-1037

Fax: (678) 891-5613

penny.svenson@dec.al.ga.gov

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.
05/12/2026	Monitoring Visit	Good Standing	
10/28/2025	Licensing Study	Support	
03/24/2025	LS POI 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	Room 1 1st left		0	0	C	9	C	NA	NA	
Main	Gymnasium	Five Year Olds and Six Year Olds and Over	2	17	C	140	C	NA	NA	Free Play
Main	Rm 10 4th Right		0	0	C	9	C	NA	NA	
Main	Rm 5 3rd Right		0	0	C	18	C	NA	NA	
Main	Rm 6 1st Right		0	0	C	19	C	NA	NA	
Main	Rm 7 3rd Left		0	0	C	10	C	NA	NA	
Main	Rm 8 3rd Right		0	0	C	9	C	NA	NA	
Main	Rm 9 3rd Left		0	0	C	10	C	NA	NA	

Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 224

Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0

Total # Children this Date: 17

Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 224

Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	PG	60	C

Enrolled Children						
Under 1 years	1 years	2 years	3 years	4 years	5 years (Prekonly)	5 years and older
0	0	0	0	0	0	25

Comments

May 12, 2026 -- The previous citations were observed to be corrected. There were no further citations.



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.state.ga.us/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.state.ga.us/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.state.ga.us for more information. Free technical assistance is available!



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Summary Report

Date: 5/12/2026 VisitType: Monitoring Visit

Arrival: 2:30 PM Departure: 3:55 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) Met

Comment

The Center appeared clean and well maintained on this date.

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

Comment

Discussed maintenance of resilient surface. Please fluff and redistribute.

Health and Hygiene

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

Comment

No children enrolled who require diapering. School age children attend only after school hours.

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

Comment

Staff were observed to remind children to wash hands on this date.

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

Comment

The Provider currently does not dispense/administer medication.

Safety

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

Comment

Age-appropriate discussion and/or redirection observed.

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

Correction Deadline: 10/29/2025

Corrected on 5/12/2026

The previous citation was corrected. All children were observed to have a written Parental authorization for routine transportation as required.

Correction Deadline: 10/29/2025

Corrected on 5/12/2026

The previous citation was corrected. All children were observed to have emergency medical information as required.

Sleeping & Resting Equipment

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

Comment

Sleeping/Naps are not required for this program. School age children attend only for after school hours.

Staff Records

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) **Technical Assistance**

Comment

Evidence observed of 100% of center Staff certified in First Aid and CPR containing emergency care for infants and children on this date. The Consultant discussed with the Director that all first aid and CPR cards for Staff were due to expire in November 2026.

Technical Assistance

The Consultant discussed with the Director that all first aid and CPR cards for Staff were due to expire in November 2026.

Correction Deadline: 5/12/2026

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) **Met**

Comment

Adequate supervision observed on this date.