



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: 8/19/2025 **VisitType:** Complaint Investigation & Monitoring Visit **Arrival:** 9:40 AM **Departure:** 4:30 PM

CCLC-4139
Voices of Faith Academy
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 Same

Quality Rated: ★ ★

Compliance Zone Designation		
08/19/2025	Complaint Investigation & Monitoring Visit	Good Standing
04/22/2025	Licensing Study	Good Standing
11/07/2023	Licensing Study	Good Standing

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
Building 2	Afterschool	GA PreK	2	8	C	34	C	48	C	Outside,Transiti oning
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 48			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 48			Building @35 capacity limited by Building Department				
Main	1L	Infants and One Year Olds	1	4	C	13	C	NA	NA	Outside,Transiti oning
Main	1R		0	0	C	13	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
Main	2L		0	0	C	7	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
Main	2R	Two Year Olds	1	5	C	13	C	NA	NA	Lunch,Free Play
Main	3L	One Year Olds	1	4	C	11	C	NA	NA	Free Play,Art
Main	3R	Two Year Olds and Three Year Olds	1	6	C	13	C	NA	NA	Lunch,Free Play
Main	4R		0	0	C	13	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
Main	5R	Three Year Olds	1	9	C	14	C	NA	NA	Centers
Main	Back Center		0	0	C	34	C	47	C	Not In Use
Main	Last Left Room	GA PreK	2	12	C	42	C	58	C	Free Play,Circle Time
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 173			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 250			Building @25 capacity limited by Building Department				
Total # Children this Date: 48			Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 221			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 48			Building @25 capacity limited by Building Department	

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	Playground A - School-Age	104	C
Main	Playground B	23	C

Enrolled Children						
Under 1 years	1 years	2 years	3 years	4 years	5 years (Prekonly)	5 years and older
6	4	12	10	21	0	0

Comments

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

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.

****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.

Indicator manual and utilizing it.

Updated Transportation forms including sample as of October 1, 2023, use immediately (if applicable).

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 mats 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 required Literacy training annually beginning July 1, 2025. 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.decal.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 user id 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@decal.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 CI/MV:

Activities and Equipment

591-1-1-.12 Equipment & Toys(CR)

Technical Assistance

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.12(2) - Please ensure that all equipment in the classroom is in good repair or removed from the classroom if in need of repair. Please ensure that carpets do not curl up to prevent a tripping hazard.

Correction Deadline: 8/19/2025

591-1-1-.35 Swimming Pools & Water-related Activities(CR)

Met

Comment

591-1-1-.35 - Center does not provide swimming activities.

Children's Records

591-1-1-.08 Children's Records

Met

Correction Deadline: 4/30/2025

Prior Visits: 11/07/2023

Corrected on 8/19/2025

.08(1) - The previous citation was observed to be corrected in that the information was completed.

Facility

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

Met

Comment

591-1-1-.19 - 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 that the following hazards were observed:

-Building 2: A pair of adult scissors was observed in the teacher's desk in an unlocked drawer on the top left.

-3L: The second right drawer was observed to be unlocked and diaper cream, wipes packaging and a tub of Vaseline were accessible.

-3R: The area beneath the diaper changing table was observed to be unlocked and wipes packaging and Vaseline and plastic grocery bags were accessible. Also, there was hand sanitizer found in a child's bag.

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 locks were repaired and the sanitizer removed during the visit.

Correction Deadline: 8/19/2025**Prior Visits: 01/30/2020****Technical Assistance**

591-1-1-.25(3) - Please ensure that all repairs are made immediately including in classrooms not in use.

Correction Deadline: 8/19/2025**Prior Visits: 10/12/2022****Technical Assistance**

591-1-1-.25(8) - Please ensure that all outlets including power strips are covered at all times.

Correction Deadline: 8/19/2025**Prior Visits: 10/12/2022**

591-1-1-.26 Playgrounds(CR)**Met****Correction Deadline: 4/22/2025****Prior Visits: 04/22/2025****Corrected on 8/19/2025**

.26(4) - The previous citation was observed to be corrected in that the fence was observed to be repaired.

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

591-1-1-.10 - Proper diapering procedures observed.

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.10(4) - Please ensure that diaper pads are smooth and nonporous and not quilted.

Correction Deadline: 8/19/2025

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

591-1-1-.17 - Staff were observed to remind children to wash hands on this date.

591-1-1-.20 Medications(CR)**N/A****Comment**

591-1-1-.20 - The Provider currently does not dispense/administer medication.

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

591-1-1-.21(3) - 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.state.ga.us/CCS/RuleAndRegulations.aspx> or through the Center on Shaken Baby Syndrome found at: <https://dontshake.org/>.

Safety

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

591-1-1-.11 - Age-appropriate discussion and/or redirection observed.

591-1-1-.36 Transportation(CR)	Met
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Correction Deadline: 4/27/2025

Prior Visits: 01/30/2020

Corrected on 8/19/2025

.36(4)(a) - The previous citation was observed to be corrected in that the vehicle tag number ACC-3985 was no longer on site. Vehicle tag number AGG-3986 was present and had a current vehicle inspection on file.

Sleeping & Resting Equipment

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

591-1-1-.30 - Pleasant naptime environment observed.

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.30(1)(d) - Discussed with staff to ensure that cribs are spaced 12 inches apart at all times.

Correction Deadline: 8/19/2025

Staff Records

Records Reviewed: 26

Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 1
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Staff # 26

Not Met

Date of Hire: 04/21/2025

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(3)-Health & Safety Certificate

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

591-1-1-.09(1) - Director provided two files for employees hired since last visit.

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

591-1-1-.14(2)(b) - 591-1-1-.14(2)(b) - New - 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: 8/19/2025

591-1-1-.24 Personnel Records	Met
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Comment

591-1-1-.24(1) - 591-1-1-.24(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: 8/24/2025

591-1-1-.33 Staff Training	Not Met
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Comment

591-1-1-.33 - 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.

Finding

591-1-1-.33(3)(a)-(k) requires each Staff member with direct care responsibilities to complete health and safety orientation training within the first 90 days of employment. The state-approved training hours obtained will count toward required first year training hours. The training must address the following health and safety topics: a) prevention and control of infectious diseases (including immunizations); b) prevention of sudden infant death syndrome and use of safe sleeping practices; c) administration of medication, consistent with standards for parental consent; d) prevention of and response to emergencies due to food and allergic reactions; e) building and physical premises safety, including identification of and protection from hazards that can cause bodily injury such as electrical hazards, bodies of water, and vehicular traffic; f) prevention of shaken baby syndrome, abusive head trauma and child maltreatment; g) emergency preparedness and response planning for emergencies resulting from a natural disaster or a human-caused event (such as violence at a child care facility); h) handling and storage of hazardous materials and the appropriate disposal of bio contaminants; i) precautions in transporting children; j) recognition and reporting of child abuse and neglect; and k) child development to include all major domains: cognitive; social and emotional; physical development and motor skills; communication, language, and literacy; and approaches to play and learning. It was determined based on a review of records that staff #26 hired on April 21, 2025, did not have current evidence of Health and Safety Orientation training on file.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will develop and implement a plan to schedule and track this training for all employees based on their hire dates and will ensure that the training includes all required components as required.

Correction Deadline: 9/18/2025

Prior Visits: 01/30/2020

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

591-1-1-.31 - 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**

591-1-1-.32 - Center observed to maintain appropriate staff:child ratios.

591-1-1-.32 Supervision(CR)**Met****Comment**

591-1-1-.32 - 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.