



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: 5/21/2025 **VisitType:** Complaint Investigation Follow Up **Arrival:** 9:15 AM **Departure:** 11:15 AM

CCLC-46772

Stepping Stones Academy

1108 Bear Creek Blvd Hampton, GA 30228 Henry County
(770) 707-3955

CCS Coordinator

Sondra Paster

Phone: (478) 314-5803

Fax: (478) 314-5811

sondra.paster@decal.ga.gov

Joint with: Yolanda Marable

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.
05/21/2025	Complaint Investigation Follow Up	Good Standing	
02/04/2025	Complaint Closure	Good Standing	
12/11/2024	Complaint Investigation Follow Up	Deficient	

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- Infants-1st Right	One Year Olds	1	8	C	11	C	NA	NA	Diapering
Main	B- 2's 2nd Right	Two Year Olds	2	17	C	20	C	NA	NA	Floor Play
Main	C- PreK 3rd Right	Three Year Olds	2	21	C	19	NC	NA	NA	Music
Main	D- PreK 4th Right	GA PreK	2	15	C	26	C	NA	NA	Music
Main	E- School age-5th Right	GA PreK	2	14	C	27	C	NA	NA	Music
Main	F- Toddlers- 2nd Left	One Year Olds	1	8	C	10	C	NA	NA	Floor Play
Main	G- 3's 3rd Left	Infants	1	5	C	15	C	NA	NA	Floor Play
Main	H- 3's 4th Left	Two Year Olds	2	10	C	15	C	NA	NA	Circle Time
Main	I- PreK 5th Left	Three Year Olds	1	12	C	20	C	NA	NA	Art
		Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 163			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0					
Modular	A:Left		0	0	C	12	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
Modular	B: right		0	0	C	12	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
		Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 24			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0					
Total # Children this Date: 110		Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 187			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0					

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	Playground C (back right)	99	C
Main	Playground D (right front)	47	C

Main	Plgd A - Infants left side of Bldg	20	C
Main	Plgd B- Toddler	46	C
Main	Plgd E- School age	86	C

Comments

The purpose of this visit was a follow-up visit.

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.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

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 Complaint Investigation Follow Up:

Activities and Equipment

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

Not Met

Finding

591-1-1-.12(6) requires that a variety of age-appropriate toys and play materials be available, stored on low, open shelves accessible to children in each room or assigned area. It was determined by observation that room C had three wooden shelves facing the wall not allowing children to access the materials.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center director will ensure there is a variety of age-appropriate toys and play materials in each room for each age group. that are stored on low, open shelves accessible to children.

Correction Deadline: 6/20/2025

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

N/A

Comment

Center does not provide swimming activities.

Facility

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

Met

Correction Deadline: 12/11/2024

Corrected on 5/21/2025

The previous citation was corrected on this date.

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

Met

Correction Deadline: 12/11/2024

Corrected on 5/21/2025

The previous citation was corrected on this date.

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

Met

Correction Deadline: 12/11/2024

Corrected on 5/21/2025

The previous citation was corrected on this date.

Food Service

Correction Deadline: 12/11/2024

Corrected on 5/21/2025

The previous citation was corrected on this date.

Health and Hygiene

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

Not Met

Finding

591-1-1-17(7) requires that children wash their hands with liquid soap and warm running water upon arrival for care, when moving from one child care group to another, upon re-entering the child care area after outside play, before and after eating meals and snacks, handling or touching food, playing in water; after toileting and diapering, playing in sand, touching animals or pets, and contact with bodily fluids and after contamination by any other means. It was determined by observation that the staff member in room A did not wash the child's hand after diapering.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will train Staff on required handwashing for children and Staff will ensure children's hands are washed when required. The Director will monitor for compliance.

Correction Deadline: 5/21/2025

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

N/A

Comment

The Provider currently does not dispense/administer medication.

Staff Records

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

Met

Correction Deadline: 11/20/2024

Corrected on 5/21/2025

The previous citation was corrected on this date.

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

Met

Correction Deadline: 12/18/2024

Corrected on 5/21/2025

The previous citation was corrected on this date.

Correction Deadline: 12/18/2024

Corrected on 5/21/2025

The previous citation was corrected on this date.

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 Supervision(CR)

Met

Correction Deadline: 12/11/2024

Corrected on 5/21/2025

The previous citation was corrected on this date.