



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: 5/5/2026

VisitType: Monitoring Visit

Arrival: 10:55 AM Departure: 1:45 PM

CCLC-28408

1st Creative Learning Academy

5771 Lawrenceville Hwy Tucker, GA 30084 Gwinnett County
(770) 935-6500

Lead Consultant

Dianne Clarke

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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.
05/05/2026	Monitoring Visit	Good Standing	
04/21/2026	TA Follow Up	NA	
01/13/2026	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	A-Front		0	0	C	8	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
Main	B-1 Right	One Year Olds and Two Year Olds	2	9	C	13	C	NA	NA	Lunch
Main	C-2 Right	Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds	2	11	C	16	C	NA	NA	Lunch, Transitioning
Main	D-Far Left	GA PreK	2	20	C	26	C	NA	NA	Transitioning, Outside
Main	E-Downstairs		0	0	C	14	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
Main	F-5 Left (up)		0	0	C	15	C	21	C	Not In Use

Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 92

Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 92

Total # Children this Date: 40

Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 92

Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 92

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	A-infants	3	C
Main	B	45	C
Main	C-Basketball Area	15	C
Main	D	14	C

Enrolled Children						
Under 1 years	1 years	2 years	3 years	4 years	5 years (Prekonly)	5 years and older
0	7	2	6	13	14	15

Comments

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.

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

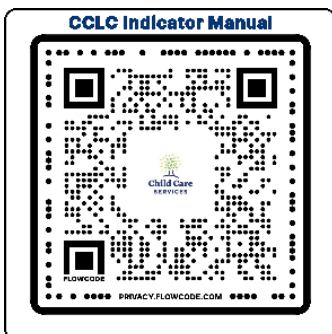
Discussed regarding ensuring to complete rechecks for Criminal Records checks at least 90 days before the five-year expiration. Suggestion: Check monthly or sooner to ensure that staff's criminal records checks are not expiring.

Don't forget to post a new license annually.

Discussed regarding nap/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. Provided Chop, Look, Listen Information

Plan of Improvement: No Plan Developed



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.decal.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.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 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@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 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

No hazards observed accessible to children on this date.

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

Technical Assistance

Comment

Discussed maintenance of resilient surface. Please fluff and redistribute.

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.26(4) - Please ensure that gaps between poles are not more than three and a half inches at all times on Playground B.

Correction Deadline: 5/5/2026

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.26(6) - Please ensure to check equipment for rust.

Correction Deadline: 5/15/2026

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.26(9) - Please ensure that the nail heads are flushed against the border at all times.

Correction Deadline: 5/5/2026

Food Service

Finding

591-1-1-.15(7) requires that food be served according to manufacturer's instructions and recommendations. Foods that are associated with young children's choking incidents, such as, but not limited to, peanuts, hot dogs, raw carrots, popcorn, fish with bones, cheese cubes, grapes and any other food that is of similar shape and size of the trachea/windpipe shall not be served to the children less than four (4) years of age. Children older than four (4) years of age may be served these foods provided that the foods are cut in such a way as to minimize choking. Food shall not be accessible or served to children until it has been chopped, diced, cut or mashed and is appropriate for each child's age and individual eating, chewing and swallowing ability. It was determined based on observation that the children in the B-1 Right classroom were served half sandwiches during lunch and it was not cut up in half inch pieces.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will train Staff and monitor food served and accessible to children to ensure that the food does not present a choking hazard. Staff broke up the sandwiches after speaking with the consultant.

Correction Deadline: 5/5/2026

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

Met

Comment

Staff stated proper knowledge of diapering procedures.

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

Met

Correction Deadline: 1/13/2026

Corrected on 5/5/2026

.17(7) - The previous citation was observed corrected on this date. The consultant observed children to wash their hands after the restroom and staff stated proper knowledge regarding handwashing.

Correction Deadline: 1/13/2026

Corrected on 5/5/2026

.17(8) - The previous citation was observed corrected on this date. Staff stated proper knowledge regarding handwashing.

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)

Technical Assistance

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.36(4)(f)1. - Please ensure that all seatbelts are in good repair including those not in use.

Correction Deadline: 5/6/2026

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

Met

Comment

The correct number of mats, sheets and blankets were observed on this date. Cleaning and disinfecting of mats was discussed with the director on this date.

Staff Records

Comment

Criminal record checks were observed to be complete.

-Please ensure that applicants/staff are listing exact dates (including month/day/year) on 10-year work history form in order to determine any breaks in service from the childcare industry.

-Please ensure that all staff, volunteers, independent contractors, substitutes, therapists, etc...has their records check electronically ported to the center's list in KOALA before being present at the facility.

-Please ensure that records checks are redone if there is a six-month (180 calendar days) break in service from the childcare industry.

-Please also ensure that satisfactory records checks are updated before the expiration date.

-Ensure that all therapists and other independent contractors have an updated records check on file, before being present at the center or home or ensure that the individual is supervised at all times by a staff member who has a comprehensive records check if they do not have a records check on file.

-Please ensure that staff with a national background check is always present with a staff member who has a comprehensive background check. Staff should never be by themselves.

Comment

Staff provided two files for employees hired since last visit.

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

Evidence observed of 50% of center Staff certified in First Aid and CPR.

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

Correction Deadline: 2/13/2026

Corrected on 5/5/2026

.33(3)(a)-(k) - The previous citation was observed corrected on this date. The training was observed to be completed on January 31, 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)**Not Met****Finding**

591-1-1-.32(7) requires that children be supervised at all times appropriate to the individual age, needs and capabilities of each child. Such supervision must include, but not be limited to, indoor and outdoor activities, mealtimes, naptime, transportation, field trips, and transitions between activities. "Supervision" means that the appropriate number of Staff members are physically present in the area where children are being cared for and are providing watchful oversight to the children, volunteers and Students-in-Training. The persons supervising in the child care area must be alert, positioned to maximize their ability to hear and see the children at all times, and able to respond promptly to the needs and actions of the children being supervised, as well as the actions of the volunteers and Students-in-Training, and provide timely attention to the children's actions and needs. 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. It was determined based on observation that the staff were observed to not be seated within arm's length away from the child in the B-1 Right classroom. The children were 1-year-old and 2-year-old.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will train Staff and monitor to ensure they are providing supervision and watchful oversight to the children at all times.

Correction Deadline: 5/5/2026