



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: 3/19/2026 **VisitType:** Initial Licensing Study

Arrival: 9:45 AM **Departure:** 3:45 PM

CCLC-68087

The Willow School

2969 East Ponce de Leon Avenue Suite 100 Decatur, GA 30030

DeKalb County

(586) 872-8346

Application Services Unit Consultant

Derian Williams

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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.
03/19/2026	Initial Licensing Study	Good Standing	
			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 1st Floor	A: Sunflower (12-24 Months)	Two Year Olds	3	8	C	13	C	NA	NA	Outside, Transitioning
Main 1st Floor	B: Wildflower (12-24 Months)	Two Year Olds	2	10	C	13	C	NA	NA	Outside
Main 1st Floor	C: Sprouts (3-6 Months)	Infants	2	4	C	14	C	NA	NA	Floor Play
Main 1st Floor	D: Seedlings (6-18 Months)		0	0	C	10	C	NA	NA	
Main 1st Floor	E: Infant Crib Room	Infants	2	8	C	0	NC	NA	NA	
Main 1st Floor	F: Honeybee (2's)	Two Year Olds	2	10	C	16	C	NA	NA	Outside
Main 1st Floor	G: Dragonfly (2's)	Two Year Olds and Three Year Olds	2	10	C	18	C	NA	NA	Outside, Transitioning
Main 1st Floor	H: Forest (3.5-5 Years's)	Four Year Olds	2	12	C	15	C	NA	NA	Outside
Main 1st Floor	I- Piazza (Downstairs center area)		0	0	C	0	C	NA	NA	
Main 1st Floor	J: Indoor Playspace		0	0	C	0	C	NA	NA	
			Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 99			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0				
Main 2nd Floor	K: Treehouse (4-5 Year Old's)	Four Year Olds	2	19	C	27	C	NA	NA	Outside, Transitioning
Main 2nd Floor	L: Piazza (Upstairs center area)		0	0	C	0	C	NA	NA	
Main 2nd Floor	M: Bluebird (3-4 Year Old's)	Three Year Olds	2	14	C	21	C	NA	NA	Floor Play

Main 2nd Floor	N: Sunset (3-4 Year Old's)	Four Year Olds	2	12	C	23	C	NA	NA	Floor Play
Main 2nd Floor	O: Butterfly (4-5 Year Old's)	Four Year Olds and Five Year Olds	2	18	C	25	C	NA	NA	Outside, Transitioning
Main 2nd Floor	P: Rainbow	Two Year Olds and Three Year Olds	2	12	C	22	C	NA	NA	Transitioning, Outside
Main 2nd Floor	Q: Art		0	0	C	0	C	NA	NA	

Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 118

Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0

Total # Children this Date: 137

Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 217

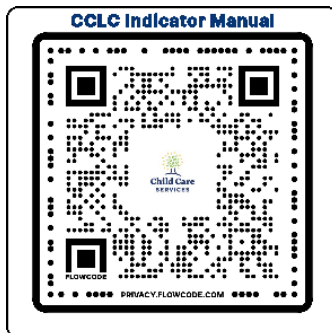
Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main 1st Floor	Outdoor Patio (Play Area)	8	C
Playground A	Infant and Toddler	27	C
Playground B	Preschool-school-age	40	C

Comments

The child care program received a final license on this date.
-The facility has liability insurance.

Plan of Improvement: Developed This Date



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

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.decal.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@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 Initial Licensing Study:

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.

Comment

Equipment and furniture observed to be properly secured, as applicable.

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

Met

Comment

Center does not provide swimming activities. No pool observed.

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.

Comment

Please secure cleaning tools (i.e., broom, plunger) out of reach of children.

Comment

The Center appeared clean and well maintained on this date.

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

Met

Comment

Playground observed to be clean and in good repair on this date.

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

Comment

Please ensure lids remain on trash containing organic waste.

Comment

Proper hand washing observed throughout the center on this date.

Comment

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

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

Documentation for medication dispensing observed completed on this date.

Safety**591-1-1-.05 Animals****Met****Comment**

Animals maintained clean and appropriately caged.

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

Staff were observed to maintain a positive learning environment on this date.

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

A current/completed inspection was observed for all vehicles used in transporting children this date.

Comment

Complete documentation of transportation observed on this date.

Comment

The vehicle had an approved fire extinguisher and first aid kit on this date.

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.

Consultant observed a total of 16 cribs in the infant crib room. 14 of 14 cribs meeting safety compliance with Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) and American Society of Testing and Materials International (ASTM) safety standards manufactured in 2013 and and two of two 14 cribs meeting safety compliance with Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) and American Society of Testing and Materials International (ASTM) safety standards manufactured 2018.

Comment

Ensure that all covers are covered and or inaccessible to children when not in use.

Correction Deadline: 3/19/2026

Staff Records**Records Reviewed: 42****Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 7**

Staff # 3

Not Met

Date of Hire: 01/05/2025

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.14(2)-CPR missing,.14(2)-First Aid Missing

Staff # 12

Not Met

Date of Hire: 01/05/2026

Reminder - Health & Safety training is required within 90 calendar days of hired

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.14(2)-First Aid Missing,.14(2)-CPR missing

Staff # 15

Not Met

Date of Hire: 01/04/2024

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.14(2)-CPR missing,.14(2)-First Aid Missing

Staff # 16

Not Met

Date of Hire: 01/06/2026

Reminder - Health & Safety training is required within 90 calendar days of hired"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.14(2)-First Aid Missing,.14(2)-CPR missing

Staff # 21

Not Met

Date of Hire: 01/05/2026

Reminder - Health & Safety training is required within 90 calendar days of hired"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.14(2)-CPR missing,.14(2)-First Aid Missing

Staff # 37

Not Met

Date of Hire: 01/05/2026

Reminder - Health & Safety training is required within 90 calendar days of hired"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.14(2)-CPR missing,.14(2)-First Aid Missing

Staff # 39

Not Met

Date of Hire: 01/04/2024

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.14(2)-CPR missing,.14(2)-First Aid Missing

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

Criminal record checks were observed to be complete. 42 of 42 staff records were observed to have comprehensive satisfactory Criminal Background Check determination letters on file.

591-1-1-.14 First Aid & CPR(CR)**Not Met****Comment**

Complete first aid kits observed in center and on vehicles on this date.

Finding

591-1-1-.14(1)(a) requires all Staff who provide direct care to children must obtain certification in a biennial training program in pediatric cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and a triennial training program in pediatric first aid within the first 45 days of employment. Current and valid evidence of the successful completion of such training shall be maintained on the Center's premises. The hours obtained completing this certification will not count towards the required annual training hours. It was determined based on staff records, staff #3, staff #12, staff #15, staff #16, staff # 21, staff #37 and staff #39 did not obtain certification in a biennial training program in pediatric cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and a triennial training program in pediatric first aid within the first 45 days of employment.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

All caregiver Staff will complete the required training. The Director will send copies via email verification of completed CPR/First Aid certification to the consultant upon completion and will develop a plan to ensure all caregiver Staff have completed this training within the first 45 days of employment and that evidence of successful completion of the training is on file available for inspection.

Correction Deadline: 3/19/2026**591-1-1-.31 Staff(CR)****Met****Comment**

Staff observed to be compliant with applicable laws and regulations.

591-1-1-.32 Staff:Child Ratios and Group Size(CR)**Technical Assistance****Comment**

Center observed to maintain appropriate staff:child ratios.

Technical Assistance

Please ensure that the Honey Bee classroom (housing children ages 18 months - 36 months), Dragonfly classroom (housing children ages 24 months - 36 months); and Rainbow classroom (housing children ages two and a half years to three and a half years) have parental agreement forms on file for each child who has turned three during the school year for the remainder of the school year provided that the continued placement in the younger group is with the agreement of the older child's Parent(s) and is developmentally appropriate for the child.

Correction Deadline: 3/19/2026

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

Staff observed to provide direct supervision and be attentive to children's needs.