



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: 2/6/2026 **VisitType:** Initial Licensing Study **Arrival:** 9:00 AM **Departure:** 1:30 PM

CCLC-67339

Bright Foundation Academy

2660 Buena Vista Rd., Suites C & D Columbus, GA 31906
Muscogee County
(706) 987-4574

Application Services Unit Consultant

Lauren Stewart

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Joint with: Twylah Tyner

Mailing Address

2660 Buena Vista Rd., Suites C & D
Columbus, GA 31907

Quality Rated: No

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.
02/06/2026	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	A - First Left - 3's and 4's		0	0	C	20	C	NA	NA	
Main	B - 2nd Left - 1's		0	0	C	9	C	NA	NA	
Main	C - 2nd Right - Infants		0	0	C	6	C	NA	NA	
Main	D - 1st Right - 2's		0	0	C	23	C	NA	NA	
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.:			58		Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0					
Total # Children this Date: 0			Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 58		Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0					

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	Main	26	C

Comments

A final license was not issued on this date based on outstanding citations and required documentation. The Consultant will follow up with next steps. The center does not carry liability insurance.

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 Initial Licensing Study:

Activities and Equipment

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

Technical Assistance

Comment

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

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.12(2) - Center will ensure that all equipment and furniture is in good repair.

Correction Deadline: 2/6/2026

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

N/A

Comment

Center does not provide swimming activities. No pool observed on site.

Facility

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

Met

Comment

No final license issued on this date. The overall licensed capacity is 58 children.

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

Technical Assistance

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.25(13) - Please be mindful to keep items that pose a hazard inaccessible to children.

Correction Deadline: 2/6/2026

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

Not Met

Finding

591-1-1-.26(4) requires that playgrounds be protected from traffic or other hazards by a (4) four foot high fence or other barrier approved by this Department. Fencing material shall not present a hazard to children and shall be maintained so as to prevent children from leaving the playground area by any means other than through an approved access route. Fence gates shall be kept closed except when persons are entering or exiting the area. It was determined based on observation that the gate enclosing the playground did not have a functional locking mechanism. It was further determined that the fence protrusion had splintering around the bottom of the fence as well as a gap measuring 6.5 inches between wooden fencing and metal fencing, and a gap along the bottom left side of the fence measuring 4.5 inches. A hole was observed on the right side of the playground at the bottom of the fence measuring 4.25 inches.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will routinely check the fence to determine if it is in good repair and remains at least 4 feet high, and will repair any hazards. The Center will train Staff to identify and report any fence hazards and to keep the fence gates closed when not in use.

Correction Deadline: 2/20/2026

Finding

591-1-1-.26(6) requires that playground equipment provide an opportunity for the children to engage in a variety of experiences and shall be age-appropriate. For example, toddlers shall not be permitted to swing in swings designed for School-age Children. The outdoor equipment shall be free of lead-based paint, sharp corners and shall be regularly maintained in such a way as to be free of rust and splinters that could pose significant safety hazard to the children. All equipment shall be arranged so as not to obstruct supervision of children. It was determined based on observation that the Little Tykes play structure was not anchored as required.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will provide a variety of age-appropriate equipment that is arranged so as not to obstruct supervision of children. Staff will check the equipment daily to ensure that the equipment is free of hazards, rust and splinters.

Correction Deadline: 3/2/2026

Finding

591-1-1-.26(9) requires the playground to be kept clean, free from litter and free of hazards, such as but not limited to rocks, exposed tree roots and exposed sharp edges of concrete. It was determined based on observation that the telephone pole located in the middle of the playground had a fabric barrier around it had a gap posing a hazard. Additionally, the four poles on the shade structure were observed to have fraying protective material, exposing splintering wood and screws/nails. Also, large rocks with sharp edges and tripping hazards where the landscape fabric was exposed were observed on the playground.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will remove any litter and fix or remove hazards from the playground and will routinely monitor the playground and remove litter and hazards.

Correction Deadline: 2/27/2026

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

Comment Staff stated proper procedures. Sinks with warm running water observed adjacent to proper diapering surfaces in all classrooms approved for diapering.

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

There were no children enrolled on this date. Proper hand washing of children and staff was discussed with the director on this date.

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

The Provider currently does not dispense/administer medication. Should the provider decide to administer medication the future, consultant discussed medication documentation, administration, and storage.

Policies and Procedures

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.21(1)(r) -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.decal.ga.gov/CCS/RulesAndRegulations.aspx> or through the Center on Shaken Baby Syndrome found at: <https://dontshake.org/>.

Correction Deadline: 2/11/2026

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

There were no children enrolled on this date. The center's discipline policy was reviewed on this date. Regulations regarding proper discipline were discussed with the director on this date.

591-1-1-.36 Transportation(CR)**N/A****Comment**

Center does not provide routine transportation or field trips. Consultant discussed transportation requirements if/when the facility decides to incorporate transportation. The center will contact their regional consultant and complete the required two (2) hours transportation training prior to transporting children.

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

Consultant observed five of five cribs meeting safety compliance with Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) and American Society of Testing and Materials International (ASTM) safety standards manufactured in 09/2011, 10/2011, 03/2011 with compliance certificate, 05/2011 with compliance certificate.

Comment

Discussed SIDS and infant sleeping position.

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.30(1)(b)1 - Center will ensure that sleeping surface of cots are not ripped or torn.

Correction Deadline: 2/6/2026

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.30(1)(b)3 - Center will ensure that there are an appropriate number of cot sheets available.

Correction Deadline: 2/6/2026

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.30(4) - Please ensure that cots or mats stored in classrooms are completely covered when not in use.

Correction Deadline: 2/6/2026

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****Technical Assistance**

591-1-1-.14(1)(a) - Center will ensure that all staff have pediatric CPR and pediatric First Aid certification within 45 day of hire date.

591-1-1-.33 Staff Training

Technical Assistance

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.33(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: 2/6/2026

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.33(5)(b)1. - 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.

Correction Deadline: 3/8/2026

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

There were no children enrolled on this date. Proper ratios and classroom capacities were discussed with the director on this date.

591-1-1-.32 Supervision(CR)

Met

Comment

A supervision plan was created on this date due to the route to the playground. Additionally, a supervision plan was created for Classroom A and Classroom D due to the bathroom being located outside of the classrooms.

Comment

There were no children enrolled on this date. Proper supervision of children, including being prompt to children's needs, was discussed with the director on this date.