



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: 4/22/2026 **VisitType:** Complaint Investigation & Monitoring Visit

Arrival: 8:40 AM **Departure:** 2:30 PM

CCLC-56596

A Step Above Preparatory South

4195 Welcome All Rd SW Atlanta, GA 30349 Fulton County
(260) 760-4679

Regional Consultant

Shameka Dozier

Phone: (770) 857-7010

Fax: (770) 357-7009

shameka.dozier@decal.ga.gov

Mailing Address

Same

Quality Rated: ★

<u>Compliance Zone Designation</u>			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.
04/22/2026	Complaint Investigation & Monitoring Visit	Support	
04/17/2026	Complaint Closure	Good Standing	
03/30/2026	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	AL-Infant	Infants	1	2	C	10	C	NA	NA	Floor Play
Main	Back F-Private Pre-K		0	0	C	16	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
Main	BL-One and Two	One Year Olds and Two Year Olds	1	8	C	21	C	NA	NA	Transitioning
Main	CL-Three year old	Three Year Olds	1	10	C	18	C	NA	NA	Transitioning
Main	DL-Four year old		0	0	C	11	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
Main	EL-Afterschool		0	0	C	63	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
Main	HR-One year Old		0	0	C	12	C	NA	NA	Not In Use

Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 151

Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0

Total # Children this Date: 20

Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 151

Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0

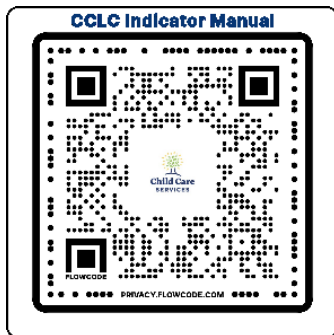
Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	Afterschool	55	C
Main	Infant	13	C
Main	Toddler	7	C

Enrolled Children						
Under 1 years	1 years	2 years	3 years	4 years	5 years (Prekonly)	5 years and older
2	5	4	8	3	0	21

Comments

Staff files, food prep training, and hand washing were discussed with the director on this date.

Plan of Improvement: To Be Submitted 05/06/2026



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.dec.al.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.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!



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

Summary Report

Date: 4/22/2026 VisitType: Complaint Investigation & Monitoring Visit Arrival: 8:40 AM Departure: 2:30 PM

CCLC-56596
A Step Above Preparatory South
4195 Welcome All Rd SW Atlanta, GA 30349 Fulton County
(260) 760-4679

Regional Consultant
Shameka Dozier
Phone: (770) 857-7010
Fax: (770) 357-7009
shameka.dozier@decal.ga.gov

Mailing Address
Same

The following information is associated with a Monitoring Visit:

Activities and Equipment

591-1-1-.03 Activities Not Met

Finding

591-1-1-.03(2) requires the Center to keep current lesson plans on site that reflect appropriate instruction practices and activities to support children's development The Center shall have sufficient and varied play and learning equipment and materials to support the above program of activities in all developmental areas. It was determined based on observation that classrooms BL and CL did not have current lesson plans as required as the lesson plans were dated for the week of March 9, 2026.

Correction Deadline: 4/22/2026

Recited on 4/22/2026

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

Comment

Discussed adding equipment and toys to enhance variety.

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.

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:

Classroom AL

- TB Fresh deodorizer labeled keep out or reach of children was on the edge of the counter and was accessible to children.
- A charging cord and extension cord were laying on the floor and were accessible to children.
- Lysol disinfectant spray labeled keep out or reach of children was on the edge of the counter and was accessible to children.

Classroom CL

- A bathroom brush scrubber was stored in the bathroom and was accessible to children.
- The white and pink electrical cords were plugged into the wall; the cords were hanging and accessible to the children.
- A mop and bucket were located outside of the door to enter the playground and were accessible to the children.

Correction Deadline: 4/22/2026

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 several picket fence bases had broken wood with sharp edges that were located on the back of the playground.

Correction Deadline: 5/8/2026

Recited on 4/22/2026**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 blue metal seesaw located on the playground had rust and missing caps at the base.

Correction Deadline: 5/2/2026

Finding

591-1-1-.26(8) requires climbing and swinging equipment to have a resilient surface beneath the equipment and the fall zone from such equipment must be adequately maintained by the Center to assure continuing resiliency. It was determined based on observation that the after school playground had less than 1 inch of resilient surface near the yellow slide when the required amount is 6 inches.

Correction Deadline: 5/1/2026

Recited on 4/22/2026

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 following hazards were observed on the playground:

- The afterschool playground had a large deep hole measuring over 2 inches which created a potential tripping hazard located at the left side corner of the building.
- -----

Correction Deadline: 5/8/2026

Recited on 4/22/2026

	Food Service
--	---------------------

591-1-1-.15 Food Service & Nutrition

Not Met

Finding

591-1-1-.15(5) requires that the Center provide a menu listing all meals and snacks to be served during the current week except for School-age Centers where the food may be provided by the Parent(s) by agreement between the School-age Center and the Parent(s). Substitutions shall be recorded on the posted menu and menus shall be retained at the Center for six (6) months. It was determined based on observation that the food menu posted was dated for the month of March 2026. The assistant director was not able to show an updated copy of the menu when requested.

Correction Deadline: 4/22/2026

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)

Technical Assistance

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.17(7) - Consultant discussed with the director to ensure that all children wash their hands when entering the classroom.

Correction Deadline: 4/22/2026

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

N/A

Comment

The Provider currently does not dispense/administer medication.

Safety

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

Center does not provide routine transportation.

Sleeping & Resting Equipment

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

Met

Correction Deadline: 3/30/2026

Corrected on 4/22/2026

.30(1)(a)3 - Previous citation of nine cribs not having tight-fitting sheets as required was observed to be corrected on this date.

Staff Records

Records Reviewed: 8

Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 3

Staff # 2

Not Met

Date of Hire: 12/04/2025

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.24(1)-No Record

Staff # 4

Not Met

Date of Hire: 09/21/2023

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.24(1)-Evidence of Orientation Missing

Staff # 5

Not Met

Date of Hire: 09/03/2025

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.24(1)-Evidence of Orientation Missing

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)**Met**

Correction Deadline: 3/30/2026

Corrected on 4/22/2026

.14(2)(b) - Previous citation of the teacher in classroom C not having documented evidence of CPR training as required was observed to be corrected on this date.

591-1-1-.33 Staff Training**Not Met****Finding**

591-1-1-.33(2)(a)-(n) requires the initial Center orientation to include the following subjects: a) the Center's policies and procedures; b) the portions of these rules dealing with the care, health and safety of children; c) the Staff person's assigned duties and responsibilities; d) reporting requirements for suspected cases of child abuse, neglect or deprivation; e) communicable diseases and serious injuries; f) emergency weather plans; g) the program's emergency preparedness plan; h) childhood injury control; i) the administration of medicine; j) reducing the risk of Sudden Unexpected Infant Death (SUID), which includes Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS); k) hand washing; l) fire safety; m) water safety; and n) prevention of HIV/AIDS and blood borne pathogens. It was determined based on a review of records that staff #4 and #5 did not have evidence of initial orientation as the director was not able to show proof of the document when requested.

Correction Deadline: 4/24/2026

Recited on 4/22/2026

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.33(4) - Consultant discussed with the director to ensure that staff who prepare food have their four clock hours of training in food nutrition planning, preparation, serving, proper dish washing and food storage.

Correction Deadline: 5/22/2026

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**

Center observed to maintain appropriate staff:child ratios.

Comment

Adequate supervision observed on this date.