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: 4/22/2025 **VisitType:** Monitoring Visit **Arrival:** 9:50 AM **Departure:** 3:00 PM

CCLC-52493
Children Academy 4 Learning
1606 North Leg Road Augusta, GA 30909 Richmond County
(706) 738-2876

Exemption Unit Lead
Rosalyn Elder
Phone: (404) 780-0868
Fax: (770) 232-1931
rosalyn.elder@decal.ga.gov
Joint with: Yolanda Harris

Mailing Address
Same

Quality Rated: ★

Compliance Zone Designation		
04/22/2025	Monitoring Visit	Good Standing
11/25/2024	Licensing Study	Good Standing
06/18/2024	Monitoring Visit	Good Standing

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.

Ratios/License Capacity

Building	Room	Age Group	Staff	Children	NC/C	Max 35 SF.	35 SF. Comp.	Max 25 SF.	25 SF. Comp.	Notes
Bldg 1	A- 1's and 2's	One Year Olds and Two Year Olds	1	7	C	8	C	NA	NA	Free Play
Bldg 1	B- 6wks- 18 mths	One Year Olds and Two Year Olds	1	3	C	12	C	NA	NA	Free Play
Bldg 1	C- 1's and 2's		0	0	C	10	C	NA	NA	
		Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 30			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0					
Bldg 2	D- 3's - 12's	Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds	1	11	C	27	C	NA	NA	Free Play
		Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 27			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0					
Total # Children this Date: 21		Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 57			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0					

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Bldg 1	Play yard	174	C

Enrolled Children						
Under 1 years	**1 years**	**2 years**	**3 years**	**4 years**	**5 years (Prekonly)**	**5 years and older**
3	1	8	7	4	1	4

Comments
An in-person site visit was conducted on April 22, 2025 for the purposes of a monitoring visit. The child care program is in compliance with the licensing requirements.

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.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-.03 Activities — **Technical Assistance**

Technical Assistance
591-1-1-.03(1) requires the Center to provide a daily planned program of varied and developmentally appropriate activities to promote social, emotional, physical, cognitive, language and literacy growth. Center Staff shall use a variety of teaching methods to accommodate the needs of the children’s different learning styles. Technical assistance was provided regarding ensuring there is a specific lesson plan for each day. Classroom B in Bldg. 1 does not have lesson plans to accommodate the needs of the children's different learning styles.

Correction Deadline: 5/5/2025

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

Comment
A variety of equipment and toys were observed throughout the center.

591-1-1-.35 Swimming Pools & Water-related Activities(CR) — **N/A**

Comment
Center does not provide swimming activities.

Children's Records

Records Reviewed: 5 **Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 3**

Child # 1 — Not Met
"Missing/Incomplete Components"
.08(1)-Doctor, Clinic, Phone Numbers

Child # 2 — Not Met
"Missing/Incomplete Components"
.08(1)-Doctor, Clinic, Phone Numbers

Child # 3 — Not Met
"Missing/Incomplete Components"
.08(2)-Immunization

591-1-1-.08 Children's Records **Technical Assistance**

Technical Assistance
591-1-1-.08(1) - Technical assistance provided regarding child #3 and child #5 had incomplete enrollment records. Both are missing the doctors/ name and/or numbers.

Correction Deadline: 4/22/2025

Technical Assistance
591-1-1-.08(2) - Technical assistance provided regarding child #2 immunization file was missing from the records.

Correction Deadline: 5/2/2025

Evening Care

591-1-1-.32 Staffing/Supervision(CR) **Met**

Comment
591-1-1-.32(6) -The Center does provide evening care.

Correction Deadline: 4/22/2025

Facility

591-1-1-.06 Bathrooms **Met**

Comment
Please monitor bathrooms for necessary supplies.

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

Comment
Licensed capacity observed to be routinely met by center.

591-1-1-.25 Physical Plant - Safe Environment(CR) **Not Met**

Finding
591-1-1-.25(11) requires that floor coverings be tight, smooth, free of odors and washable or cleanable. It was determined based on observation that several floor tiles in Building 1- Classroom B were not secured and posed a potential tripping and cutting hazard.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
Floors will be maintained to be safe and sanitary.

Correction Deadline: 6/5/2025

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 accessible to children on this date:

Bldg 1: B – 6 wks – 18 mths
- Baby wipes were located next to the sink.

Bldg 2: D – 3’s – 12’s
- Baby wipes were located on a back table.
- A box of Clorox wipes were observed on the floor.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
The Center will identify all hazardous items and keep them in a locked area inaccessible to children. The Center will inform all Staff about hazardous items and the safe storage of those items.

Correction Deadline: 4/28/2025

Recited on 4/22/2025

Technical Assistance
591-1-1-.25(8) - Technical assistance was provided regarding several outlets were not covered in Classroom B, Building 2, there are three outlets next to the microwave uncovered as well as Classroom C, Building 1, the outlets near the sink.

Correction Deadline: 5/5/2025

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 wiring attached to the chain link fence at the back of the playground was rusted and protruding with sharp points. It was further determined that several panels of the plastic fences from Building 1 leading to the playground were missing panels and had protruding nails, which are a potential impalement hazard. It was also determined that the plastic fencing leading to the playground from Building 2 was leaning and was not in good repair.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
The Center will routinely check the fence to determine if it is in good repair and will repair any hazards. The Center will train Staff to identify and report any fence hazards.

Correction Deadline: 5/5/2025

Recited on 4/22/2025

Technical Assistance
591-1-1-.26(9) - Technical assistance provided regarding the importance of cleaning and removal of all equipment on the back porch (entire deck) in Building 1, leading to the play area. The entire play ground need to be cleaned of any toys that inoperable (broken bicycle) and debris throughout the play areas. Also there are several vegetative shrubs around the back fence that need to be removed.

Correction Deadline: 4/22/2025

Food Service

591-1-1-.15 Food Service & Nutrition **Not Met**

Comment
Please ensure all stored items in all of the refrigerators and freezers in Buildings 1 and 2. are fully labeled with the expiration dates.

Comment
Please ensure that infant feeding forms are updated regularly.

Finding
591-1-1-.15(3) requires baby bottles and formula to be labeled with the individual child's name; supplied by the Parent daily in bottles; and refrigerated at a temperature of forty (40) degrees Fahrenheit or less. Only the current day's formula or breast milk shall be served. If formula must be provided by the Center, only commercially prepared, ready-to-feed formula shall be used. Refrigerated or frozen breast milk shall only be heated or thawed under warm running water or in a container of warm water. It was determined based on observation that bottles for three infants were left out and not refrigerated in Building 1- Classroom B.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
The Center will train Staff to follow the required procedures, and will review and monitor regularly.

Correction Deadline: 4/28/2025

591-1-1-.18 Kitchen Operations **Met**

Comment
Kitchen appears clean and well organized.

Health and Hygiene

591-1-1-.10 Diapering Areas & Practices(CR) **Technical Assistance**

Comment
Hand washing requirements for diapering were discussed with the teachers on this date.

Technical Assistance
591-1-1-.10(1) - (1) Ventilation. For Centers first licensed after March 1, 1991, and for Centers that are renovated after March 1, 1991, the diapering areas shall be ventilated by functioning exhaust fans and a duct system or by the required amount of window space provided by operable windows when open. Technical assistance was provided regarding the importance of ensuring the diapering area in Classroom B in Building 1 is properly ventilated by functioning exhaust fans and a duct system.. There is a window to the right of the changing station however the staff members do not open it.

Correction Deadline: 4/22/2025

Technical Assistance
591-1-1-.10(4) - 591-1-1-.10(4) requires that if diapers are changed on a diaper changing surface, the surface shall be smooth, nonporous, and equipped with a guard or rails to prevent falls. Between each diaper change, the diaper changing surface shall be cleaned with a disinfectant and dried with a single-use disposable towel. Technical assistance was provided regarding the importance of ensuring the diaper changing surface in Classroom B in Building 1, is nonporous. The surface had several tears and was not nonporous.

Correction Deadline: 4/22/2025

591-1-1-.17 Hygiene(CR) **Not Met**

Comment
Proper hand washing not observed however it was discussed with the staff on this day.

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 based on observation that there was no warm running water in Building 2.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
The Center will train Staff on required handwashing for children and Staff will ensure children's hands are washed with warm running water. The Director will monitor for compliance.

Correction Deadline: 4/28/2025

591-1-1-.20 Medications(CR) **N/A**

Comment
The Provider currently does not dispense/administer medication.

Safety

591-1-1-.05 Animals **N/A**

Comment
Center does not keep animals on premises.

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) **Not Met**

Finding
591-1-1-.36(7)(b) requires that an emergency medical information record be maintained in the vehicle for each child being transported. The emergency medical information record for each child shall include a listing of the child's full name, date of birth, allergies, special medical needs and conditions, current prescribed medications that the child is required to take on a daily basis for a chronic condition, the name and telephone number of the child's doctor, the local medical facility that the Center uses in the area where the Center is located and the telephone numbers where the Parents can be reached. It was determined based on a review of records, Child #6 did not contain current emergency medical authorization that form was dated 04/24/23. Also the file did not contain the parental agreement form.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
The Center will obtain a complete emergency medical information record for each child that is transported and maintain a copy on the vehicle.

Correction Deadline: 4/28/2025

Technical Assistance
591-1-1-.36(7)(d)1. - Technical assistance was provided regarding no signatures were completed during 1st and 2nd checks on 04/21/25. The Center was advised to ensure all checks are completed on a daily basis.

Correction Deadline: 4/23/2025

Sleeping & Resting Equipment

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

Technical Assistance
591-1-1-.30(1)(b) - Technical assistance was provided regarding ensuring every cot has a covering. It was determined through observation, in classroom C, Building 1, six out of 11 cots did not contain the appropriate sheet covering.

Correction Deadline: 4/22/2025

Staff Records

Records Reviewed: 4	Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 1

Staff # 1 Not Met

Date of Hire: 05/05/2025

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.09-Criminal Records Check Missing

591-1-1-.09 Criminal Records and Comprehensive Background Checks(CR) **Not Met**

Finding
591-1-1-.09(1)(j) requires that for portability for Directors, Employees and Provisional Employees, excluding Students-in-Training, only the most recently issued determination letter is eligible for portability and must be ported electronically. A Center may accept a satisfactory Fingerprint Records Check Determination letter or a satisfactory Comprehensive Records Check Determination letter issued by the Department if the Records Check Clearance Date is within the preceding 12 months from the hire date, the individual has not had a lapse of employment from the child care industry that lasted for 180 days (6 months) or longer, and the Center does not know or reasonably should not know that the individual's satisfactory status has changed. It was determined based on investigation one new staff member has not ported over the Criminal Records Check determination as of this date.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
IMMEDIATE CORRECTION - The Center will [ ] to ensure that only the most recently issued determination letter is electronically ported for Directors, Employees and Provisional Employees, excluding Students-in-Training. A Center may accept a satisfactory Fingerprint Records Check Determination letter or a satisfactory Comprehensive Records Check Determination letter issued by the Department if the Records Check Clearance Date is within the preceding 12 months from the hire date, the individual has not had a lapse of employment from the child care industry that lasted for 180 days (6 months) or longer, and the Center does not know or reasonably should not know that the individual's satisfactory status has changed. The program's owner or an officer/member of the corporation must view the A to Z Background Check video units pertaining to this records check rule and return the signed affidavit within one week from this visit date. The Center will ensure CRC rules are maintained.

Correction Deadline: 4/28/2025

591-1-1-.09 Criminal Records Check(CR) **Met**

Comment
Director provided for employees hired since last visit.

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

Correction Deadline: 12/25/2024

Corrected on 4/22/2025
591-1-1-.14(1) - It was determined by the review of records 50% of the staff members have completed First Aid/CPR training.

591-1-1-.24 Personnel Records **Met**

Comment
591-1-1-.24(1) - It was determined by the observation of records the program does maintain a personnel file on all staff.

Correction Deadline: 4/27/2025

591-1-1-.28 Prohibited Substances **N/A**

Comment
591-1-1-.28(1) - None applicable

Correction Deadline: 4/22/2025

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

Correction Deadline: 12/25/2024

Corrected on 4/22/2025
.33(3) - All staff members have completed the health and safety training.

Finding
591-1-1-.33(4) requires within the first year of employment, the Director and person with primary responsibility for food preparation shall have four clock hours of training in food nutrition planning, preparation, serving, proper dish washing and food storage. It was determined based on a review of records that Staff #1 did not have four clock hours of training in food nutrition planning, preparation, serving, proper dish washing, and food storage as required.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
The Center will schedule food preparation training, as required, and follow up to ensure the training is completed.

Correction Deadline: 5/6/2025

Recited on 4/22/2025

Finding
91-1-1-.33(5) requires that every calendar year after the first year of employment, all supervisory and caregiver Personnel, except independent contractors, Students-in-Training and volunteers shall attend ten (10) clock hours of diverse training which is task-focused in on-going health, safety and early childhood or child development related topics and which is offered by an accredited college, university or vocational program or other Department-approved source. The annual ten (10) clock hours of training shall be chosen from the following fields: child development, including discipline, guidance, nutrition, injury control and safety; health, including sanitation, disease control, cleanliness, detection and disposition of illness; child abuse and neglect, including identification and reporting, and meeting the needs of abused and/or neglected children; and business related topics, including parental communication, recordkeeping, etc.; provided however that such business related training shall be limited to no more than two (2) of the required ten (10) clock hours of training. Records of completion of such training shall be maintained, as required by these rules. It was determined based on a review of records that Staff #1, Staff #2, and Staff #4 did not have ten hours of diverse annual training for the year 2023 as required by the Department on this date.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
The Center will plan and schedule the required 10 hours of annual training each year and follow up to ensure the training is completed. The Consultant discussed the differences between ten annual hours of diverse training versus Health and Safety Orientation training on this date.

Correction Deadline: 5/5/2025

Recited on 4/22/2025

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.

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. It was determined based on observation that the teacher in Classroom B, Building 1 left the children on one side of the classroom and did not have direct supervision over the other two children in the classroom.

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: 4/28/2025

Recited on 4/22/2025