



**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:** 2/10/2026 **VisitType:** Licensing Study

**Arrival:** 10:40 AM **Departure:** 1:45 PM

**CCLC-65754**  
**Turning Sun School Smoke Rise**  
5801 Hugh Howell Road Stone Mountain, GA 30087 DeKalb  
County  
(404) 939-1589

Regional Consultant  
Roslyn Williams  
Phone: (770) 357-7020  
Fax: (770) 357-7019  
roslyn.williams@decal.ga.gov

**Mailing Address**  
Same

**Quality Rated:** No

| Compliance Zone Designation |                         |               | <b>Compliance Zone Designation</b> - 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.<br><br><b>Good Standing</b> - Program is demonstrating an acceptable level of performance in meeting the rules.<br><b>Support</b> - Program performance is demonstrating a need for improvement in meeting rules.<br><b>Deficient</b> - Program is not demonstrating an acceptable level of performance in meeting the rules. |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------|---------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 02/10/2026                  | Licensing Study         | Good Standing |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| 08/12/2025                  | Monitoring Visit        | Good Standing |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| 01/28/2025                  | Initial 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                           | B - 2nd Left                   | One Year Olds                  | 2     | 8        | C                             | 12         | C            | NA                                                   | NA           | Transitioning |
| Main                           | Room 232 (F: 3 Year - 6 Year)  | Four Year Olds                 | 2     | 14       | C                             | 19         | C            | NA                                                   | NA           | Transitioning |
| Main                           | Room 234 (E: 3 Year - 6 Year)  | Three Year Olds                | 3     | 13       | C                             | 17         | C            | NA                                                   | NA           | Transitioning |
| Main                           | Room 236 (D: (1 Year - 2 Year) | Two Year Olds                  | 2     | 8        | C                             | 17         | C            | NA                                                   | NA           | Transitioning |
| Main                           | Room 238 (C: 1 Year - 2 Year)  | Two Year Olds                  | 2     | 8        | C                             | 17         | C            | NA                                                   | NA           | Transitioning |
| Main                           | Room 242 (A: 3 Months -1 Year) | One Year Olds                  | 2     | 5        | C                             | 25         | C            | NA                                                   | NA           | Transitioning |
|                                |                                | Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 90 |       |          | Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0 |            |              | Building @35 capacity limited by Building Department |              |               |
| Total # Children this Date: 56 |                                | Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 90 |       |          | Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0 |            |              |                                                      |              |               |

| Building | Playground   | Playground Occupancy | Playground Compliance |
|----------|--------------|----------------------|-----------------------|
| Main     | Playground A | 9                    | C                     |
| Main     | Playground B | 23                   | C                     |
| Main     | Playground C | 29                   | C                     |

| <b>Enrolled Children</b> |                |                |                |                |                           |                          |
|--------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| <b>Under 1 years</b>     | <b>1 years</b> | <b>2 years</b> | <b>3 years</b> | <b>4 years</b> | <b>5 years (Prekonly)</b> | <b>5 years and older</b> |
| 18                       | 13             | 11             | 25             | 8              | 0                         | 1                        |

#### **Comments**

Visit Completed

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.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.

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#### **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](http://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.

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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](mailto:qualityrated@dec.al.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 Licensing Study:

**Activities and Equipment**

**591-1-1-.03 Activities**

**Technical Assistance**

**Technical Assistance**

591-1-1-.03(1) - Please ensure that all lesson plans are available for review.

**Correction Deadline: 2/10/2026**

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

**Not Met**

**Finding**

591-1-1-.12(1) requires each Employee and child in attendance to use all indoor and outdoor furniture, activity materials, and equipment in a safe and appropriate manner and in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions, recommendations, and intended use. All equipment and furniture shall be used only by the age-appropriate group of children. It was determined based on observation that the sand table in Room D was missing the containers.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

The Center will ensure Staff are trained in and children are taught the proper use of all furniture, materials and equipment; will implement a plan for this information to be reviewed with both groups on an ongoing basis; and for monitoring proper and age-appropriate usage.

**Correction Deadline: 2/10/2026**

**Finding**

591-1-1-.12(2) requires that all equipment and furniture be free from hazardous conditions such as, but not limited to, sharp rough edges or toxic paint; and be kept clean. It was determined based on observation that the wedge cushion in Room A Infant had peeling vinyl material on it that was accessible to children.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

The Center will ensure that equipment and furniture are used by the age-appropriate group of children.

**Correction Deadline: 2/10/2026**

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

**Met**

**Comment**

Center does not provide swimming activities.

**Facility**

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

Licensed capacity observed to be routinely met by center on this date.

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

Please be mindful to keep items that pose a hazard inaccessible to children.

**Finding**

591-1-1-.25(3) requires the Center and surrounding premises to be kept clean, free of debris and in good repair. Hygienic measures such as, but not limited to, screened windows and proper waste disposal procedures shall be utilized to minimize the presence of rodents, flies, roaches and other vermin at the Center. It was determined based on observation that there was peeling yellow paint under the window that was accessible to children in Room B.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

The Center will have the Center and surrounding areas cleaned, make repairs where needed, and remove all debris is removed. The Center will implement a plan to keep areas clean and in good repair that includes regular monitoring.

**Correction Deadline: 2/20/2026**

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**591-1-1-.26 Playgrounds(CR)****Not Met****Comment**

Discussed maintenance of resilient surface. Please fluff and redistribute.

**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 fence along the front area of the playgrounds measured three and one half feet tall. A four feet barrier was required.

**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 there were three rungs missing from the wooden climbing structure on the far right playground.

**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: 2/20/2026****Recited on 2/10/2026****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 a rake was accessible to children on the front left playground. It was further determined that the large yellow water hose was unraveled on the ground and accessible to children on the far right playground.i

**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: 2/10/2026****Recited on 2/10/2026**

|                           |
|---------------------------|
| <b>Health and Hygiene</b> |
|---------------------------|

**Technical Assistance**

591-1-1-.10(4) - Diapering practices and procedures were discussed with staff.

**Correction Deadline: 2/10/2026****591-1-1-.17 Hygiene(CR)****Met****Comment**

Staff stated proper knowledge.

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

Discussed proper medication documentation and procedures.

**Policies and Procedures****591-1-1-.21 Operational Policies & Procedures****Not Met****Finding**

591-1-1-.21(3) requires that the Center conduct drills for fire, tornado and other emergency situations. The fire drills will be conducted monthly and tornado and other emergency situation drills will be conducted every six months. The Center shall maintain documentation of the dates and times of these drills for two years. It was determined based on review of records that the Center did not document that emergency drills were conducted in January 2026.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

The Center will hold the drills as required and keep the documentation of the drills on file for two years.

**Correction Deadline: 2/15/2026****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)****N/A****Comment**

Center does not provide routine transportation.

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

Pleasant naptime environment observed.

**Staff Records****Records Reviewed: 18****Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 5**

Staff # 1

Not Met

Date of Hire: 08/01/2025

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.09-Criminal Records Check Missing

Staff # 4

Not Met

Date of Hire: 07/29/2024

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(3)-Health &amp; Safety Certificate

Staff # 6

Not Met

Date of Hire: 08/01/2025

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.09-Criminal Records Check Missing

Staff # 12

Not Met

Date of Hire: 02/02/2022

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.24(1)-Education Experience Missing

Staff # 13

Not Met

Date of Hire: 01/01/2025

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.24(1)-Education Experience Missing

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

591-1-1-.09(1)(a) requires that a Center ensure that every actual and potential Director, Employee and Provisional Employee of a Child Care Learning Center submit both a Records Check Application to the Department and Fingerprints to an authorized fingerprinting site as required. It was determined based on review of records that staff persons #1. and #6 who were hired on August 1, 2025 and were observed on the playground with children did not have a current satisfactory Records Check Determination on file. A one day letter was left.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

IMMEDIATE CORRECTION - The Center will to ensure that every actual and potential Director, Employee and Provisional Employee of a Child Care Learning Center submit both a Records Check Application to the Department and Fingerprints to an authorized fingerprinting site as required. 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 to ensure the CRC rules are maintained.

**Correction Deadline: 2/10/2026****Finding**

591-1-1-.09(1)(c) requires the Center to ensure that every Employee has a valid and current satisfactory Comprehensive Records Check Determination on file prior to being present at the Center while any child is present for care or before an individual age 17 or older resides in the Center. The Comprehensive Records Check Determination must have a Records Check Clearance Date that is no older than the preceding 12 months of the hire date; provided, however, if the Employee has had a lapse of employment from the child care industry that lasted for 180 days (6 months) or longer, a new satisfactory Comprehensive Records Check Determination is required. It was determined based on review of records that staff persons #1. and #6 who were hired on August 1, 2025 and were observed on the playground with children did not have a current satisfactory Records Check Determination on file. A one day letter was left.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

IMMEDIATE CORRECTION - The Center will to ensure that every Employee has a valid and current satisfactory Comprehensive Records Check Determination on file prior to being present at the Center while any child is present for care or before an individual age 17 or older resides in the Center. The Comprehensive Records Check Determination must have a Records Check Clearance Date that is no older than the preceding 12 months of the hire date; provided, however, if the Employee has had a lapse of employment from the child care industry that lasted for 180 days (6 months) or longer, a new satisfactory Comprehensive Records Check Determination is required. 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 to ensure the CRC rules are maintained.

**Correction Deadline: 2/10/2026****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**

**Comment**

Discussed: Health and Safety Training is required for each staff member with direct care responsibilities within 90 calendar days of their hire date.

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**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.

|                                 |
|---------------------------------|
| <b>Staffing and Supervision</b> |
|---------------------------------|

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

Center observed to maintain appropriate staff:child ratios.

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**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 during lunch, staff were not seated within an arm's length away from children in rooms B/1-year-old and C/ 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: 2/10/2026**

**Recited on 2/10/2026**