



**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:** 4/9/2026

**VisitType:** Licensing Study

**Arrival:** 1:40 PM

**Departure:** 5:20 PM

**CCLC-33283**

**The Academy of Jefferson, LLC**

695 Lynn Ave Jefferson, GA 30549 Jackson County  
(706) 367-2222

Regional Consultant

Lynn Schnitzer

Phone: (678) 717-5720

Fax: (770) 344-5683

lynn.schnitzer@dec.al.ga.gov

**Mailing Address**

Same

**Quality Rated:** ★ ★

| 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. |
|-----------------------------|------------------|---------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 04/09/2026                  | Licensing Study  | Good Standing |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| 11/12/2025                  | Monitoring Visit | Good Standing |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| 04/04/2025                  | 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                           | A 1R     | Infants and One Year Olds                                    | 2                           | 10       | C                           | 14         | C                                                          | NA         | NA           | Diapering, Nap, Floor Play       |
| Main                           | B2R      | Two Year Olds                                                | 2                           | 17       | C                           | 24         | C                                                          | NA         | NA           | Nap, Transitioning               |
| Main                           | D 2L     | One Year Olds and Two Year Olds                              | 2                           | 13       | C                           | 18         | C                                                          | NA         | NA           | Transitioning, Nap, Diapering    |
| Main                           | E Rear   |                                                              | 0                           | 0        | C                           | 19         | C                                                          | NA         | NA           |                                  |
| Main                           | F-Front  | Three Year Olds                                              | 2                           | 24       | C                           | 25         | C                                                          | 35         | C            | Centers                          |
| Main                           | G-Back L | Four Year Olds and Five Year Olds and Six Year Olds and Over | 1                           | 13       | C                           | 23         | C                                                          | 32         | C            | Transitioning, Centers, Clean Up |
| Main                           | H-Back R |                                                              | 0                           | 0        | C                           | 23         | C                                                          | NA         | NA           |                                  |
| Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.:    |          |                                                              | 146                         |          | Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: |            | 151                                                        |            |              |                                  |
| Total # Children this Date: 77 |          |                                                              | Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: |          | 146                         |            | Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.:                                |            | 151          |                                  |
|                                |          |                                                              |                             |          |                             |            | Building @25 capacity limited by Fire Marshall Limitations |            |              |                                  |

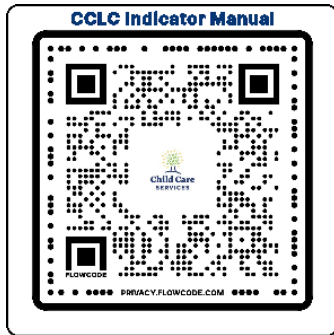
| Building | Playground | Playground Occupancy | Playground Compliance |
|----------|------------|----------------------|-----------------------|
| Main     | PG Left    | 50                   | C                     |
| Main     | PG Rear    | 34                   | C                     |
| Main     | PG Right   | 30                   | C                     |

| Enrolled Children |         |         |         |         |                    |                   |
|-------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|--------------------|-------------------|
| Under 1 years     | 1 years | 2 years | 3 years | 4 years | 5 years (Prekonly) | 5 years and older |
| 14                | 15      | 34      | 41      | 18      | 0                  | 16                |

#### Comments

The consultant discussed the visit report with the Owner, Teresa Cullinan, on April 9, 2026.

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.

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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@decal.ga.gov](mailto:qualityrated@decal.ga.gov) for more information. Free technical assistance is available!**



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Summary Report

Date: 4/9/2026 VisitType: Licensing Study

Arrival: 1:40 PM Departure: 5:20 PM

CCLC-33283  
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695 Lynn Ave Jefferson, GA 30549 Jackson County  
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Mailing Address  
Same

The following information is associated with a Licensing Study:

Activities and Equipment

591-1-1-.03 Activities

Met

Comment

Age-appropriate activities observed throughout the center.

Comment

Lesson Plans were observed to be posted and reflected the current weeks activities in each classroom.

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

Met

Comment

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

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

N/A

Comment

Center does not provide swimming activities.

Children's Records

591-1-1-.08 Children's Records

Technical Assistance

Comment

Parent authorizations obtained/completed.

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.08(1) - Consultant discussed with the owner to ensure that children's records have the address for persons to whom the child can be released.

Correction Deadline: 4/9/2026

Facility

591-1-1-.06 Bathrooms

Met

Comment

Bathrooms observed to be clean and well maintained.

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)****Technical Assistance****Comment**

No hazards observed accessible to children on this date.

**Technical Assistance**

591-1-1-.25(3) - Consultant discussed with the owner that the transition strip by the door to the playground was broken at the corner in classroom F-Front and cracked in classroom H-Back R.

**Correction Deadline: 4/9/2026**

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**591-1-1-.26 Playgrounds(CR)****Met****Comment**

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

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**Food Service****591-1-1-.15 Food Service & Nutrition****Technical Assistance****Comment**

Consultant observed infant feeding forms were up-to-date.

**Technical Assistance**

591-1-1-.15(3) - Consultant discussed with the owner to ensure that infant bottles are labeled with the child's full name.

**Correction Deadline: 4/9/2026**

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

Kitchen appears clean and well organized on this date.

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

591-1-1-.10(4) - Consultant discussed with the owner and center staff to ensure that the changing surface is cleaned with a disinfectant and dried with a single-use disposable towel after each change.

**Correction Deadline: 4/9/2026**

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**591-1-1-.17 Hygiene(CR)****Not Met****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 It was determined based on observation that a staff member did not wash an infant's hands after completing the diaper changing process in classroom A 1R.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

The Center will train Staff on required handwashing for children and Staff will ensure children's hands are washed when required. The Director will monitor for compliance.

**Correction Deadline: 4/9/2026**

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

Documentation for medication dispensing observed completed on this date.

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**Policies and Procedures****591-1-1-.21 Operational Policies & Procedures****Met****Comment**

Program observed complete emergency drills

**591-1-1-.27 Posted Notices****Met****Comment**

Observed all required posted notices.

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

Center does not keep animals on premises.

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

Age-appropriate discussion and/or redirection observed.

**591-1-1-.13 Field Trips(CR)****N/A****Comment**

Center does not participate in field trips at this time.

**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**

Staff stated knowledge of infant safe sleep requirements.

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

Criminal record checks were observed to be complete.

**Comment**

Director provided six files for employees hired since last visit November 12, 2025.

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

Consultant observed evidence of 100% of center staff hired more than 45 days to have current certification in pediatric First Aid and CPR.

**Comment**

Consultant observed the center to have a complete first aid kit on this date.

**591-1-1-.33 Staff Training****Met****Comment**

Documentation observed of required staff training.

**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.