



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: 10:00 AM **Departure:** 1:15 PM

CCLC-46802
Fun Steps Ahead
4441 Covington Highway Decatur, GA 30035 DeKalb County
(404) 254-1773

Regional Consultant
Jessica Johnson
Phone: (770) 357-5090
Fax:
jessica.johnson@decal.ga.gov

Mailing Address
Same

Quality Rated: ★ ★

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. 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.
02/10/2026	Licensing Study	Good Standing	
09/25/2025	Monitoring Visit	Good Standing	
06/18/2025	Complaint Closure	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	1L - Front - Room B - Preschool	Two Year Olds and Three Year Olds	1	10	C	11	C	NA	NA	Story, Transitioning
Main	1R-Room A-Inf	Infants and One Year Olds	1	6	C	7	C	NA	NA	Transitioning, Nap
Main	3L - Front - Room C - Preschool		0	0	C	6	C	NA	NA	
Main	4L - Rear - Room D - Preschool - School Age	Two Year Olds and Three Year Olds and GA PreK	2	15	C	25	C	NA	NA	Circle Time, Story
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.:			49		Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0					
Total # Children this Date: 31			Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.:		Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0					

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	Playground - Preschool - School Age	27	C

Enrolled Children						
Under 1 years	1 years	2 years	3 years	4 years	5 years (Prekonly)	5 years and older
1	3	4	6	15	2	5

Comments

On this date, Jessica Johnson (JJ), Consultant, reviewed the visit report with Director Pearlie Carter.

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.decgal.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@decgal.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: 2/10/2026 **VisitType:** Licensing Study

Arrival: 10:00 AM **Departure:** 1:15 PM

CCLC-46802

Fun Steps Ahead

4441 Covington Highway Decatur, GA 30035 DeKalb County
(404) 254-1773

Regional Consultant

Jessica Johnson

Phone: (770) 357-5090

Fax:

jessica.johnson@decal.ga.gov

Mailing Address

Same

The following information is associated with a Licensing Study:

Activities and Equipment

591-1-1-.03 Activities

Not Met

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.03(2) - Please ensure that lesson plans are posted of the current date.

Correction Deadline: 2/10/2026

Finding

591-1-1-.03(6) requires Center Staff to ensure children less than three years of age do not spend more than one-half hour of time consecutively in confining equipment, such as swings, highchairs, jump seats, carriers or walkers. Children shall use such equipment only when they are awake. Such children shall be allowed time to play on the floor daily. Infants shall have supervised tummy time on the floor daily when they are awake. It was determined based on observation that an infant was observed in a bouncy chair for more than one-half hour of time on this date.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will train Staff to use confining equipment appropriately, to provide supervised floor play daily for children under three years of age, including infants, and will monitor regularly.

Correction Deadline: 2/10/2026

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

Technical Assistance

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.12(2) - Please ensure that chairs are unstacked when children are present in classroom 1L-Front Room B.

Correction Deadline: 2/10/2026

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: 1

Child # 3

Not Met

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.08(1)-Doctor, Clinic, Phone Numbers

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.08(1) - Please ensure to add the child's primary source of health care to Child # 3 records and add both Parents, work telephone numbers to Child # 5 records.

Correction Deadline: 2/10/2026

Evening Care**591-1-1-.32 Staffing/Supervision(CR)****Not Evaluated****Comment**

No evening care hours provided

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.

Correction Deadline: 9/25/2025

Corrected on 2/10/2026

.19(1) - The previous citation was observed corrected on this date as adequate license capacity amounts were observed in each classroom.

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

Please secure cleaning tools (i.e., broom, plunger) out of reach of children.

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 Albuterol medication was observed inside a pink and silver bookbag located in the cubby on the right side of the entrance door.

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: 2/10/2026

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.25(3) - Please ensure that all staples in classroom 4L-Rear Room D are removed from the walls.

Correction Deadline: 2/10/2026

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

591-1-1-.26(6) - Please ensure to repair the small areas of chipped paint on the handle bars of the red merry go round on the playground.

Correction Deadline: 2/20/2026

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 1 inch of rubber mulch was observed around the yellow slide on the playground when 3 inches was required.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will add additional resilient surfacing to the fall zones where needed and check daily, adding resilient surfacing as needed to maintain adequate resiliency.

Correction Deadline: 3/6/2026

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

591-1-1-.15(3) - Please ensure that bottle are refrigerated at a temperature of forty (40) degrees Fahrenheit or less in the refrigerator in classroom 1R-Room A.

Correction Deadline: 2/10/2026

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

Kitchen appears clean and well organized on this date.

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)**Met****Comment**

Staff were observed to remind children to wash hands on this date.

591-1-1-.20 Medications(CR)**Not Met****Comment**

The Provider currently does not dispense/administer medication.

Finding

591-1-1-.20(4) requires the Center to keep medication in a cabinet or container that is locked or otherwise not accessible to the children and to be stored separate from cleaning chemicals, supplies or poisons. Medications requiring refrigeration shall be placed in a leak-proof container in a refrigerator that is not accessible to the children. It was determined based on observation that Albuterol medication was observed stored in a pink and silver bookbag in the cubby in classroom 4L-Rear- Room D.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will train Staff on the safe and proper storage of medication and monitor to ensure that the rule is met.

Correction Deadline: 2/10/2026

Policies and Procedures**591-1-1-.21 Operational Policies & Procedures****Technical Assistance****Technical Assistance**

591-1-1-.21(1)(p) - Please ensure to update the emergency preparedness plan.

Correction Deadline: 2/15/2026

Safety**591-1-1-.05 Animals****Not Evaluated****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)**Met****Comment**

Center does not participate in field trips at this time.

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****Comment**

The correct number of mats, sheets and blankets were observed on this date. Cleaning and disinfecting of mats was discussed with the director on this date.

Staff Records**Records Reviewed: 7****Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 2**

Staff # 1

Not Met

Date of Hire: 05/30/2024

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training

Staff # 5

Not Met

Date of Hire: 03/28/2018

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.31(2)(b)2.-Staff Qualifications-Education Missing

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

Criminal record checks were observed to be complete.

Correction Deadline: 9/25/2025**Corrected on 2/10/2026**

.09(1)(j) - The previous citation was observed corrected on this date as all staff criminal records checks were observed current.

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

Consultant requested to view all Criminal Record checks for employees hired after last visit. Director stated that there have been no new hires since last visit

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

Evidence observed of 100% of center Staff certified in First Aid and CPR containing emergency care for infants and children on this date.

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

591-1-1-.33(5)(a) 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 offered by an accredited college, university or vocational program or other Department-approved source. It was determined based on a review of records that Staff # 1 hired on May 30, 2024, did not complete the 10-clock hours of diverse training for the 2025 calendar year as required.

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.

Correction Deadline: 12/31/2026

Finding

591-1-1-.33(5)(b)1. requires the annual ten (10) clock hours of training shall include at least two (2) hours in evidence based, developmentally appropriate language and literacy practices. It was determined based on a review of records that Staff #1 hired on May 30, 2024, Staff # 2 hired on March of 2016, Staff # 3 hired on September 23, 2024, Staff # 4 hired on July 29, 2024, Staff # 5 hired on March 28, 2018, and Staff # 6 hired on February 12, 2018, did not complete the 2 clock hours of language and literacy practices training for the 2025 calendar year as required.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will plan and schedule the required 10 hours of annual training each year to include a least two (2) hours in evidence based, developmentally appropriate language and literacy practices and follow up to ensure the training is completed.

Correction Deadline: 12/31/2026

591-1-1-.31 Staff(CR)

Not 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.

Finding

591-1-1-.31(2)(b)2. requires teachers and lead caregivers to meet minimum academic requirements and qualifying experience at the time of employment. It was determined based on a review of records that Staff # 5 hired on March 28, 2018, did not meet minimum academic requirements for the lead teacher position as of this date.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

A teacher/lead caregiver will be hired that meets the minimum academic requirements and qualifying work experience.

Correction Deadline: 3/10/2026

Staffing and Supervision

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

Not Met

Comment

Center observed to maintain appropriate staff:child ratios.

Correction Deadline: 9/25/2025

Corrected on 2/10/2026

.32(2) - The previous citation was observed corrected on this date as adequate Staff:child ratios were observed in each classroom.

Finding

591-1-1-.32(4)(a) requires that during the early morning times of arrival and late afternoon times of departure, infants and children younger than three (3) years may be grouped with older children so long as Staff: child ratios and group size are met based on the age of the youngest child in the group. It was determined based on observation that a child younger than 3-years-old was observed in classroom 4L - Rear - Room D grouped with children older than 3-years-old.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will maintain Staff:child ratios based on the youngest child in the group during early morning and late afternoon times when children younger than three years of age may be grouped with older children.

Correction Deadline: 2/10/2026

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 a 3-year-old child was observed exiting the restroom adjacent to classroom 1L-Front-Room B walking through the hallway and entering classroom 1L-Front-Room B for approximately 2 minutes without adult supervision on this date.

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