



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: 7/22/2026 VisitType: Monitoring Visit

Arrival: 11:45 AM Departure: 4:20 PM

CCLC-25589

Excell Preparatory Center

5105 Salem Road Lithonia, GA 30038 DeKalb County
(770) 322-5210

Regional Consultant

Maryn Accord

Phone: (470) 990-0305

Fax:

maryn.accord@dec.al.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.
07/22/2026	Monitoring Visit	Good Standing	
07/09/2026	TA Follow Up	NA	
06/11/2026	TA Follow Up	NA	

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-Infants-1st Rt		0	0	C	11	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
Main	B- 2nd Rt-Infants	Infants and One Year Olds	2	7	C	12	C	NA	NA	Floor Play,Feeding
Main	C- 3rd Rt- 1 y/o		0	0	C	16	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
Main	D- 4th Rt- 1 y/o	One Year Olds and Two Year Olds	2	13	C	16	C	NA	NA	Nap
Main	E-5th Rt- 2 y/o	Two Year Olds and Three Year Olds	2	13	C	20	C	NA	NA	Nap
Main	F-6th Right-2 y/o	Three Year Olds	2	12	C	20	C	NA	NA	Nap
Main	G-1st Left- 3 y/o	Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds	1	12	C	25	C	NA	NA	Nap
Main	H- 2nd Lft- 3 y/o	Four Year Olds	1	6	C	24	C	NA	NA	Nap
Main	I- 3rd Lft-4 y/o		0	0	C	17	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
Main	J-Back Hall-4 y/o	Four Year Olds and Five Year Olds	1	11	C	18	C	NA	NA	Nap
Main	K-Back Hall-5 y/o	Five Year Olds and Six Year Olds and Over	1	12	C	19	C	NA	NA	Circle Time
Main	L-Back Hall-6y/o		0	0	C	18	C	NA	NA	Lunch
Main	M-Back Hall-End-7+		0	0	C	18	C	NA	NA	Lunch
Main	N-Cafeteria-5-12y/o	Six Year Olds and Over	2	32	NC	19	NC	NA	NA	Lunch
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 253			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0							
Total # Children this Date: 118			Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 253							
			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0							

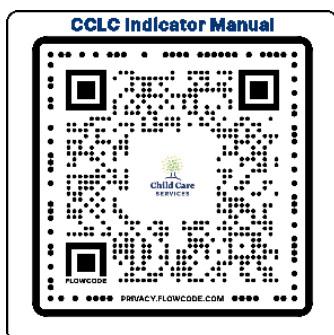
Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	A: Infant - 2 year playground	55	C
Main	B: 3-4 Year Old Playground	23	C
Main	Back Playground	48	C
Main	C: School Age Playground	47	C
Main	Front Paved Playground	7	C
Main	Left Playground	19	C
Main	Right Playground	44	C

Enrolled Children						
Under 1 years	1 years	2 years	3 years	4 years	5 years (Prekonly)	5 years and older
7	9	20	29	29	0	70

Comments

Core Rules were evaluated on this date.

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

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-.12 Equipment & Toys(CR)

Met

Comment

A variety of equipment and toys were observed throughout the center on this date.

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

Not Met

Finding

591-1-1-.35(3) requires the Center to maintain Staff:child ratios as follows to provide proper supervision of children engaged in swimming and water-related activities in water over two feet deep: Under 2 1/2 years = 1:2, 2 1/2 to 4 years = 1:5, 4 years and older who cannot swim a distance of 15 yards unassisted = 1:6, 4 years and older who can swim a distance of 15 yards unassisted as determined by a swimming test = 1:15. At least one qualified lifeguard must be present. Copies of certificates from a recognized water-safety class may be accepted in lieu of requiring each child to take a swimming test to determine if the child can swim 15 yards unassisted. It was determined, based on a review of records, swim tests or copies of certificates from a recognized water safety instructor were not obtained prior to children ages 4 years and older attending a field trip to swim at Wade Walker Park Family YMCA on the following dates:

- June 12, 2026, where nine children and two staff members were present.
- June 26, 2026, where 10 children and two staff members were present.
- July 10, 2026, where 10 children and two staff members were present.
- July 17, 2026, where 10 children and two staff members were present.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will ensure that adequate numbers of Staff are available to maintain the required Staff:child ratios. Staff will determine each child's swimming ability by performing a swim test and document the results of the test or will obtain copies of certificates from recognized water safety instructors for children not tested at the Center. A certified lifeguard will be present at the pool during swimming activities.

Correction Deadline: 7/22/2026

Facility

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

Not Met

Finding

591-1-1-.19(1) requires a Center to provide 35 square feet of usable space per child, which will determine the Center's License capacity. It was determined, based on observation, that two staff members and 32 school-age children were present in Room N - Cafeteria - 5-12y/o, when the room was licensed for 19 children.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will limit the number of children in this space to the licensed capacity.

591-1-1-.25 Physical Plant - Safe Environment(CR)**Technical Assistance****Technical Assistance**

591-1-1-.25(13) requires that potentially hazardous equipment, materials and supplies be stored in a locked area inaccessible to children. The Consultant discussed with the Director to ensure that Staff refer to the label of any item accessible to children to determine if the product's label states, "Keep Out of Reach of Children". The Consultant further discussed that such products must be inaccessible to children by storing them in a locked cabinet or in an area that is out of a child's reach.

Correction Deadline: 7/22/2026**591-1-1-.26 Playgrounds(CR)****Technical Assistance****Technical Assistance**

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. The Consultant discussed with the Director to ensure routine maintenance and inspection of the fencing material was conducted to ensure the fencing material remained hazard free and in good repair, as required.

Correction Deadline: 7/22/2026**Health and Hygiene****591-1-1-.10 Diapering Areas & Practices(CR)****Met****Comment**

Proper diapering procedures observed.

591-1-1-.17 Hygiene(CR)**Met****Comment**

Please ensure lids remain on trash containing organic waste.

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

Documentation for medication dispensing observed completed on this date.

Safety**591-1-1-.11 Discipline(CR)****Met****Correction Deadline: 4/6/2026****Corrected on 7/22/2026**

.11(2) - The previous citation was observed corrected on this date. The Consultant observed Staff demonstrating appropriate discipline, such as redirection and positive reinforcement, and a positive learning environment was observed throughout the Center on this date.

591-1-1-.36 Transportation(CR)**Met****Correction Deadline: 3/17/2026****Corrected on 7/22/2026**

.36(7)(c)2. - The previous citation was observed corrected on this date. The Consultant observed that all passenger transportation checklists were indicated appropriately with a check to account for each listed child as they entered and exited the vehicle. The Consultant further observed that the passenger transportation checklists were indicated appropriately to account for each child listed who was not present on the vehicle, as required.

Correction Deadline: 3/17/2026**Corrected on 7/22/2026**

.36(7)(c)3. - The previous citation was observed corrected on this date. The Consultant observed that the passenger transportation checklist had the date and time of arrival and departure each time the vehicle used for transportation departed from the Center, loaded or unloaded children listed on the passenger transportation checklist, and when the vehicle returned to the Center, as required.

Sleeping & Resting Equipment

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

Met

Comment

Pleasant naptime environment observed.

Staff Records

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

Comment

At least one staff person with current and valid pediatric first aid and pediatric CPR observed in each classroom where children were present.

591-1-1-.33 Staff Training

Met

Correction Deadline: 4/8/2026

Corrected on 7/22/2026

.33(4) - The previous citation was observed corrected on this date. The Consultant observed that applicable Staff completed four clock hours of training in food nutrition planning, preparation, serving, proper dish washing and food storage, as required.

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

Met

Correction Deadline: 4/6/2026

Corrected on 7/22/2026

.31(13) - The previous citation was observed corrected on this date. The Consultant observed Staff were compliant with applicable laws and regulations, as required.

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)

Met

Correction Deadline: 3/17/2026

Corrected on 7/22/2026

.32(7) - The previous citation was observed corrected on this date. The Consultant observed Staff provided watchful oversight of the children in care by being positioned to see and hear the children at all times, remaining alert, and responding promptly to the needs and actions of the children being supervised, as required.