



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: 6/26/2025 **VisitType:** Complaint Investigation & Monitoring Visit

Arrival: 2:00 PM **Departure:** 5:00 PM

CCLC-14753
The Ford Academy at Richmond Hill
10730 Ford Avenue Richmond Hill, GA 31324 Bryan County
(912) 756-2524 d.duffie@thefordacademy.com

Regional Consultant
Lakeidra Lee
Phone: (770) 357-7070
Fax:
lakeidra.lee@decal.ga.gov

Mailing Address
Same

Quality Rated: No

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.
06/26/2025	Complaint Investigation & Monitoring Visit	Good Standing	
12/11/2024	Licensing Study	Good Standing	
09/15/2023	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 Entry Room	Two Year Olds	2	10	C	12	C	NA	NA	Snack
Main	Center Back Left	Three Year Olds	4	17	C	22	C	NA	NA	Transitioning, Nap, Snack
Main	Center Back Right	One Year Olds	3	11	C	17	C	NA	NA	Free Play, Transitioning, Nap
Main	Center Middle	Infants	2	8	C	15	C	NA	NA	Feeding, Diapering, Nap
Main	Front Left	Four Year Olds	2	8	C	12	C	NA	NA	Nap, Free Play, Snack, Transitioning
Main	Front Right	Four Year Olds and Five Year Olds	2	19	C	22	C	NA	NA	Transitioning, Free Play, Snack
Main	Front Right Back	Two Year Olds	3	9	C	22	C	NA	NA	Snack, Transitioning, Nap
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 122			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0							
Total # Children this Date: 82			Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 122			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0				

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	Playground	8	C
Main	Playground	48	C

Enrolled Children						
Under 1 years	1 years	2 years	3 years	4 years	5 years (Prekonly)	5 years and older
12	16	21	22	22	0	12

Comments

The visit report was discussed with the Director.

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@dec.al.ga.gov for more information. Free technical assistance is available!



(Findings Report)

Date: 6/26/2025

VisitType: Complaint Investigation &
Monitoring Visit

Arrival: 2:00 PM

Departure: 5:00 PM

CCLC-14753

The Ford Academy at Richmond Hill

10730 Ford Avenue Richmond Hill, GA 31324 Bryan County
(912) 756-2524 d.duffie@thefordacademy.com

Regional Consultant

Lakeidra Lee

Phone: (770) 357-7070

Fax:

lakeidra.lee@dec.al.ga.gov

Mailing Address

Same

The following information is associated with a CI/MV:

Activities and Equipment

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.

Facility

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

Met

Comment

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

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

Met

Correction Deadline: 12/11/2024

Prior Visits: 12/11/2024

Corrected on 6/26/2025

.25(13) - The previous citation was observed corrected in that the Consultant observed the following in the classrooms:

*Center Back Left-scissors were not accessible to the children.

*Front Right Back-The closet lock was in good repair with all hazardous items not accessible; the emergency bag was out of children's reach; and the toilet brush was not accessible in the bathroom.

*Front Left-the toilet bowl brush and broom was not accessible in the bathroom and the bathroom cabinet was locked.

*Front Right- The teacher's desk was free from any hazardous items accessible to the children and the emergency bag was out of the reach of children.

591-1-1-.26 Playgrounds(CR)

Met

Correction Deadline: 12/11/2024

Prior Visits: 12/11/2024

Corrected on 6/26/2025

.26(4) - Previous citation was observed corrected on this date in that the Consultant observed the fencing behind the swings on playground A to measure 48 inches as required.

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

Staff were observed to remind children to wash hands.

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

Age-appropriate discussion and/or redirection observed.

591-1-1-.13 Field Trips(CR)	Met
------------------------------------	------------

Comment

Field trip documentation observed to be complete.

591-1-1-.36 Transportation(CR)	Not Met
---------------------------------------	----------------

Comment

A current/completed inspection was observed for all vehicles used in transporting children on this date.

Finding

591-1-1-.36(3)(a-b) requires any Center that provides any type of transportation to obtain two (2) hours of state-approved or state-accepted transportation training, biannually, for the Director and for each person responsible for or who participates in the transportation of children. The training shall include, but is not limited to, a review of the transportation rules, a review of approved transportation forms and procedures, and instruction on the usage and completion of the forms and procedures. This training may be counted as part of the annual training requirements for Staff. It was determined based on a review of records that the Center Director and staff who participates in the transportation of children did not obtain two (2) hours of state approved or state-accepted transportation training, biannually, as required.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will ensure that the Director, Center Staff, and any person responsible for the transportation of children has completed the required transportation training.

Correction Deadline: 7/6/2025

Sleeping & Resting Equipment

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

Correction Deadline: 12/11/2024

Prior Visits: 12/11/2024

Corrected on 6/26/2025

.30(1)(a)2 - The previous citation was observed corrected in that the Consultant observed that the mattresses in the Center Middle classrooms were firm and tight fitting as required.

Correction Deadline: 12/11/2024

Prior Visits: 12/11/2024

Corrected on 6/26/2025

.30(1)(a)3 -The previous citation was observed corrected in that the Consultant observed that crib sheets were tight fitting as required.

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

Comment

Criminal record checks were observed to be complete and satisfactory on this date.

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

Correction Deadline: 1/10/2025

Prior Visits: 12/11/2024

Corrected on 6/26/2025

.14(1) - The previous citation was corrected on this date in that the Consultant observed the program met at least 50% of the staff CPR and first aid training.

Correction Deadline: 1/10/2025

Corrected on 6/26/2025

.14(2) - The previous citation was corrected on this date in that the Consultant observed that all staff had CPR and first aid training certifications on file within the first 90 days of employment.

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

Correction Deadline: 1/10/2025

Prior Visits: 12/11/2024

Corrected on 6/26/2025

.33(3) - The previous citation was corrected on this date in that the Consultant observed all employees completed the health and safety orientation within the first 90 days of employment.

Correction Deadline: 1/10/2025

Corrected on 6/26/2025

.33(5) - The previous citation was corrected on this noted date.

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) **Met**

Correction Deadline: 12/11/2024

Prior Visits: 12/11/2024

Corrected on 6/26/2025

.32(7) - The previous citation was observed corrected in that the Consultant observed Center staff to be within arm's length away from children during mealtimes as required.