



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: 3/28/2025 **VisitType:** Licensing Study

Arrival: 12:10 PM **Departure:** 4:00 PM

CCLC-30916

Georgia Kids Academy

4336 Hwy. 53 Hoschton, GA 30548 Jackson County
(706) 654-5437 director@georgiakidsacademy.org

Regional Consultant

Lynn Schnitzer

Phone: (678) 717-5720

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lynn.schnitzer@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.
03/28/2025	Licensing Study	Good Standing	
09/10/2024	Incident Investigation Closure	Good Standing	
09/10/2024	Incident Investigation/Monitoring Visit	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	1R	One Year Olds	1	6	C	17	C	NA	NA	Nap
Main	2R	Infants and One Year Olds	1	4	C	10	C	NA	NA	Nap,Floor Play
Main	3R	Two Year Olds and Three Year Olds	2	14	C	18	C	NA	NA	Art,Nap
Main	4R	Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds	4	15	C	19	C	NA	NA	Nap
Main	D 1L	GA PreK	2	11	C	21	C	29	C	Nap
Main	E 2L	GA PreK	2	12	C	21	C	NA	NA	Art,Transitioning

Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 106

Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 114

Total # Children this Date: 62

Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 106

Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 114

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	PG Back	20	C
Main	PG Front	34	C

Enrolled Children						
Under 1 years	1 years	2 years	3 years	4 years	5 years (Prekonly)	5 years and older
7	14	11	12	23	19	26

Comments

Consultant provided a copy of USDA meal patterns.

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



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(Findings Report)

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The following information is associated with a Licensing Study:

Activities and Equipment

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

Not Met

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 cushions were torn on the wooden chair in classroom A-1R, and on the sofa and chair in classroom C-3R.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

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

Correction Deadline: 4/4/2025

Recited on 3/28/2025

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 # 5

Not Met

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

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

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

Technical Assistance

Comment

Parent authorizations obtained/completed.

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.08(1) - Consultant discussed with director to ensure that the center obtain the physician's name and phone number for one of five children's records reviewed.

Correction Deadline: 3/28/2025

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

Licensed capacity observed to be routinely met by center.

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

No hazards observed accessible to children on this date.

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 the bottom of the siding had splintered wood on playground PG Front.

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: 3/28/2025

591-1-1-.26 Playgrounds(CR)**Not Met****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 gate of the fence was askew, creating a gap that was approximately four inches on playground PG Back.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will routinely check the fence to determine if it is in good repair and remains at least 4 feet high, and will repair any hazards. The Center will train Staff to identify and report any fence hazards and to keep the fence gates closed when not in use.

Correction Deadline: 3/28/2025

Correction Deadline: 9/27/2024

Corrected on 3/28/2025

.26(6) - The previous citation was observed to be corrected. Consultant observed that the playground was free of hazards.

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

591-1-1-.15(1) - Consultant discussed USDA food requirements with the director.

Correction Deadline: 3/28/2025

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.15(2) - Consultant discussed with director to ensure that infant feeding plans are updated every three months or more often as needed.

Correction Deadline: 3/28/2025

Technical Assistance

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

Correction Deadline: 3/28/2025

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

Kitchen appears clean and well organized.

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****Correction Deadline: 9/10/2024****Corrected on 3/28/2025****.17(7) - The previous citation was observed to be corrected. Consultant observed proper hand washing throughout the center.****Correction Deadline: 9/10/2024****Corrected on 3/28/2025****.17(8) - The previous citation was observed to be corrected. Consultant observed proper hand washing throughout the center.****591-1-1-.20 Medications(CR)****Not Evaluated****Comment**

The Provider currently does not dispense/administer medication.

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**

Staff were observed to maintain a positive learning environment on this date.

591-1-1-.13 Field Trips(CR)**Not Evaluated****Comment**

Center does not participate in field trips at this time.

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

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

Comment

Complete documentation of transportation observed.

Comment

The vehicle had an approved fire extinguisher and first aid kit on this date.

Finding

591-1-1-.36(4)(b) requires that the interior of a transportation vehicle be clean, in safe repair and free of hazardous items, objects and/or other non-essential items which could cause injury. It was determined based on observation that the second passenger side seat was torn with exposed foam on vehicle tag #PB7976. Further, there were cracker crumbs and an apple core on the floor of the vehicle.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The center will maintain that all transportation vehicles are clean, in safe repair, and free from hazards.

Correction Deadline: 4/4/2025

Recited on 3/28/2025

Correction Deadline: 9/11/2024

Corrected on 3/28/2025

.36(7)(c)1 - The previous citation was observed to be corrected. Consultant observed complete passenger information on the transportation checklist.

Sleeping & Resting Equipment

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

Met

Comment

Staff stated knowledge of infant safe sleep practices.

Correction Deadline: 9/10/2024

Corrected on 3/28/2025

.30(1)(b)3 - The previous citation was observed to be corrected. Consultant observed sleeping mats to have covers as required.

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 two files for employees hired since last visit September 10, 2024.

591-1-1-.14 First Aid & CPR

Technical Assistance

Comment

Evidence observed of 100% of center staff certified in First Aid and CPR.

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.14(3) - Consultant discussed with director to ensure that the expired antibiotic ointment is replaced in the first aid kit.

Correction Deadline: 4/7/2025

591-1-1-.33 Staff Training

Technical Assistance

Comment

Documentation observed of required staff training.

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.33(3) - Consultant discussed with director that Health & Safety Orientation Training cannot be taken to fulfill the annual training requirement more than once every 5 years.

Correction Deadline: 4/27/2025

Comment

Staff observed to be compliant with applicable laws and regulations.

Staffing and Supervision

Comment

Center observed to maintain appropriate staff:child ratios.

Correction Deadline: 9/10/2024

Corrected on 3/28/2025

.32(7) - The previous citation was observed to be corrected. Consultant observed adequate supervision and attentive staff.