



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: 7/23/2026 **VisitType:** Licensing Study

Arrival: 10:10 AM **Departure:** 3:10 PM

CCLC-32497

Grace Learning Academy

3981 Glenwood Road Decatur, GA 30032 DeKalb County
(404) 228-2175

Regional Consultant

Cassandra Jakes-Beasley

Phone: (470) 368-6652

Fax:

cassandra.jakes-beasley@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.
07/23/2026	Licensing Study	Support	
02/26/2026	Monitoring Visit	Good Standing	
07/24/2025	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	1st right	Four Year Olds and Five Year Olds	1	9	C	12	C	NA	NA	Lunch,Outside
Main	1st left	Two Year Olds	1	10	C	14	C	NA	NA	Free Play,Lunch
Main	2nd left	Infants and One Year Olds	1	5	C	9	C	NA	NA	Floor Play,Lunch
Main	2nd right	Six Year Olds and Over	1	12	C	13	C	NA	NA	Outside,Lunch
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 48			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0							
Total # Children this Date: 36			Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 48							
			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0							

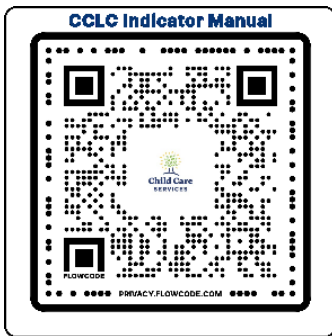
Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	Play	25	C

Enrolled Children						
Under 1 years	1 years	2 years	3 years	4 years	5 years (Prekonly)	5 years and older
2	4	8	5	0	0	18

Comments

The findings of this report were reviewed with the Provider on this date. Previous rule violations were observed/discussed.

Plan of Improvement: To Be Submitted 08/06/2026



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.dec.al.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.dec.al.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!



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Summary Report

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The following information is associated with a Licensing Study:

Activities and Equipment

591-1-1-.03 Activities

Met

Comment

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

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 there was a blue vinyl seat with tears and exposed foam located at the back of classroom 2nd Left accessible to children on this date.

Correction Deadline: 7/25/2026

Recited on 7/23/2026

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

Met

Comment

Center does not provide swimming activities.

Children's Records

Records Reviewed: 6

Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 1

Child # 4

Not Met

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.08(2)-Immunization

Finding

591-1-1-.08(2) requires Center Staff to maintain a file for each child that includes evidence of age-appropriate immunizations or a signed affidavit against such immunizations for each child enrolled in the center on a form approved by the Department, and to allow no child to continue enrollment in the Center for more than thirty (30) days without such evidence. It was determined based on review the center did not have a current immunization record for child #4.

Correction Deadline: 8/2/2026

Finding

591-1-1-.08(6) requires the Center to maintain records of a child's daily arrival and departure for the twelve (12) preceding months that the Parent or person(s) authorized by the Parent documents, in written or electronic format, each time the Parent or authorized person drops off and picks up the child. The documentation shall include at least the date, the child's name, the arrival and departure times, and the signature or initials of the Parent or authorized person at the time of arrival and departure. These records shall be made available to the Department in printed or written form upon request. It was determined based on review the center did not have sign in and out sheets with the signature or initials of the Parent or authorized person at the time of arrival and departure for July 1, 2026-July 23, 2026.

Correction Deadline: 7/23/2026

Facility

591-1-1-.06 Bathrooms**Not Met****Finding**

591-1-1-.06(4) requires a Center first licensed after March 1, 1991, and Centers that remodel or add to existing plumbing facilities, to have the bathroom area fully enclosed and ventilated to the outside of the building with either an open screened window or functioning exhaust fan and duct system and requires Centers without fully enclosed bathrooms to ensure there is adequate ventilation to control odors and adequate sanitation measures to prevent the spread of contagious diseases. It was determined based on operation the back hallway bathroom vent was inoperable.

Correction Deadline: 8/22/2026

Comment

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

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

Not Met

Correction Deadline: 2/26/2026

Corrected on 7/23/2026

.25(12) - The previous citation observed to be corrected on this date. The air purifier and the bladeless fan were removed .

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 the following potential hazards were accessible to children on this date.

Classroom 1st Left

-There was a staff purse on top of the cubicle, sunscreen lotion in one child's book bag and diaper wipes were stored in three baskets stored in cubbies, that were accessible to children.

Correction Deadline: 7/23/2026

Recited on 7/23/2026

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 that the entry gate to the center did not have a latch or lock and could not securely close.

1st right room

-There was chipping paint on the wall on the left side of the classroom.

2nd right room

The ABC multicolored area rug located in front of the classroom was stained.

The flooring material was lifting in the hallway.

Correction Deadline: 7/23/2026

Finding

591-1-1-.25(8) requires protective caps on all unused electrical outlets within children's reach and requires that electrical outlets in use be made inaccessible to children. It was determined based on observation that there were two unused electrical outlets without protective caps on the floor located at the front right of the 1st Right classroom.

Correction Deadline: 7/23/2026

Recited on 7/23/2026

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

Not Met

Correction Deadline: 7/25/2026

Corrected on 7/23/2026

.26(4) - Previous citation corrected in that no potentially hazardous fencing were observed during the visit.

Finding

591-1-1-.26(9) requires the playground to be kept clean, free from litter and free of hazards, such as but not limited to rocks, exposed tree roots and exposed sharp edges of concrete. It was determined based on observation an unlicensed play space was being used and that there were several holes in the paved cement surface, creating potential tripping hazards.

Correction Deadline: 7/31/2026

Recited on 7/23/2026

Health and Hygiene

591-1-1-.10 Diapering Areas & Practices(CR)

Met

Comment

Hand washing requirements for diapering were discussed with the director on this date.

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

Proper hand washing of children and staff was discussed with the director on this date.

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

The Provider currently does not dispense/administer medication.

Organization**591-1-1-.16 Governing Body & License****Not Met****Finding**

591-1-1-.16(f) requires the Center to submit an application for an amended License at least 30 days prior to a change if there is a change in the name of the program or Center, changes in the ages of the children to be served, an increase in the regular hours of operation such that the Center would be providing evening or night-time care in addition to day-time care, changes in the services provided, or additions to or changes in the use of the building by the licensed Center. If an emergency situation arises which makes it impossible to give thirty (30) days' notice, the management of the Center shall notify the Department by telephone and shall submit an application for an amended License as soon as management becomes aware of the change that will be necessitated by the emergency situation. In no case, however, shall a new owner operate the Center without first securing a new License or Permit from the Department. It was determined based on review the center did not submit an application to add an additional playground that is currently being use.

Correction Deadline: 7/23/2026**Policies and Procedures****591-1-1-.21 Operational Policies & Procedures****Not Met****Finding**

591-1-1-.21(1)(a-o) requires the Center to establish and implement written policies and procedures that describe the Center's operations as follows: a) services to be provided, ages of children served, days and times of operations and days and times closed; b) enrollment and admission requirements specifying Parents' responsibilities for supplying needed information and escorting the child to and from the Center; c) a fee and payment schedule with standard fees, fees related to absences and vacations and other fees such as for transportation and late fees; d) Center's transportation and field trip services; e) administration of medication and Parent notification of adverse reactions to prescribed medication; f) Parental notification in cases of illness/injury and exclusion of sick children; g) Parental notification when a notifiable communicable disease is present; h) handling of medical emergencies; i) meals and snacks served, including guidelines for food brought from child's home; j) access by the Parents to all Center areas used by the child; k) child abuse reporting law requirements; l) behavior management and discipline actions used to include expulsion and suspension of enrolled children; m) nondiscrimination statement; n) Center sponsored religious and cultural activities; and o) diapering, toilet training and feeding procedures for infants and toddlers. It was determined based on review the Center policies and procedures did not include the behavior management and discipline actions used to include expulsion and suspension of enrolled children.

Correction Deadline: 7/28/2026

Finding

591-1-1-.21(1)(r) requires Center policies and procedures include a description of the practices followed by the Center to prevent shaken baby syndrome and abusive head trauma in children up to five years of age that includes the following information: how to recognize, respond to, and report the signs and symptoms of shaken baby syndrome and abusive head trauma; strategies to assist staff members in understanding how to care for infants and how to cope with a crying, fussing, or distraught child; strategies to ensure staff members understand the brain development of children up to five years of age; and a list of prohibited behaviors when dealing with children. It was determined based on review the Center policies and procedures did not include a description of the practices followed by the Center to prevent shaken baby syndrome and abusive head trauma in children up to five years of age and all of the required information.

Correction Deadline: 7/28/2026

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

Age-appropriate discussion and/or redirection observed.

591-1-1-.36 Transportation(CR)**Defer****Defer**

591-1-1-.36(4)(c)-The center was not providing transportation during the summer. This rule will be evaluated on the next monitoring visit.

Correction Deadline: 2/26/2026**Sleeping & Resting Equipment****591-1-1-.30 Safe Sleeping and Resting Requirements(CR)****Not Met****Comment**

Discussed SIDS and infant sleeping position.

Finding

591-1-1-.30(1)(b)3 requires that sheets or similar coverings for cots or mats shall either be marked for individual use or laundered daily. If marked for individual use, they must be laundered weekly or more frequently if needed. It was determined based on observation in the 1st right classroom children were observed sleeping on cots that were not covered with a bottom sheet.

Correction Deadline: 7/23/2026

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.30(1)(b)4 The Consultant discussed with the Director that a light cover be available for each child's use on a cot or mat and shall be marked for individual use or laundered daily. If marked for individual use, they must be laundered weekly or more frequently if needed. Please ensure that the covers are not stored on top of each other in the two-year-old classroom.

Correction Deadline: 7/23/2026

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.30(4) The Consultant discussed with the Director that if cots and mats are stored in the children's activity room or area, they shall be stored to prevent children's access to them and to allow maximum use of play space. When storage is available and used for the storage of cots and mats that allows the cots, mats and any bedding to be stored without touching any other cots, mats or bedding, the bedding may be left on the cot or mat. When such storage is not available for the cots and mats, each child's bedding shall be kept separate from other children's bedding and stored in containers marked for individual use, such as, but not limited to, bins, cubbies, or bags. Please ensure that cots are not touching each other in the two-year-old classroom.

Correction Deadline: 7/23/2026

Staff Records

Records Reviewed: 9

Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 1

Staff # 8

Not Met

Date of Hire: 11/17/2025

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(3)-Health & Safety Certificate,.31(2)(b)2.-Staff Qualifications-Education Missing,.14(2)-CPR missing,.14(2)-First Aid Missing

591-1-1-.09 Criminal Records and Comprehensive Background Checks(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

Comment

Criminal record checks were observed to be complete.

Finding

591-1-1-.14(1)(a) requires all Staff who provide direct care to children must obtain certification in a biennial training program in pediatric cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and a triennial training program in pediatric first aid within the first 45 days of employment. Current and valid evidence of the successful completion of such training shall be maintained on the Center's premises. The hours obtained completing this certification will not count towards the required annual training hours. It was determined based on a review of records that staff # did not have documentation of completing training in pediatric cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and a triennial training program in pediatric first aid within the first 45 days of employment as required:

Staff # 4, hired on November 17, 2025

Correction Deadline: 7/23/2026

Recited on 7/23/2026

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 the following Staff members # 2 and # 3 did not have documentation of completing 10 hours of annual training for the 2025 calendar year as required.

Correction Deadline: 7/16/2026

Recited on 7/23/2026

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.33(5)(b)(2)(i)-(iv) -The Consultant discussed with the Director that the annual ten (10) clock hours of training shall include at least two (2) hours in on-going child development and health and safety related topics, which could include, but not be limited to:

(i) Child development (e.g., developmental domains (cognitive; social and emotional; physical development and motor skills; communication, language, and literacy; approaches to play and learning), discipline and guidance techniques, children with special needs); (ii) Health (e.g., nutrition and the support of breast feeding, physical activity, prevention and control of illnesses and infectious diseases, immunizations, prevention of and response to emergencies due to food and allergic reactions, cleanliness, sanitation, and the appropriate disposal of bio contaminants); (iii) Safety (e.g., prevention of Sudden Unexpected Infant Death (SUID) which includes Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) and the use of safe sleeping practices, medication administration, injury control and prevention, transportation, handling and storage of hazardous materials, identification of and protection from hazards that can cause bodily injury such as electrical hazards, bodies of water, and vehicular traffic, and emergency preparedness planning and response); (iv) Child abuse and neglect (e.g., identification and reporting, meeting the needs of abused and/or neglected children, prevention of shaken baby syndrome, abusive head trauma and child maltreatment).

In addition, at least two (2) hours in language development and language literacy is required.

Correction Deadline: 8/22/2026

Finding

591-1-1-.33(5)(b)(2)(i)-(iv) requires the annual ten (10) clock hours of training shall include at least two (2) hours in on-going child development and health and safety related topics, which could include, but not be limited to:

(i) Child development (e.g., developmental domains (cognitive; social and emotional; physical development and motor skills; communication, language, and literacy; approaches to play and learning), discipline and guidance techniques, children with special needs); (ii) Health (e.g., nutrition and the support of breast feeding, physical activity, prevention and control of illnesses and infectious diseases, immunizations, prevention of and response to emergencies due to food and allergic reactions, cleanliness, sanitation, and the appropriate disposal of bio contaminants); (iii) Safety (e.g., prevention of Sudden Unexpected Infant Death (SUID) which includes Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) and the use of safe sleeping practices, medication administration, injury control and prevention, transportation, handling and storage of hazardous materials, identification of and protection from hazards that can cause bodily injury such as electrical hazards, bodies of water, and vehicular traffic, and emergency preparedness planning and response); (iv) Child abuse and neglect (e.g., identification and reporting, meeting the needs of abused and/or neglected children, prevention of shaken baby syndrome, abusive head trauma and child maltreatment). It was determined based on a review of records that staff # 8 did not have documentation of completing the health and safety orientation training within the first 90 days of employment as required.

Correction Deadline: 7/23/2026

Recited on 7/23/2026

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 there was no evidence of lead teacher credentials on file for staff #8.

Correction Deadline: 7/23/2026

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)**Not Met****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 staff was not seated within an arm's length away from children thirty-six (36) months of age and younger in the infant/toddler classroom and the two-year-old classroom.

Correction Deadline: 7/23/2026