



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: 12/10/2025 **VisitType:** Monitoring Visit

Arrival: 12:20 PM **Departure:** 4:20 PM

CCLC-30916

Georgia Kids Academy

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

Regional Consultant

Lynn Schnitzer

Phone: (678) 717-5720

Fax: (770) 344-5683

lynn.schnitzer@dec.al.ga.gov

Mailing Address

Same

Quality Rated: ★ ★

<u>Compliance Zone Designation</u>			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.
12/10/2025	Monitoring Visit	Good Standing	
03/28/2025	Licensing Study	Good Standing	
09/10/2024	Incident Investigation 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	1R	One Year Olds and Two Year Olds	2	13	C	17	C	NA	NA	Nap
Main	2R	Infants and One Year Olds	2	8	C	10	C	NA	NA	Nap,Floor Play,Diapering
Main	3R	Two Year Olds	1	10	C	18	C	NA	NA	Nap
Main	4R	Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds	1	15	C	19	C	NA	NA	Nap
Main	D 1L	GA PreK	1	14	C	21	C	29	C	TV,Nap,Transiti oning
Main	E 2L	GA PreK	1	17	C	21	C	NA	NA	Nap,Transitionin g
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 106					Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 114					
Total # Children this Date: 77			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
9	13	15	18	34	7	23

Comments

The consultant discussed the visit report with the Director, Lawanda Chiles, on December 10, 2025.

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: 12/10/2025 **VisitType:** Monitoring Visit

Arrival: 12:20 PM **Departure:** 4:20 PM

CCLC-30916
Georgia Kids Academy
4336 Hwy. 53 Hoschton, GA 30548 Jackson County
(706) 654-5437

Regional Consultant
Lynn Schnitzer
Phone: (678) 717-5720
Fax: (770) 344-5683
lynn.schnitzer@dec.al.ga.gov

Mailing Address
Same

The following information is associated with a Monitoring Visit:

Activities and Equipment

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

Met

Correction Deadline: 4/4/2025

Corrected on 12/10/2025

.12(2) - The previous citation was observed corrected on this date. The Consultant observed that the equipment and furniture were clean and in good repair.

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

N/A

Comment

Center does not provide swimming activities.

Facility

591-1-1-.06 Bathrooms

Technical Assistance

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.06(4) - Consultant discussed with director to ensure that the exhaust fans are working in classrooms D 1L and E 2L. Consultant also discussed with the director that the vents needed to be cleaned throughout the center.

Correction Deadline: 1/9/2026

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

Technical Assistance

Comment

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

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.19(1) - Consultant discussed with director to ensure that only licensed spaces are utilized for the care of children.

Correction Deadline: 12/10/2025

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

Technical Assistance

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.25(13) - Consultant discussed with director to ensure that the cabinet containing adult scissors, a stapler, and a tape dispenser with a serrated edge is kept locked in classroom D 1L.

Correction Deadline: 12/10/2025

Correction Deadline: 3/28/2025

Corrected on 12/10/2025

.25(3) - The previous citation was observed corrected on this date. The Consultant observed that the exterior of the building was in good repair.

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

Met

Comment

Playground observed to be clean and in good repair on this date.

Correction Deadline: 3/28/2025

Corrected on 12/10/2025

.26(4) - The previous citation was observed corrected on this date. The Consultant observed that the playground fence was in good repair.

Health and Hygiene

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

Not Met

Comment

Proper diapering procedures observed.

Finding

591-1-1-.10(4) requires that if diapers are changed on a diaper changing surface, the surface shall be smooth, nonporous, and equipped with a guard or rails to prevent falls. Between each diaper change, the diaper changing surface shall be cleaned with a disinfectant and dried with a single-use disposable towel. It was determined based on observation that there was tear with exposed fabric on the changing pad in classroom 3R.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will ensure there is a smooth, nonporous changing surface that has a guard or rails for safety in each classroom that houses children wearing diapers. Center Staff will be trained and have adequate supplies to properly clean the diaper changing surface between each diaper change.

Correction Deadline: 12/10/2025

591-1-1-.17 Hygiene(CR)

Met

Comment

Proper hand washing observed throughout the center on this date.

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

Technical Assistance

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.21(1)(r) - New - Discussed updating the Center's policies and procedures to include the program's practices regarding the expulsion and suspension of children enrolled for care within the description of behavior management and discipline actions used by the Center.

Also discussed to ensure 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.

Additional information can be found in the CCLC Indicator Manual found on DECAL's website at: <https://www.dec.al.gov/CCS/RulesAndRegulations.aspx> or through the Center on Shaken Baby Syndrome found at: <https://dontshake.org/>.

Correction Deadline: 12/15/2025

Safety

591-1-1-.11 Discipline(CR)

Met

Comment

Age-appropriate discussion and/or redirection observed.

Comment

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

Comment

Complete documentation of transportation routes observed on this date.

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 there was an unsecured car seat in the back of vehicle tag #PB7976.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

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

Correction Deadline: 12/10/2025

Recited on 12/10/2025

Finding

591-1-1-.36(6) requires written Parental authorization for routine transportation provided by or on behalf of the Center. Written authorization must include the routine pick-up location, routine pick-up time, routine delivery location, routine delivery times and the name of any person authorized to receive the child. It was determined based on review of records that the transportation authorization forms did not have the routine pick-up location, routine pick-up time, routine delivery location, routine delivery times for 24 of 24 children receiving school transportation services.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will obtain the required written parental authorization.

Correction Deadline: 12/11/2025

Finding

591-1-1-.36(7)(b) requires that an emergency medical information record be maintained in the vehicle for each child being transported. The emergency medical information record for each child shall include a listing of the child's full name, date of birth, allergies, special medical needs and conditions, current prescribed medications that the child is required to take on a daily basis for a chronic condition, the name and telephone number of the child's doctor, the local medical facility that the Center uses in the area where the Center is located and the telephone numbers where the Parents can be reached. It was determined based on review of records that there was no emergency medical information record for four of 24 children receiving school transportation services. Further, five of 24 records did not have the name and telephone number of the child's doctor and two of 24 records did not indicate if the child had allergies, special medical needs and conditions, or taking prescribed medications.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will obtain a complete emergency medical information record for each child that is transported and maintain a copy on the vehicle.

Correction Deadline: 12/11/2025

Sleeping & Resting Equipment

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

Met

Comment

Staff stated knowledge of infant safe sleep requirements.

Staff Records

Records Reviewed: 16

Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 4

Staff # 1

Not Met

Date of Hire: 10/27/2025

Reminder - Health & Safety training is required within 90 calendar days of hired

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.24(1)-Evidence of Orientation Missing,.14(2)-CPR missing,.14(2)-First Aid Missing

Staff # 4 Not Met

Date of Hire: 07/24/2025

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.24(1)-Evidence of Orientation Missing

Staff # 6 Not Met

Date of Hire: 11/10/2025

Reminder - Health & Safety training is required within 90 calendar days of hired

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.24(1)-Evidence of Orientation Missing

Staff # 14 Not Met

Date of Hire: 04/15/2025

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.24(1)-Evidence of Orientation Missing

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

Met

Comment

Criminal record checks were observed to be complete.

Comment

Director provided seven files for employees hired since last visit March 28, 2025.

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

Not Met

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 review of records that staff #1, date of hire October 27, 2025, did not have evidence of certification in a in pediatric cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and pediatric first aid on file.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

All caregiver Staff will complete the required training. The Director will send copies via email verification of completed CPR/First Aid certification to the Consultant upon completion and will develop a plan to ensure all caregiver Staff have completed this training within the first 45 days of employment and that evidence of successful completion of the training is on file available for inspection.

Correction Deadline: 1/9/2026

591-1-1-.33 Staff Training

Not Met

Finding

591-1-1-.33(2)(a)-(n) requires the initial Center orientation to include the following subjects: a) the Center's policies and procedures; b) the portions of these rules dealing with the care, health and safety of children; c) the Staff person's assigned duties and responsibilities; d) reporting requirements for suspected cases of child abuse, neglect or deprivation; e) communicable diseases and serious injuries; f) emergency weather plans; g) the program's emergency preparedness plan; h) childhood injury control; i) the administration of medicine; j) reducing the risk of Sudden Unexpected Infant Death (SUID), which includes Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS); k) hand washing; l) fire safety; m) water safety; and n) prevention of HIV/AIDS and blood borne pathogens. It was determined based on review of records that staff #1, date of hire October 27, 2025, staff #4, date of hire July 24, 2025, staff #6, date of hire November 10, 2025, and staff #14, date of hire April 15, 2025, did not have evidence of initial center orientation in the required subjects on file.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will provide orientation in all missing subjects to the employee(s) and will take steps to provide a complete orientation to new Employees in the future.

Correction Deadline: 12/11/2025

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.33(5)(b)1. - New - Discussed that effective July 1, 2025, all staff are required to obtain at least two hours in evidence based, developmentally appropriate language and literacy practices and at least two hours in on-going child development and health and safety related topics as part of their 10 hours of annual training.

Correction Deadline: 1/9/2026

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****Comment**

Adequate supervision observed on this date.