



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: 2/17/2026 **VisitType:** Complaint Investigation & Licensing **Arrival:** 9:00 AM **Departure:** 6:00 PM
Study

CCLC-25589
Excell Preparatory Center
5105 Salem Road Lithonia, GA 30038 DeKalb County
(770) 322-5210

Regional Consultant
Maryn Accord
Phone: (404) 591-6031
Fax:
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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.
02/17/2026	Complaint Investigation & Licensing Study	Good Standing	
01/15/2026	POI Follow Up	Good Standing	
01/07/2026	Incident Investigation Closure	Deficient	

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	Story
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	2	12	C	16	C	NA	NA	Circle Time
Main	E-5th Rt- 2 y/o	Two Year Olds	2	11	C	20	C	NA	NA	Centers
Main	F-6th Right-2 y/o	Two Year Olds and Three Year Olds	2	13	C	20	C	NA	NA	Circle Time
Main	G-1st Left- 3 y/o	Three Year Olds	2	12	C	25	C	NA	NA	Clean Up, Transitioning
Main	H- 2nd Lft- 3 y/o	Three Year Olds	1	3	C	24	C	NA	NA	Free Play
Main	I- 3rd Lft-4 y/o	Four Year Olds	1	13	C	17	C	NA	NA	Transitioning
Main	J-Back Hall-4 y/o	Four Year Olds and Five Year Olds	1	7	C	18	C	NA	NA	Transitioning
Main	K-Back Hall-5 y/o	Six Year Olds and Over	1	0	C	19	C	NA	NA	Homework
Main	L-Back Hall-6y/o		0	0	C	18	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
Main	M-Back Hall-End-7+		0	0	C	18	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
Main	N-Cafeteria-5-12y/o		0	0	C	19	C	NA	NA	Not In Use

Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 253

Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0

Total # Children this Date: 78

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

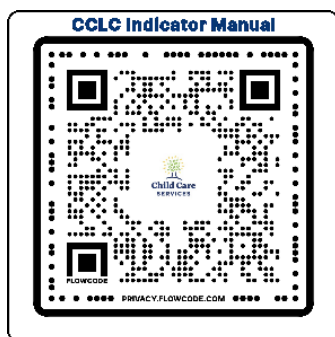
Main	B: 3-4 Year Old Playground	23	C
Main	Back Playground	48	C
Main	C: School Age Playground	47	C
Main	Front Paved Playground	7	C
Main	Left Playground	19	C
Main	Right Playground	44	C

Enrolled Children						
Under 1 years	1 years	2 years	3 years	4 years	5 years (Prekonly)	5 years and older
5	18	37	41	33	0	62

Comments

The Consultant reviewed Staff Records, Child Records, and evaluated Core Rules and Non-Core Rules.

Plan of Improvement: No Plan Developed



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

You have received permission to operate and the form received with this report is intended to serve as a temporary license which is **valid for thirty(30) days**. Your actual license/ will be emailed to you upon receipt of the licensing fee. You may pay the licensing fee either online at <http://www.decal.ga.gov/> or by certified check or money order mailed to: Bright from the Start, 2 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive SE, Suite 670 East Tower, Atlanta, GA 30334

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 Licensing Study Visit:

Activities and Equipment

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

Technical Assistance

Technical Assistance

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. The Consultant discussed with the Director to ensure that toys and equipment were replaced, as needed, so they remain clean and in good repair, as required.

Correction Deadline: 2/17/2026

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 routinely met by center on this date.

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

Met

Comment

Please be mindful to keep items that pose a hazard inaccessible to children.

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

Not Met

Comment

Discussed maintenance of resilient surface. Please fluff and redistribute.

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.26(3) requires that the playground be adjacent to the Center or in an area which can be reached by a safe route or method approved by the Department. Except in School-age Centers, the playground shall have shaded areas. The Consultant discussed with the Director to ensure the route to the playground was free of any potential hazards, as required.

Correction Deadline: 3/19/2026

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, that English ivy was overgrown along the backside of the fence between Main Back Playground and Main C: School Age Playground, creating a potential hazard.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will remove any litter and fix or remove hazards from the playground and will routinely monitor the playground and remove litter and hazards.

Correction Deadline: 3/3/2026

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****Comment**

Staff were observed to remind children to wash hands on this date.

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****Comment**

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

591-1-1-.36 Transportation(CR)**Technical Assistance****Technical Assistance**

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. The Consultant discussed with the Director to ensure Parental authorization forms for routine transportation provided by the Center include a designated section for listing the name of any person authorized to receive the child, as required.

Correction Deadline: 2/18/2026

Staff Records**Records Reviewed: 29****Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 6**

Staff # 1

Not Met

Date of Hire: 06/10/2008

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(4)-Food Prep Training Missing 4 hrs.

Staff # 2

Not Met

Date of Hire: 06/30/2025

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(3)-Health & Safety Certificate

Staff # 9

Not Met

Date of Hire: 07/01/2019

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(4)-Food Prep Training Missing 4 hrs.

Staff # 21

Not Met

Date of Hire: 01/01/2007

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(4)-Food Prep Training Missing 4 hrs.

Staff # 24

Not Met

Date of Hire: 01/14/2025

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(4)-Food Prep Training Missing 4 hrs.,.33(3)-Health & Safety Certificate

Staff # 29

Not Met

Date of Hire: 07/25/2016

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training

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

Not Met

Finding

591-1-1-.33(3)(a)-(k) requires each Staff member with direct care responsibilities to complete health and safety orientation training within the first 90 days of employment. The state-approved training hours obtained will count toward required first year training hours. The training must address the following health and safety topics: a)prevention and control of infectious diseases (including immunizations); b) prevention of sudden infant death syndrome and use of safe sleeping practices; c) administration of medication, consistent with standards for parental consent; d) prevention of and response to emergencies due to food and allergic reactions; e) building and physical premises safety, including identification of and protection from hazards that can cause bodily injury such as electrical hazards, bodies of water, and vehicular traffic; f) prevention of shaken baby syndrome, abusive head trauma and child maltreatment; g) emergency preparedness and response planning for emergencies resulting from a natural disaster or a human-caused event (such as violence at a child care facility); h) handling and storage of hazardous materials and the appropriate disposal of bio contaminants; i) precautions in transporting children; j) recognition and reporting of child abuse and neglect; and k) child development to include all major domains:cognitive; social and emotional; physical development and motor skills; communication, language, and literacy; and approaches to play and learning. It was determined, based on a review of records, the following staff did not have health and safety orinetation training within the first 90 days of employment, as required:

- Staff #2, hired June 30, 2025
- Staff #24, hired January 14, 2025

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will develop and implement a plan to schedule and track this training for all employees based on their hire dates and will ensure that the training includes all required components as required.

Correction Deadline: 3/19/2026

Finding

591-1-1-.33(4) requires within the first year of employment, the Director and person with primary responsibility for food preparation shall have four clock hours of training in food nutrition planning, preparation, serving, proper dish washing and food storage. It was determined, based on observation, the following required Staff did not have four clock hours of training in food nutrition planning, preparation, serving, proper dish washing and food storage, as required:

- Staff #1, hired June 10, 2008
- Staff #9, hired July 1, 2019
- Staff #21, hired January 01, 2007
- Staff #24, hired January 14, 2025

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will schedule food preparation training, as required, and follow up to ensure the training is completed.

Correction Deadline: 3/19/2026

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.33(5)(a) - New - 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. The Consultant discussed with the Director that Health and Safety training may be counted toward the required ten (10) clock hours of diverse training after five years have passed since the initial completion of the Health and Safety training.

Correction Deadline: 3/19/2026

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**

Staff observed to provide direct supervision and be attentive to children's needs.