



**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

**Cover Sheet**

**Date:** 6/22/2022 **VisitType:** Licensing Study

**Arrival:** 11:00 AM **Departure:** 12:00 PM

**CCLC-26917**

**Sweetwater Academy**

35 Florence Road Douglasville, GA 30134 Paulding County  
 (770) 942-7233 sweetwateracademy1@gmail.com

**Regional Consultant**

Brionne Higgins

Phone: (404) 232-1903

Fax: (770) 359-5819

brionne.higgins@decal.ga.gov

**Mailing Address**

Same

**Quality Rated:** ★ ★

<u>Compliance Zone Designation</u>		
06/22/2022	Licensing Study	Good Standing
01/04/2022	Monitoring Visit	Good Standing
03/17/2021	Licensing Study	Good Standing

**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.

**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	First Back	Six Year Olds and Over	1	19	C	25	C	NA	NA	Centers
Main	First Left	Two Year Olds	2	8	C	14	C	NA	NA	Transitioning
Main	First Right	Three Year Olds	1	8	C	27	C	NA	NA	Transitioning
Main	Fourth Left(Right)	Six Year Olds and Over	1	14	C	26	C	NA	NA	Transitioning
Main	Second Left	Infants	1	3	C	23	C	NA	NA	Floor Play
Main	Second Right (Left)	Four Year Olds	2	15	C	26	C	NA	NA	Transitioning

Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 141

Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0

Total # Children this Date: 67

Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 141

Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	Playground A	184	C
Main	Playground B	96	C

**Comments**

An Administrative Review was conducted on July 7, 2022. Staff files, children's files, training, and background checks were all reviewed. A virtual inspection was conducted on June 22, 2022 with the Provider. An in-person visit was not conducted due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Plan of Improvement: Developed This Date 06/22/2022

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.state.ga.us/CCS/RuleAndRegulations.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



### 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.state.ga.us](mailto:qualityrated@dec.state.ga.us) for more information. Free technical assistance is available!**

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](http://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)

Jennifer Hale, Program Official

Date

Brionne Higgins, Consultant

Date



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### Findings Report

**Date:** 6/22/2022 **VisitType:** Licensing Study

**Arrival:** 11:00 AM

**Departure:** 12:00 PM

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The following information is associated with a Licensing Study:

### Activities and Equipment

**591-1-1-.03 Activities**

**Technical Assistance**

**Technical Assistance**

591-1-1-.03(6) - Consultant discussed ensuring that children less than three years of age do not spend no more than 30 minutes in a confining equipment.

**Correction Deadline: 6/22/2022**

**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)**

**Met**

**Comment**

Pool not in use at this time, gates observed locked.

### Children's Records

**Records Reviewed: 5**

**Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 0**

Child # 1	Met
Child # 2	Met
Child # 3	Met
Child # 4	Met
Child # 5	Met

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**591-1-1-.08 Children's Records****Met****Comment**

Records were observed to be complete and well organized.

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**Facility**

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**591-1-1-.06 Bathrooms****Met****Comment**

Bathrooms observed to be clean and well maintained.

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

Licensed capacity observed to be routinely met by center.

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

Please secure cleaning tools (i.e., broom, plunger) out of reach of children.

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**591-1-1-.26 Playgrounds(CR)****Technical Assistance****Comment**

A Virtual Visit was conducted due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Playground (s) were not directly observed during the virtual walk through due to connection issues. Regulations regarding the associated rules with fencing, playground equipment, resilient surfacing and keeping playground area free of hazards were discussed with the Director on this date.

**Technical Assistance**

591-1-1-.26(9) - Consultant discussed spray painting the exposed tree roots on the preschool playground to prevent potential tripping hazards.

**Correction Deadline: 6/22/2022**

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**Food Service**

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**591-1-1-.15 Food Service & Nutrition****Met****Comment**

Center menu meets USDA guidelines.

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

Kitchen appears clean and well organized.

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**Health and Hygiene**

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

Staff state proper knowledge of diapering procedures.

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**591-1-1-.17 Hygiene(CR)****Technical Assistance****Technical Assistance**

591-1-1-.17 - Consultant discussed ensuring that teachers are encouraging children to wash their hands after meals with the Director.

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**591-1-1-.20 Medications(CR)****N/A****Comment**

The Provider currently does not dispense/administer medication.

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**Policies and Procedures**

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**591-1-1-.27 Posted Notices****Met****Comment**

Observed all required posted notices.

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**Safety**

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**591-1-1-.05 Animals****N/A****Comment**

Center does not keep animals on premises.

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

A Virtual Visit was conducted due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Discipline was not directly observed during the virtual walk through. Regulations regarding proper discipline were discussed with the Director/Provider on this date.

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**591-1-1-.13 Field Trips(CR)****Technical Assistance****Technical Assistance**

591-1-1-.13 - Consultant discussed utilizing the note section to indicate when a child is absent or writing an "A" on the form.

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**591-1-1-.36 Transportation(CR)****Met****Comment**

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

**Comment**

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

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**Sleeping & Resting Equipment**

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

Discussed SIDS and infant sleeping position.

**Comment**

Pleasant naptime environment observed.

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**Staff Records**

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**Records Reviewed: 18****Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 1**

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Staff # 1	Met
Staff # 2	Met
Staff # 3	Met
Staff # 4	Not Met

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.31(2)(b)2.-Staff Qualifications-Education Missing

Staff # 5	Met
Date of Hire: 01/19/2017	
Staff # 6	Met
Staff # 7	Met
Staff # 8	Met
Staff # 9	Met
Date of Hire: 02/26/2021	
Staff # 10	Met
Staff # 11	Met
Staff # 12	Met
Date of Hire: 04/05/2017	
Staff # 13	Met
Staff # 14	Met
Staff # 15	Met
Date of Hire: 08/06/2019	
Staff # 16	Met
Staff # 17	Met
Staff # 18	Met

**Staff Credentials Reviewed: 4**

<b>591-1-1-.09 Criminal Records and Comprehensive Background Checks(CR)</b>	<b>Met</b>
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**Comment**

Criminal record checks were observed to be complete.

<b>591-1-1-.14 First Aid &amp; CPR</b>	<b>Not Met</b>
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**Finding**

591-1-1-.14(1) requires the Center Director and, at any given time, at least fifty percent (50%) of the caregiver Staff to successfully complete a biennial training program in cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and a triennial training program in first aid. The first aid training must be done by certified or licensed health care professionals or trainers and must deal with the provision of emergency care to infants and children. The Center shall maintain current evidence of the successful completion of such training which shall be available to the Department for inspection. It was determined based a review of documents that the center failed to provide evidence of first aid and CPR training for 12 out of 17 staff members.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

The Center Director and at least 50% of the caregiver Staff will complete the needed training. The Director will send written verification to the consultant upon completion and will develop a plan to ensure that at least 50% of the caregiver Staff have completed this training at any given time and that evidence of successful completion of the training is on file available for inspection.

**Correction Deadline: 7/22/2022**

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<b>591-1-1-.33 Staff Training</b>	<b>Met</b>
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**Comment**

Discussed staff training. Please obtain required documentation.

**Comment**

Documentation observed of required staff training.

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<b>591-1-1-.31 Staff(CR)</b>	<b>Met</b>
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**Comment**

Discussed that all lead staff must enroll in an approved education program within 6 months of hire and complete degree within 18 months.

<b>Staffing and Supervision</b>
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<b>591-1-1-.32 Staff:Child Ratios and Group Size(CR)</b>	<b>Met</b>
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**Comment**

Center observed to maintain appropriate staff:child ratios.

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<b>591-1-1-.32 Supervision(CR)</b>	<b>Met</b>
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**Comment**

Adequate supervision observed on this date.