



**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:** 7/13/2023    **VisitType:** Licensing Study    **Arrival:** 1:00 PM    **Departure:** 5:45 PM

**CCLC-49136**

**A Unique Preparatory Learning Academy**

699 Village Square Dr. Stone Mountain, GA 30083 DeKalb County  
 (404) 292-5252 ruth.tanneshia@gmail.com

**Regional Consultant**

Jessica Johnson  
 Phone: (770) 357-5090  
 Fax:  
 jessica.johnson@decal.ga.gov

**Mailing Address**  
 Same

**Quality Rated:** ★

<b>Compliance Zone Designation</b>		
07/13/2023	Licensing Study	Deficient
06/23/2023	TA Follow Up	Good Standing
05/17/2023	TA Follow Up	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	A/1L Infants	Infants	1	4	C	8	C	NA	NA	Music
Main	B/1R Front/Toddler		0	0	C	26	C	NA	NA	
Main	C/1R Back/Toddler	One Year Olds and Two Year Olds	1	10	NC	8	NC	NA	NA	Nap
Main	D/1Mid/AS		0	0	C	31	C	NA	NA	
Main	E/2 Mid/Preschool	Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds	2	10	C	23	C	NA	NA	Nap
Main	F/Pre-K 1		0	0	C	26	C	NA	NA	
Main	G/Pre-K 2	Six Year Olds and Over	2	12	C	22	C	NA	NA	Circle Time
Main	H/Pre-K 3	Four Year Olds and Five Year Olds	1	12	C	22	C	NA	NA	Transitioning
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 166						Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0				
Total # Children this Date: 48			Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 166			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0				

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	Pre-K	105	C
Main	School Age	80	C
Main	Toddler	24	C

### Comments

An on-site inspection was conducted on July 13, 2023 with the Assistant Director Trequilla Keeley. Staff files, children's files, training, and background checks were all reviewed.

Plan of Improvement: To Be Submitted 07/27/2023

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](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)



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

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Tanneshia Grimes, Program Official

Date

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Jessica Johnson, Regional Consultant

Date



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**(Findings Report)**

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Same

The following information is associated with a Licensing Study:

**Activities and Equipment**

**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**

Center does not provide swimming activities.

**Facility**

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

**Not Met**

**Finding**

591-1-1-.19(1) requires a Center to provide 35 square feet of usable space per child, which will determine the Center's License capacity. It was determined based on observation that a ratio of 1:10 was observed in classroom C/1R Back/ Toddler, when the maximum capacity was eight.

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**Correction Deadline: 7/13/2023**

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

**Technical Assistance**

**Comment**

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

**Technical Assistance**

591-1-1-.25(13) - The Consultant discussed with the Assistant Director unplugging the extension cord when not in use.

**Correction Deadline: 7/13/2023**

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

**Not Met**

**Technical Assistance**

591-1-1-.26(4) - The Consultant discussed with the Assistant Director that there was a three and a half inch gap on the school age gate at the top.

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**Correction Deadline: 7/13/2023**

**Finding**

591-1-1-.26(6) requires that playground equipment provide an opportunity for the children to engage in a variety of experiences and shall be age-appropriate. For example, toddlers shall not be permitted to swing in swings designed for School-age Children. The outdoor equipment shall be free of lead-based paint, sharp corners and shall be regularly maintained in such a way as to be free of rust and splinters that could pose significant safety hazard to the children. All equipment shall be arranged so as not to obstruct supervision of children. It was determined based on observation that the following hazards were observed:

Toddler playground

- A broken yellow bulldozer.
- A broken dog ride on toy.
- A broken red and pink little tikes car.
- Disconnected door and stove on the playhouse.

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**Correction Deadline: 7/14/2023**

**Finding**

591-1-1-.26(8) requires climbing and swinging equipment to have a resilient surface beneath the equipment and the fall zone from such equipment must be adequately maintained by the Center to assure continuing resiliency. It was determined based on observation that there was no measurable resilient surface at the yellow side and climbing ladders on the first playground equipment on the School-age playground.

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**Correction Deadline: 7/23/2023**

**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 the following hazards were observed:

School Age Playground

- One exposed screw on the first playground equipment structures climbing ladder.
- One exposed screw on the left side wooden barrier around the second playground structure.
- A loose wooden board with two exposed nails on the left side of the second play structure.
- Rust on all swing chains.

Pre-K Playgroud

- Water hose accessible.
  - Pine cones throughout.
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**Correction Deadline: 7/27/2023**

<b>Health and Hygiene</b>
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**591-1-1-.07 Children's Health**

**Not Met**

**Finding**

591-1-1-.07(5) requires Center Staff to not permit children to wear around their necks or attach to their clothing pacifiers or other hazardous items. It was determined based on observation that two infants were observed with bibs around their necks.

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**Correction Deadline: 7/13/2023**

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

**Met**

**Comment**

Hand washing requirements for diapering were discussed with the assistant 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.

**Policies and Procedures**

**591-1-1-.21 Operational Policies & Procedures**

**Not Met**

**Finding**

591-1-1-.21(3) requires that the Center conduct drills for fire, tornado and other emergency situations. The fire drills will be conducted monthly and tornado and other emergency situation drills will be conducted every six months. The Center shall maintain documentation of the dates and times of these drills for two years. It was determined based on a review of records that the fire drill, tornado, emergency preparedness documentation was missing on this date.

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**Correction Deadline: 7/28/2023**

**Safety**

**591-1-1-.05 Animals**

**Technical Assistance**

**Comment**

Animals maintained clean and appropriately caged.

**Technical Assistance**

591-1-1-.05(3) - The Consultant discussed with the Assistant Director Center Staff must ensure animals are properly vaccinated and maintain documentation of the vaccinations at the Center.

**Correction Deadline: 8/12/2023**

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

**Met**

**Comment**

Age-appropriate discussion and/or redirection observed.

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

**Met**

**Comment**

The Consultant discussed with the Assistant Director the proper field trip documentation and regulations regarding checklists, name tags and permission forms was discussed on this date.

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

**Met**

**Technical Assistance**

591-1-1-.36 - The Consultant discussed with the Assistant Director that the fire extinguisher and the first aid kit has to be in each vehicle including rentals.

**Sleeping & Resting Equipment**

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

**Technical Assistance**

**Comment**

Discussed SIDS and infant sleeping position.

**Technical Assistance**

591-1-1-.30(1)(b)4 - The Consultant discussed with the Assistant 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.

**Correction Deadline: 7/13/2023**

**Staff Records**

**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**

**Not Met**

**Finding**

591-1-1-.14(2) requires a Staff member who is trained in CPR and first aid to be on the premises and on any field trip whenever any child is present. In addition, Staff who provide direct care to children must satisfactorily obtain certification in first aid and CPR by December 29, 2016 if employed prior to September 30, 2016 and within 90 days of their hire date if employed after September 30, 2016. It was determined based on a review of records that staff # 1 did not have the first aid and CPR certification on this date.

**Correction Deadline: 8/12/2023**

**591-1-1-.33 Staff Training**

**Not Met**

**Finding**

591-1-1-.33(3) 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: prevention and control of infectious diseases (including immunizations); prevention of sudden infant death syndrome and use of safe sleeping practices; administration of medication, consistent with standards for parental consent; prevention of and response to emergencies due to food and allergic reactions; 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; prevention of shaken baby syndrome, abusive head trauma and child maltreatment; 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); handling and storage of hazardous materials and the appropriate disposal of bio contaminants; precautions in transporting children; recognition and reporting of child abuse and neglect; and child development. It was determined based on a review of records that staff # 14 did not complete the health and safety orientation training within the first 90 days of employment.



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**Correction Deadline: 8/12/2023**

**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 a review of records that staff # 10 did not have the four clock hours of training in food nutrition planning, preparation, serving, proper dish washing and food storage as of this date.

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**Correction Deadline: 8/12/2023**

**591-1-1-.31 Staff(CR)**

**Not Met**

**Finding**

591-1-1-.31(13) prohibits Center Staff from committing any criminal act, as defined under Georgia law, in the presence of any child enrolled in the Center and requires Center staff to comply with all applicable laws and regulations. It was determined based on observation that the vehicle registration attached to vans #EYK658 and #CTA1242 expired on the date January 2023.

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**Correction Deadline: 7/14/2023**

**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 that staff # 5 and staff # 13 did not have the lead teacher requirements as of this date.

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**Correction Deadline: 8/14/2023**

**Staffing and Supervision**

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**591-1-1-.32 Staff:Child Ratios and Group Size(CR)****Not Met****Finding**

591-1-1-.32(2) requires the Center maintain Staff:child ratios in mixed-age groups based on the age of the youngest group of children that includes more than twenty percent of the total number of children in the mixed-age group. It was determined based on observation that a ratio of 1:10 was observed in classroom C/1R Back/Toddler. The Consultant observed seven one-year-old children and three two-year-old children in classroom C/1R Back/Toddler.

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**Correction Deadline: 7/13/2023**

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**591-1-1-.32 Supervision(CR)****Met****Comment**

Adequate supervision observed on this date.