



**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:** 10/27/2021 **VisitType:** Monitoring Visit

**Arrival:** 1:00 PM

**Departure:** 2:00 PM

**CCLC-47907**

**First Academy Early Learning Center**

3979 Covington Highway Decatur, GA 30032 DeKalb County  
(404) 698-3978 firstacademy@yahoo.com

**Regional Consultant**

Kesha McNeal

Phone: (866) 359-1672

Fax: (866) 359-7490

kesha.mcneal@decals.ga.gov

**Mailing Address**

Same

**Quality Rated:**

<b>Compliance Zone Designation</b>			<b>Compliance Zone Designation</b> - 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.  <b>Good Standing</b> - Program is demonstrating an acceptable level of performance in meeting the rules. <b>Support</b> - Program performance is demonstrating a need for improvement in meeting rules. <b>Deficient</b> - Program is not demonstrating an acceptable level of performance in meeting the rules.
10/27/2021	Monitoring Visit	Good Standing	
01/19/2021	Licensing Study	Good Standing	
09/17/2020	Complaint Investigation by Phone	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	A - End	Infants	1	1	C	13	C	NA	NA	Floor Play
Main	B - Center	Two Year Olds	1	7	C	25	C	NA	NA	Nap
Main	C - Left	Three Year Olds	1	8	C	34	C	NA	NA	Nap
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 72						Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0				
Total # Children this Date: 16			Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 72			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0				

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	A - Back	49	C

**Comments**

Director provided two file(s) for employees hired since last visit.

Plan of Improvement: Developed This Date 10/27/2021

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



### Important New Deadlines:

Due to the ongoing COVID restrictions, the deadline to become Quality Rated for programs who want to continue to receive Childcare and Parent Services (CAPS), has been extended to at least December 31, 2021.

Get started today! Sign up by completing a short online application: <https://qualityrated.decal.ga.gov/>  
Request free technical assistance to help you earn your star rating by contacting the Quality Rated help desk at 855-800-7747 or [qualityrated@decal.ga.gov](mailto:qualityrated@decal.ga.gov)

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), e-mail the following information to [CCSRefutations@decal.ga.gov](mailto:CCSRefutations@decal.ga.gov).

- 1) Facility name, license number and visit date
- 2) Your name, title/relationship to the facility, e-mail address & up to two phone number(s) where you can be reached
- 3) Specific rule number(s) that you are refuting, along with your concerns or questions regarding the rule citation

Refutations must be submitted to Child Care Services (CCS) within 10 business days of the completion date.

A sample form for submitting a refutation can be found at: <http://decal.ga.gov/ChildCareServices/RefutationInformation.aspx>

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)

Jakyra Arnold, Program Official

Date

Kesha McNeal, Consultant

Date



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

### Findings Report

**Date:** 10/27/2021 **VisitType:** Monitoring Visit

**Arrival:** 1:00 PM

**Departure:** 2:00 PM

**CCLC-47907**

**First Academy Early Learning Center**

3979 Covington Highway Decatur, GA 30032 DeKalb County  
(404) 698-3978 firstacademy@yahoo.com

**Regional Consultant**

Kesha McNeal

Phone: (866) 359-1672

Fax: (866) 359-7490

kesha.mcneal@dec.al.gov

**Mailing Address**

Same

The following information is associated with a Monitoring Visit:

### 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)**

Met

**Comment**

Licensed capacity observed to be routinely met by center.

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

**Technical Assistance**

**Technical Assistance**

591-1-1-.25(3) -Please ensure that the Center and surrounding premises is kept clean, free of debris and in good repair. On this date the consultant observed the cabinet under the changing table in classroom A- end had peeling paint.

**Correction Deadline: 10/27/2021**

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

Met

**Comment**

Playground observed to be clean and in good repair.

### Health and Hygiene

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

**Comment**

Staff state proper knowledge of diapering procedures.

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

**Comment**

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

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

**Comment**

The Provider currently does not dispense/administer medication.

**Safety**

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

**Comment**

The center's discipline policy was reviewed on this date. Regulations regarding proper discipline were discussed with the director and center staff on this date.

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

**Comment**

Center does not provide routine transportation.

**Sleeping & Resting Equipment**

**591-1-1-.30 Safe Sleeping and Resting Requirements(CR)** **Not Met**

**Comment**

The correct number of cots, sheets and blankets were observed on this date. Cleaning and disinfecting of cots was discussed with the director and staff on this date.

**Finding**

591-1-1-.30(1)(a)2 requires that a crib mattress is firm, tight-fitting without gaps, at least 2 inches thick and covered with a waterproof, washable material. Before a change of occupant, each mattress shall be cleaned with a disinfectant. It was determined based on the consultant's observation that a crib mattress in Classroom A was not tight-fitting without gaps as required.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

The center will ensure that a crib mattress is firm, tight-fitting without gaps, at least

**Correction Deadline: 10/27/2021**

**Staff Records**

**Records Reviewed: 6**

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

Staff # 1 Met

Staff # 2 Met

Date of Hire: 01/02/2019

Staff # 3 Met

Date of Hire: 02/21/2019

Staff # 4 Met

Date of Hire: 10/17/2018

**Records Reviewed: 6**

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

Staff # 5

Met

Date of Hire: 10/01/2021

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

Staff # 6

Met

Date of Hire: 09/29/2021

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

**Staff Credentials Reviewed: 3**

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

**Met**

**Comment**

Criminal record checks were observed to be complete.

**Comment**

Director provided two file(s) for employees hired since last visit.

**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.