



**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:** 7/17/2023    **VisitType:** Complaint Investigation    **Arrival:** 10:30 AM    **Departure:** 2:05 PM  
Follow Up

**CCLC-3080**

**First United Methodist Church Early Childhood Academy**

353 Main Street Thomson, GA 30824 McDuffie County  
CCLC-3080 Kendyl@thomsonfumc.org

**Regional Consultant**

Rebekah Mullinax

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**Mailing Address**

323 Church Street  
Thomson, GA 30824

**Quality Rated:** No

<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.
07/17/2023	Complaint Investigation Follow Up	Good Standing	
06/20/2023	Licensing Study	Good Standing	
11/17/2022	Incident Investigation & Follow Up	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	Room A 1st R Hall 1st R Room	Two Year Olds	1	10	C	17	C	NA	NA	Free Play
Main	Room B 1st R Hall 2nd R Room	Two Year Olds	2	15	C	17	C	NA	NA	Free Play
Main	Room C 1st R Hall 3rd R Room	Infants	2	8	C	16	C	NA	NA	Floor Play
Main	Room D 1st R Hall 4th R Room	Four Year Olds and Five Year Olds	1	9	C	18	C	NA	NA	Centers
Main	Room E Back Hall Right	Six Year Olds and Over	1	15	C	15	C	NA	NA	Free Play
Main	Room F Back Hall Left	One Year Olds	1	6	C	15	C	NA	NA	Outside
Main	Room G 2nd R Hall 4th L Room	One Year Olds	2	12	C	18	C	NA	NA	Free Play
Main	Room H 2nd R Hall 3rd L Room	Infants	2	7	C	17	C	NA	NA	Floor Play
Main	Room I 2nd R Hall 2nd L Room	Three Year Olds	1	11	C	17	C	NA	NA	Centers
Main	Room J 2nd R Hall 1st L Room	Three Year Olds	1	9	C	17	C	NA	NA	Centers

Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 167

Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0

Building @35 capacity limited by Centers Request

Total # Children this Date: 102

Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 167

Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	1 Preschool (left)	52	C
Main	2 Toddler (middle)	15	C
Main	3 Infants/Ones/Twos (Right)	12	C


**Comments**

The investigation remains open on this date, pending additional information. Upon completion the finding will be reviewed with the provider and a final copy of the report will be sent.

A complaint/incident investigation was conducted on July 17, 2023. Investigative findings were concluded on July 17, 2023.

Plan of Improvement: No Plan Developed

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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Kendyl May, Program Official

Date

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Rebekah Mullinax, Regional Consultant

Date