



**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:** 7/17/2019    **VisitType:** Licensing Study    **Arrival:** 11:00 AM    **Departure:** 2:30 PM

**CCLC-39611**

**First Steps Child Development Center**

3714 Salem Rd Covington, GA 30016 Newton County  
 (770) 788-8555 tawanbridg@aol.com

**Regional Consultant**

Ashley Cunningham

Phone: (866) 374-9389

Fax: (866) 375-0880

Ashley.Cunningham@dec.al.ga.gov

**Mailing Address**

Same

**Quality Rated:** ★ ★

<b>Compliance Zone Designation</b>		
07/17/2019	Licensing Study	Good Standing
01/09/2019	Licensing Study	Good Standing
08/06/2018	Monitoring Visit	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	1LRt Hall Cookie Monster's	Two Year Olds and Three Year Olds	2	15	C	16	C	NA	NA	Nap	
Main	Count's Castle Rt Side	Six Year Olds and Over	1	17	C	22	C	NA	NA	Free Play	
Main	Left Hall 1L Baby Bear's Crib		0	0	C	10	C	NA	NA	Not In Use	
Main	Left Hall 1R Big Birs's Nest	Infants and One Year Olds	2	7	C	16	C	NA	NA	Nap, Floor Play, Feeding	
Main	Left Hall Oscars Cove 2L	Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds	1	15	C	21	C	NA	NA	TV	
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.:			85	Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.:			0				
Total # Children this Date: 54			Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.:			85	Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.:			0	

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	A- 6Wks-5 Yrs	24	C
Main	B- 6 Wks -12 yrs	7	C

**Comments**

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.state.ga.us/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.

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#### 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@dec.state.ga.us](mailto:CCSRefutations@dec.state.ga.us).

- 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://dec.state.ga.us/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.

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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 New Deadlines:

Your program must be Quality Rated by December 31, 2020 in order to continue to receive Childcare and Parent Services (CAPS).

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

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Tawanna Bridges, Program Official

Date

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Ashley Cunningham, Consultant

Date



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### Findings Report

**Date:** 7/17/2019 **VisitType:** Licensing Study

**Arrival:** 11:00 AM

**Departure:** 2:30 PM

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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.

### Children's Records

**Records Reviewed: 1**

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

Child # 1

Met

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

**Met**

**Comment**

Records were observed to be complete and well organized for five files.

### Facility

**591-1-1-.06 Bathrooms**

**Met**

**Comment**

Bathrooms observed to be clean and well maintained.

**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**

Center appears clean and well maintained.

**Comment**

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

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**591-1-1-.26 Playgrounds(CR)****Not Met****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 the play structure on playground B did not have an adequate amount of resilient surface beneath the play structure and the fall zone from the play structure. The play structure had approximately one inch of resilient surface when six inches was needed.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

The Center will add additional resilient surfacing to the fall zones where needed and check daily, adding resilient surfacing as needed to maintain adequate resiliency.

**Correction Deadline: 8/2/2019**

<b>Food Service</b>
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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.

<b>Health and Hygiene</b>
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**591-1-1-.10 Diapering Areas & Practices(CR)****Met****Comment**

Proper diapering procedures observed.

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

Proper hand washing observed and discussed throughout the center.

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

The Provider currently does not dispense/administer medication.

<b>Safety</b>
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**591-1-1-.11 Discipline(CR)****Met****Comment**

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

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

Field trip documentation observed to be complete.

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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)****Technical Assistance****Comment**

Discussed SIDS and infant sleeping position.

**Technical Assistance**

591-1-1-.30(2)(b) - Please ensure that the physician's written statement for devices in cribs includes how to use the device be used and a time frame for using the device.

**Correction Deadline: 7/17/2019**

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**Staff Records**

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**Records Reviewed: 1****Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 0**

Staff # 1

Met

Date of Hire: 05/15/2019

**Staff Credentials Reviewed: 4**

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

Criminal record checks were observed to be complete.

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**591-1-1-.14 First Aid & CPR****Met****Comment**

Complete first aid kits observed in center and on vehicles.

**Comment**

Evidence observed of 50% of center staff certified in First Aid and CPR.

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**591-1-1-.33 Staff Training****Met****Correction Deadline: 2/8/2019****Corrected on 7/17/2019****.33(4) - Previous citation observed to be corrected.**

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

Staff observed to be compliant with applicable laws and regulations.

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**Staffing and Supervision**

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**591-1-1-.32 Staff:Child Ratios and Group Size(CR)**

**Met**

**Comment**

Center observed to maintain appropriate staff:child ratios.

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

**Met**

**Comment**

Adequate supervision observed on this date.