



**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: 9/9/2021 **VisitType:** Licensing Study **Arrival:** 11:35 AM **Departure:** 1:20 PM

CCLC-39611

First Steps Child Development Center

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

Regional Consultant

LaTanya Barber-Swift

Phone: (470) 346-1054

Fax: (678) 302-3041

latanya.barber-swift@decals.ga.gov

Mailing Address

Same

Quality Rated: ★ ★

Compliance Zone Designation		
09/09/2021	Licensing Study	Good Standing
01/19/2021	Monitoring Visit	Good Standing
07/27/2020	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	1LRt Hall Cookie Monster's		0	0	C	16	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
Main	Count's Castle Rt Side	Four Year Olds	2	21	C	22	C	31	C	Circle Time, Story
Main	Left Hall 1L Baby Bear's Crib	One Year Olds	1	7	C	10	C	NA	NA	Free Play
Main	Left Hall 1R Big Birs's Nest	Two Year Olds	1	7	C	16	C	NA	NA	Free Play
Main	Left Hall Oscars Cove 2L	Three Year Olds	1	10	C	21	C	29	C	Art, Centers
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 85						Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 102				
Total # Children this Date: 45			Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 85			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 102				

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

Comments

An Administrative Review was conducted on September 9, 2021. Staff files, children's files, training, and background checks were all reviewed.

A virtual visit was conducted on September 16, 2021, with the Director Tawanna Bridges. An in-person visit was not conducted due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Plan of Improvement: Developed This Date 09/09/2021

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.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), e-mail the following information to CCSRefutations@dec.al.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://dec.al.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)



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.al.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@dec.al.ga.gov

Tawanna Bridges, Program Official

Date

LaTanya Barber-Swift, Consultant

Date

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.08(1) - The Consultant discussed with the Director to please ensure that the Parents, name, work address, and work telephone number were listed on the child's enrollment application.

Correction Deadline: 9/9/2021

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)**Met****Comment**

Center appears clean and well maintained.

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

Playground observed to be clean and in good repair.

Food Service

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

591-1-1-.15(2) - Please ensure the new updated infant feeding form is used. Discussed revision to the written feeding plans for children under the age of 1 years old. Age-appropriate solid foods (including cereal) shall not be given to infants or children less than one (1) year of age until recommended as developmentally appropriate by the child's primary care physician and indicated in writing by the Parent(s). As soon as the feeding plan indicates that a child is ready for solid foods, the child shall be fed from individual spoons and individual containers or dishes. A child shall not be fed directly from the original baby food container if the contents are to be fed to the child at more than one (1) meal or to more than one (1) child.

Correction Deadline: 9/9/2021

Comment

591-1-1-.15(7) - Discussed new revision to restricted food rule which states: Foods that are associated with young children's choking incidents, such as, but not limited to, peanuts, hot dogs, raw carrots, popcorn, fish with bones, cheese cubes, grapes and any other food that is of similar shape and size of the trachea/windpipe shall not be served to the children less than four (4) years of age. Children older than four (4) years of age may be served these foods provided that the foods are cut in such a way as to minimize choking.

Correction Deadline: 9/9/2021

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**

Please ensure soiled items are stored inaccessible to children.

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

Comment

The Provider currently does not dispense/administer medication.

Safety

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

Center does not keep animals on premises.

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

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

591-1-1-.13 Field Trips(CR)**N/A****Comment**

Center does not participate in field trips at this time.

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

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

Sleeping & Resting Equipment

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

Discussed SIDS and infant sleeping position.

Staff Records

Records Reviewed: 11**Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 0**

Staff # 1

Met

Date of Hire: 07/29/2019

Staff # 2

Met

Date of Hire: 04/01/2016

Staff # 3

Met

Date of Hire: 08/10/2021

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

Staff # 4

Met

Date of Hire: 07/28/2021

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

Staff # 5

Met

Date of Hire: 08/01/2014

Staff # 6

Met

Date of Hire: 05/18/2021

Records Reviewed: 11**Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 0**

Staff # 7	Met
Date of Hire: 07/08/2021	<u>Reminder - Health & Safety training is required within 90 calendar days of hired</u>
Staff # 8	Met
Date of Hire: 06/30/2021	<u>Reminder - Health & Safety training is required within 90 calendar days of hired</u>
Staff # 9	Met
Date of Hire: 09/08/2020	
Staff # 10	Met
Date of Hire: 08/02/2021	<u>Reminder - Health & Safety training is required within 90 calendar days of hired</u>
Staff # 11	Met
Date of Hire: 08/02/2013	

Staff Credentials Reviewed: 8

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

Comment

Criminal record checks were observed to be complete.

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.