



**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:** 1/19/2021    **VisitType:** Monitoring Visit    **Arrival:** 9:30 AM    **Departure:** 11:05 AM

**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@decal.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.
01/19/2021	Monitoring Visit	Good Standing	
07/27/2020	Licensing Study	Good Standing	
01/06/2020	Monitoring Visit	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	1LRt Hall Cookie Monster's	Four Year Olds	1	11	C	16	C	NA	NA	Free Play
Main	Count's Castle Rt Side	Six Year Olds and Over	1	15	C	22	C	31	C	Homework
Main	Left Hall 1L Baby Bear's Crib	One Year Olds	1	4	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	9	C	21	C	29	C	Circle Time
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 85						Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 102				
Total # Children this Date: 46			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**

A virtual inspection was conducted on January 19, 2021, with the Director. An in-person visit was not conducted due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Compliance with the Executive Order issued on August 15, 2020 was reviewed during the virtual inspection.

Plan of Improvement: Developed This Date 01/19/2021

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.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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LaTanya Barber-Swift, Consultant

Date



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### Findings Report

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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)**

**N/A**

**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)**

**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.

### Health and Hygiene

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

**Met**

**Comment**

Staff state proper knowledge of diapering procedures.

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

**Comment**

Please ensure soiled items are stored inaccessible to children.

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

**Comment**

The Provider currently does not dispense/administer medication.

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**Safety**

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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-.36 Transportation(CR)** **N/A**

**Comment**

Center does not provide routine transportation.

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**Sleeping & Resting Equipment**

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

**Comment**

Discussed SIDS and infant sleeping position.

**Comment**

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

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**Staff Records**

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**Records Reviewed: 8**

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

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Staff # 1	Met
Date of Hire: 07/29/2019	
Staff # 2	Met
Date of Hire: 04/01/2016	
Staff # 3	Met
Date of Hire: 10/26/2020	
Staff # 4	Met
Date of Hire: 01/20/2020	
Staff # 5	Met
Date of Hire: 10/26/2020	
Staff # 6	Met
Date of Hire: 08/01/2014	

**Records Reviewed: 8**

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

Staff # 7 Met  
Date of Hire: 10/07/2019

Staff # 8 Met  
Date of Hire: 08/02/2013

**Staff Credentials Reviewed: 4**

**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 Met**

**Correction Deadline: 11/27/2020**

**Corrected on 1/19/2021**  
.14(2) - The previous citation was corrected on this date. The staff was no longer employed at the Center.

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

**Correction Deadline: 8/27/2020**

**Corrected on 1/19/2021**  
.33(4) - The previous citation was corrected on this date. The staff had completed the food preparation training.

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

**Comment**  
Additional cleaning and sanitizing requirements due to the COVID-19 pandemic were discussed and observed during a virtual walk through on this date. The program was in compliance with the Executive Order issued on May 12, 2020.

**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.