



**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:** 3/23/2021    **VisitType:** Incident Investigation    **Arrival:** 2:00 PM    **Departure:** 3:00 PM  
 Closure from visit on  
 02/15/2021

**CCLC-448**

**Stepping Stones Child Care - Free Home**

11930 Cumming Highway Canton, GA 30115 Cherokee County  
 (770) 844-7795 steppingstones@etcm.com

**Regional Consultant**

Beverly Pollard  
 Phone: (770) 357-7002  
 Fax: (770) 357-7001  
 beverly.pollard@dec.al.gov

**Mailing Address**

201 Little River Farms Trail  
 Canton, GA 30115

**Quality Rated:** ★ ★

<b>Compliance Zone Designation</b>		
03/23/2021	Incident Investigation Closure	Good Standing
02/19/2021	Complaint Investigation by Phone	Good Standing
02/15/2021	Incident Investigation & Follow Up	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.

**Comments**

The Incident Investigation was not completed on this date. A final copy will be sent to the facility.

March 23, 2021 The Incident investigation was completed on this date. A final copy was sent to the facility.

A Plan of Improvement is requested by April 6, 2021.

**Advisement of Potential for Repeated Rule Violations during Pending Investigations**

This report shall serve as official notice of potential rule violations. These potential rule violations have been detailed in this report and discussed with you by the consultant. The department shall conduct a thorough investigation to determine if in fact the alleged rule violation(s) should or should not be substantiated. Please be aware that the investigation may take some time to be finalized to ensure fairness and accuracy. During this investigation period, any violations of an identical rule or rules will require the department to treat any and all substantiated rule violations identified in the investigation as repeated rule violation(s).

Further, from time to time the department discovers additional rule violations during the course of an investigation. If there are new rule violation(s), your consultant shall inform you of the violation(s) as soon as possible. However, as stated above, any violations of identical rule(s) will require the department to treat any and all additional rule violations identified in the investigation as repeated rule violations.

All rule violations found in relation to a complaint or incident investigation will be associated with the date the investigation was closed.



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

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)

I have read and understand the Rules and Regulations for Child Care Learning Centers, 591-1-1. I acknowledge that the items noted in this report have been discussed with me and I have agreed to a Plan of Improvement (POI) as indicated in this report. I understand that correction of these deficiencies, while required, will not necessarily prevent DECAL from taking adverse action against this facility. I understand that if I disagree with any of the deficiencies cited, I have the right to refute them on this report or any other form that I choose to send to Child Care Services.

Tonya Barrett, Program Official	Date	Beverly Pollard , 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

**Summary Report**

**Date:** 3/23/2021    **VisitType:** Incident Investigation  
 Closure from visit on  
 02/15/2021    **Arrival:** 2:00 PM    **Departure:** 3:00 PM

**CCLC-448**

**Stepping Stones Child Care - Free Home**

11930 Cumming Highway Canton, GA 30115 Cherokee County  
 (770) 844-7795 steppingstones@etcmail.com

**Mailing Address**

201 Little River Farms Trail  
 Canton, GA 30115

**Regional Consultant**

Beverly Pollard

Phone: (770) 357-7002

Fax: (770) 357-7001

beverly.pollard@decal.ga.gov

The following information is associated with a Incident Investigation Closure:

**Activities and Equipment**

**591-1-1-.03 Activities**

**Not Met**

**Finding Associated with Complaint**

591-1-1-.03(9) requires center staff to refrain from engaging in, or allowing children or other adults to engage in, activities that could be detrimental to a child's health or well-being, such as but not limited to, horse play, rough play, wrestling, and picking up a child in a manner that could cause injury.

It was determined that on February 3, 2021, a two-year-old child was moved by a staff person in a manner that resulted in a serious arm injury. At nap time, the child was halfway off his mat. A staff person took the child by his hands and pulled him back on the mat. As she pulled the child, he pulled his hand away. The child began to scream and pointed to his wrist. Management notified the child's parent. The child received professional medical treatment and was diagnosed with Nursemaid's Elbow.

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

**Correction Deadline: 3/23/2021**