



**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:** 3/11/2020    **VisitType:** Monitoring Visit    **Arrival:** 1:30 PM    **Departure:** 3:00 PM

**CCLC-497**

**Rising Stars Kids Academy**

6224 Hillandale Dr. Lithonia, GA 30058 DeKalb County  
 (770) 981-8411 elainemar\_palmer@yahoo.com

**Regional Consultant**

Roslyn Williams

Phone: (770) 357-7020  
 Fax: (770) 357-7019  
 roslyn.williams@decal.ga.gov

**Mailing Address**  
 Same

**Quality Rated:** ★

<b>Compliance Zone Designation</b>		
03/11/2020	Monitoring Visit	Good Standing
09/26/2019	Licensing Study	Good Standing
03/14/2019	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	B-2nd Right rear - 3 y/o	Two Year Olds	1	8	C	13	C	NA	NA	Nap
Main	BLDG-III-4th Left- 3 y/o		0	0	C	21	C	30	C	
Main	3rd Left-Additon Pre-K- A		0	0	C	22	C	30	C	
Main	A-1st Right Frnt- 3 y/o	Two Year Olds	1	8	C	13	C	NA	NA	Nap
Main	C-Mid Frnt- Office	Infants	1	6	C	9	C	NA	NA	Nap
Main	D-2nd Left Back Room- 0-12 mos	Two Year Olds	1	8	C	18	C	NA	NA	Nap
Main	E-lower level- Downstairs-4+	Three Year Olds	1	10	C	26	C	36	C	Nap
Main	F- Bldg-II-Pre-K-House	PreK	2	2	C	25	C	NA	NA	Nap

Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 147

Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 174

Total # Children this Date: 42

Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 147

Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 174

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	Large Right	62	C

**Comments**

Plan of Improvement: Developed This Date 03/11/2020

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.

---

#### 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.

---

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)

---

Elaine Palmer, Program Official

Date

---

Roslyn Williams, 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

### Findings Report

**Date:** 3/11/2020 **VisitType:** Monitoring Visit **Arrival:** 1:30 PM **Departure:** 3:00 PM

#### CCLC-497

#### Rising Stars Kids Academy

6224 Hillandale Dr. Lithonia, GA 30058 DeKalb County  
(770) 981-8411 elainemar\_palmer@yahoo.com

**Mailing Address**  
Same

#### Regional Consultant

Roslyn Williams

Phone: (770) 357-7020

Fax: (770) 357-7019

roslyn.williams@decal.ga.gov

The following information is associated with a Monitoring Visit:

### Activities and Equipment

#### 591-1-1-.03 Activities

Met

Correction Deadline: 9/26/2019

Corrected on 3/11/2020

.03(1) -The previous citation was corrected. The consultant observed that current lesson plans were available for review in the three-year-old and after school rooms.

#### 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: 5

Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 0

Child # 1	Met
Child # 2	Met
Child # 3	Met
Child # 4	Met
Child # 5	Met

---

**591-1-1-.08 Children's Records****Met****Correction Deadline: 9/26/2019****Corrected on 3/11/2020****.08(1) - The previous citation was corrected.**

<b>Facility</b>
-----------------

---

**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)****Not Met****Technical Assistance**

591-1-1-.25(13) - Storage procedures were discussed with staff.

**Correction Deadline: 3/11/2020****Finding**

591-1-1-.25(3) requires the Center and surrounding premises to be kept clean, free of debris and in good repair. Hygienic measures such as, but not limited to, screened windows and proper waste disposal procedures shall be utilized to minimize the presence of rodents, flies, roaches and other vermin at the Center. It was determined based on observation that the light cover in the downstairs left bathroom was missing.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

The Center will have the Center and surrounding areas cleaned, make repairs where needed, and remove all debris is removed. The Center will implement a plan to keep areas clean and in good repair that includes regular monitoring.

**Correction Deadline: 3/27/2020****Recited on 3/11/2020**

---

**591-1-1-.26 Playgrounds(CR)****Not Met****Comment**

Discussed maintenance of resilient surface. Please fluff and redistribute.

**Finding**

591-1-1-.26(6) requires that playground equipment provide an opportunity for the children to engage in a variety of experiences and shall be age-appropriate. For example, toddlers shall not be permitted to swing in swings designed for School-age Children. The outdoor equipment shall be free of lead-based paint, sharp corners and shall be regularly maintained in such a way as to be free of rust and splinters that could pose significant safety hazard to the children. All equipment shall be arranged so as not to obstruct supervision of children. It was determined based on observation that peeling paint was accessible to children on the yellow and green cars on the large playground. It was further determined that on the toddler playground, there were exposed nails and staples accessible to children on the playhouse.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

The Center will provide a variety of age-appropriate equipment that is arranged so as not to obstruct supervision of children. Staff will check the equipment daily to ensure that the equipment is free of hazards, rust and splinters.

**Correction Deadline: 3/11/2020****Recited on 3/11/2020**

<b>Food Service</b>
---------------------

---

591-1-1-.18 Kitchen Operations

Met

Correction Deadline: 9/26/2019

Corrected on 3/11/2020

.18(8) - The previous citation was corrected.

**Health and Hygiene**

---

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

Met

**Comment**

Hand washing requirements for diapering were discussed with the director on this date.

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

Met

Correction Deadline: 9/26/2019

Corrected on 3/11/2020

.17(7) - Previous citation was corrected. The consultant observed warm running water in the three-year-old room.

Correction Deadline: 9/26/2019

Corrected on 3/11/2020

.17(8) - Previous citation. The consultant observed warm running water in the three-year-old room.

591-1-1-.20 Medications(CR)

Met

**Comment**

No medication dispensed.

**Safety**

---

591-1-1-.11 Discipline(CR)

Met

**Comment**

Age-appropriate discussion and/or redirection observed.

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)

Not Met

**Finding**

591-1-1-.30(1)(b)3 requires that sheets or similar coverings for cots or mats shall either be marked for individual use or laundered daily. If marked for individual use, they must be laundered weekly or more frequently if needed. It was determined based on observation that in the preschool room, two children were asleep on cots without sheets.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

The Center will ensure that sheets are marked for individual use or washed daily and that marked sheets are washed at least weekly.

Correction Deadline: 3/20/2020

Recited on 3/11/2020

## Staff Records

**Records Reviewed: 6**

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

Staff # 1 Date of Hire: 08/15/2006	Met
Staff # 2	Met
Staff # 3 Date of Hire: 10/19/2016	Met
Staff # 4 Date of Hire: 04/01/1996	Met
Staff # 5 Date of Hire: 07/15/2019	Met
Staff # 6 Date of Hire: 03/02/2020	Met

**Staff Credentials Reviewed: 2**

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

**Comment**

Criminal record checks were observed to be complete.

**591-1-1-.24 Personnel Records Met**

**Correction Deadline: 10/1/2019**

**Corrected on 3/11/2020**

**.24(1) -Previous citation was corrected.**

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

**Correction Deadline: 12/31/2019**

**Corrected on 3/11/2020**

**.33(6) - The consultant discussed annual training requirements with staff.**

**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**

Discussed naptime ratios.

**Comment**

Discussed naptime ratios.