



**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:** 3/14/2019    **VisitType:** Monitoring Visit    **Arrival:** 10:30 AM    **Departure:** 1:00 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>		
03/14/2019	Monitoring Visit	Good Standing
09/25/2018	Licensing Study	Good Standing
05/31/2018	POI 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.

**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		0	0	C	13	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
Main	BLDG-III-4th Left- 3 y/o		0	0	C	21	C	30	C	Not In Use
Main	3rd Left-Additon Pre-K- A		0	0	C	22	C	30	C	Not In Use
Main	A-1st Right Frnt- 3 y/o	Two Year Olds	1	8	C	13	C	NA	NA	Outside
Main	C-Mid Frnt- Office	Infants	1	6	C	9	C	NA	NA	Floor Play,Free Play
Main	D-2nd Left Back Room- 0-12 mos		0	0	C	18	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
Main	E-lower level- Downstairs-4+	Four Year Olds	1	17	C	26	C	36	C	Story
Main	F- Bldg-II-Pre-K- House	PreK	2	16	C	25	C	NA	NA	Centers

Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 147

Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 174

Total # Children this Date: 47

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 03/14/2019

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](mailto: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](mailto:qualityrated@dec.al.ga.gov)

---

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:** 3/14/2019    **VisitType:** Monitoring Visit    **Arrival:** 10:30 AM    **Departure:** 1:00 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@dec.al.ga.gov

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)**

**Met**

**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)**

**Not Met**

**Finding**

591-1-1-.25(13) requires that potentially hazardous equipment, materials and supplies be stored in a locked area inaccessible to children. It was determined based on observation that containers of Destin rash cream and hand lotion were in back packs and accessible to children in the two year old room.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

The Center will identify all hazardous items and keep them in a locked area inaccessible to children. The Center will inform all Staff about hazardous items and the safe storage of those items.

**Correction Deadline: 3/14/2019**

**Recited on 3/14/2019**

**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 that the following was observed on the playgrounds:

**Small Playground-**

The space ship had a large crack with sharp edges accessible to children on the top of the play structure.

**Large Playground-**

Chipped and peeling paint were accessible to children on the yellow and green cars, and the blue large sliding board.

Three of four swing chains were cracked with sharp edges accessible to children.

**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: 4/1/2019**

**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 resilient surface under the play structure on the small playground measured less than three inches. A minimum of six inches of resilient surface is required under climbing and swinging equipment five feet or higher.

**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: 4/1/2019**

**Finding**

591-1-1-.26(9) requires the playground to be kept clean, free from litter and free of hazards, such as but not limited to rocks, exposed tree roots and exposed sharp edges of concrete. It was determined based on observation that a large hole that measured 12 inches deep and 2 feet wide posed a potential tripping hazard on the path to and from the small playground. It was further determined that dandelion weeds were growing through the mulch on the same playground.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

The Center will remove any litter and fix or remove hazards from the playground and will routinely monitor the playground and remove litter and hazards.

**Correction Deadline: 4/1/2019**

**Food Service**

**Correction Deadline: 9/25/2018**

**Corrected on 3/14/2019**

**.15(5) - Previous citation corrected. The current week's menu was posted.**

**Health and Hygiene**

---

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

591-1-1-.10 - Proper diapering procedures were discussed with staff.

---

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

Proper hand washing observed throughout the center.

---

**591-1-1-.20 Medications(CR)****Met****Comment**

The Center does not administer medication.

---

**Safety**

---

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

Age-appropriate discussion and/or redirection observed.

---

**591-1-1-.36 Transportation(CR)****Met****Correction Deadline: 9/26/2018****Corrected on 3/14/2019****.36(7)(b) - Previous citation corrected. The center had documented the telephone number of the child's doctor in ten of ten records reviewed.**

---

**Sleeping & Resting Equipment**

---

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

Pleasant naptime environment observed.

---

**Staff Records****Records Reviewed: 11****Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 3**

Staff # 1

Met

Date of Hire: 06/22/2018

Staff # 2

Met

Date of Hire: 08/15/2015

Staff # 3

Met

Date of Hire: 11/11/2017

Staff # 4

Met

Date of Hire: 04/01/1996

Staff # 5

Met

Date of Hire: 08/14/2006

Staff # 6

Not Met

**Records Reviewed: 11****Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 3**

Date of Hire: 12/23/2019

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.09-Criminal Records Check Missing

Staff # 7

Not Met

Date of Hire: 03/28/2019

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.09-Criminal Records Check Missing

Staff # 8

Not Met

Date of Hire: 08/06/2018

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.09-Criminal Records Check Missing

Staff # 9

Met

Date of Hire: 07/19/2016

Staff # 10

Met

Date of Hire: 08/11/2009

Staff # 11

Met

Date of Hire: 01/21/1995

**Staff Credentials Reviewed: 11****591-1-1-.09 Criminal Records and Comprehensive Background Checks(CR)****Not Met****Finding**

591-1-1-.09(1)(a) requires that a Center ensure that every actual and potential Director, Employee and Provisional Employee of a Child Care Learning Center submit both a Records Check Application to the Department and Fingerprints to an authorized fingerprinting site. It was determined based on review of records that the Center did not have evidence of a Records Check Application and Fingerprints to an authorized fingerprinting site for staff persons #6, #7, and #8. A one day notice was left.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

IMMEDIATE CORRECTION - The Center will ensure that every actual and potential Director, Employee and Provisional Employee of a Child Care Learning Center submit both a Records Check Application to the Department and Fingerprints to an authorized fingerprinting site as required. The program's owner or an officer/member of the corporation must view the A to Z Background Check video units pertaining to this records check rule and return the signed affidavit within one week from this visit date. The Center will ensure the CRC rules are maintained.

**Correction Deadline: 3/14/2019****591-1-1-.33 Staff Training****Met****Correction Deadline: 9/30/2018****Corrected on 3/14/2019**

**.33(3) - Previous citation corrected. Evidence of the required training was on file for staff.**

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

**Comment**

Staff observed to be compliant with applicable laws and regulations.

<b>Staffing and Supervision</b>
---------------------------------

---

**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)**

**Technical Assistance**

**Technical Assistance**

591-1-1-.32 - A supervision plan for outdoor play for toddlers was discussed with staff.