



**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:** 7/18/2023    **VisitType:** Complaint Investigation    **Arrival:** 9:35 AM    **Departure:** 1:20 PM  
 Follow Up

**CCLC-46772**

**Stepping Stones Academy**

1108 Bear Creek Blvd Hampton, GA 30228 Henry County  
 CCLC-46772 hamptonssa@gmail.com

**Regional Consultant**

April Brown

Phone: (770) 357-5101  
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 april.brown@dec.al.ga.gov

**Mailing Address**  
 Same

**Quality Rated:** ★ ★

<b>Compliance Zone Designation</b>		
07/18/2023	Complaint Investigation Follow Up	Good Standing
06/28/2023	TA Follow Up	Good Standing
05/31/2023	TA 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	A- Infants-1st Right	Infants and One Year Olds	2	10	C	11	C	NA	NA	TV,Floor Play					
Main	B- 2's 2nd Right	One Year Olds	2	16	C	20	C	NA	NA	Music					
Main	C- PreK 3rd Right	Three Year Olds	1	15	C	19	C	NA	NA	Centers					
Main	D- PreK 4th Right		0	0	C	26	C	NA	NA	Not In Use					
Main	E- School age-5th Right	Four Year Olds	1	17	C	27	C	NA	NA	Art					
Main	F- Toddlers- 2nd Left		0	0	C	10	C	NA	NA	Not In Use					
Main	G- 3's 3rd Left	Two Year Olds	2	11	C	15	C	NA	NA	Music					
Main	H- 3's 4th Left	Two Year Olds	2	15	C	15	C	NA	NA	Free Play					
Main	I- PreK 5th Left	Five Year Olds and Six Year Olds and Over	1	20	C	20	C	NA	NA	Music					
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 163						Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0									
Total # Children this Date: 104						Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 163					Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0				

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	Playground C (back right)	99	C
Main	Playground D (right front)	47	C
Main	Plgd A - Infants left side of Bldg	20	C


Main	Plgd B- Toddler	46	C
Main	Plgd E- School age	86	C

**Comments**

CI/FU completed on this date.

Plan of Improvement: Developed This Date 07/18/2023

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/Regulations.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), do the following:

- 1) Log into DECAL KOALA [www.decalkoala.com](http://www.decalkoala.com) with the userid for your program
- 2) On the home page scroll down to the Inspection Reports and select 'Refute Citation' for the visit report in dispute
- 3) Select the specific rule number(s) that you are refuting, add the reason for disagreement regarding the rule citation, and upload supporting documentation
- 4) Submit the refutation in DECAL KOALA to Child Care Services (CCS) within 10 business days of the completion date.

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 Quality Rated/CAPS Update:**

As January 1, 2022, child care providers must be Quality Rated to receive Childcare and Parent Services (CAPS). Newly licensed, or new to CAPS providers may be eligible for the new CAPS/QR Provisional Status, allowing for scholarships while working toward a star rating.

**Contact the Quality Rated help desk at 855-800-7747 or [qualityrated@dec.state.ga.us](mailto:qualityrated@dec.state.ga.us) for more information. Free technical assistance is available!**

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Deion Booker, Program Official

Date

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April Brown, Regional Consultant

Date



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**(Findings Report)**

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The following information is associated with a Complaint Investigation Follow Up:

**Activities and Equipment**

**591-1-1-.12 Equipment & Toys(CR)**

**Met**

**Comment**

Consultant discussed with the director that a variety of age-appropriate toys and play materials be available, stored on low, open shelves accessible to children in each room or assigned area. The director reported that the new toys and equipment has been ordered with an arrival date of June 21, 2023 for all classrooms with children in care.

**Correction Deadline: 8/17/2023**

**Facility**

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

**Met**

**Comment**

The director reported that all new playground equipment has been ordered and the remaining will be removed. The contractor reported that the process would take up to six weeks. Consultant discussed an alternative outdoor plan for children in care with the director on this date to ensure children have outdoor play time with age appropriate equipment and toys.

**Health and Hygiene**

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

**Technical Assistance**

**Technical Assistance**

Please ensure diapers are changed on a diaper changing surface, the surface shall be smooth, nonporous, and equipped with a guard or rails to prevent falls as required.

**Correction Deadline: 7/18/2023**