



**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

**Cover Sheet**

**Date:** 10/18/2021 **VisitType:** Complaint Investigation by Phone **Arrival:** 12:30 PM **Departure:** 4:30 PM

**CCLC-46772**

**Stepping Stones Academy**

1108 Bear Creek Blvd Hampton, GA 30228 Henry County  
(770) 707-3955 hamptonssa@gmail.com

**Regional Consultant**

April Brown

Phone: (770) 357-5101

Fax: (770) 357-5102

april.brown@dec.al.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.
10/18/2021	Complaint Investigation by Phone	Good Standing	
08/18/2021	Complaint Investigation & Monitoring Visit	Good Standing	
08/18/2021	Complaint Closure	Good Standing	


**Ratios/License Capacity**

**Comments**

A Complaint Investigation was conducted on October 18, 2021. Previous citation and findings were all reviewed with the director. An in-person visit was not conducted due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Plan of Improvement: Developed This Date 10/18/2021

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.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



**Important New Deadlines:**

Due to the ongoing COVID restrictions, the deadline to become Quality Rated for programs who want to continue to receive Childcare and Parent Services (CAPS), has been extended to at least December 31, 2021.

Get started today! Sign up by completing a short online application: <https://qualityrated.decal.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@decal.ga.gov](mailto:qualityrated@decal.ga.gov)

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)

Stephanie Snyder, Program Official \_\_\_\_\_

Date

April Brown, Consultant \_\_\_\_\_

Date



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### Findings Report

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The following information is associated with a Complaint Investigation by Phone:

<b>Safety</b>
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**591-1-1-.13 Field Trips(CR)**

**Not Met**

**Finding**

591-1-1-.13(2) requires Center Staff to obtain written permission from Parents in advance of the child's participation in any field trip and such permission must be signed and dated by a Parent. It was determined that on undetermined dates children in care were allowed to walk to the store located beside the center with an adult staff member without the center obtaining written permission from the parents.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

Center Staff will have and use a system to obtain written field trip permission in advance and ensure the permission is signed and dated by the responsible person.

**Correction Deadline: 10/18/2021**

**591-1-1-.36 Transportation(CR)**

**Met**

**Correction Deadline: 8/19/2021**

**Corrected on 10/18/2021**

**Correction of citation in that the first check was immediately documented in writing as required on the transportation checklists from September 24, 2021 through October 8, 2021 from Beaverbrook Elementary School.**