



**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:** 11/23/2021 **VisitType:** Monitoring Visit

**Arrival:** 12:55 PM

**Departure:** 1:35 PM

**CCLC-48490**

**First Steps Academy Preschool LLLP**

317 W 32nd Street Savannah, GA 31401 Chatham County  
(912) 238-0105 fstepsacademy@yahoo.com

**Regional Consultant**

Stacey Foston

Phone: (706) 806-0407

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stacey.foston@decal.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.
11/23/2021	Monitoring Visit	Good Standing	
06/14/2021	Licensing Study	Good Standing	
12/10/2020	Monitoring Visit	Good Standing	

**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, front	Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds and Five Year Olds	1	10	C	13	C	NA	NA	Nap
Main	B, back	Infants and One Year Olds	1	4	C	6	C	NA	NA	Nap
Main	C, Right	Six Year Olds and Over	1	4	C	6	C	NA	NA	Free Play
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 25						Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0				
Total # Children this Date: 18			Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 25			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0				

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	A	22	C

**Comments**

A virtual inspection was conducted on November 23, 2021 with the Director. An in-person visit was not conducted due to the COVID-19 pandemic.  
A copy of this report was emailed to the center on November 30, 2021.

Plan of Improvement: No Plan Developed

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.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



### 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)

Renee Campbell, Program Official

Date

Stacey Foston, Consultant

Date



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### Findings Report

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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)**

**N/A**

**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)**

**Met**

**Comment**

A Virtual Visit was conducted due to the COVID-19 pandemic. No hazards were observed accessible to the children during the virtual walkthrough on this date. The center will be mindful to keep items that may pose a hazard inaccessible to the children.

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

**Met**

**Comment**

Discussed maintenance of resilient surface. Please add mulch around the tricycle merry-go-round.

#### Health and Hygiene

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

**Met**

**Comment**

Staff stated proper knowledge of diapering procedures.

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

**Comment**

A Virtual Visit was conducted due to the COVID-19 pandemic. During the virtual walk through on this date, handwashing supplies were observed at all sinks. Discussed hand washing requirements with the director.

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

**Comment**

The Provider currently does not dispense/administer medication.

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**Safety**

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

**Comment**

Discipline was not directly observed during the virtual walk through. The center's discipline policy and practices were discussed with the director.

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**591-1-1-.36 Transportation(CR)** **N/A**

**Comment**

Center does not provide routine transportation.

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**Sleeping & Resting Equipment**

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

**Comment**

Pleasant naptime environment observed.

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**Staff Records**

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**Records Reviewed: 5**

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

Staff # 1 Met

Date of Hire: 10/03/2000

Staff # 2 Met

Date of Hire: 08/01/1996

Staff # 3 Met

Date of Hire: 10/08/2021

Reminder - Health & Safety training is required within 90 calendar days of hired

Staff # 4 Met

Date of Hire: 11/20/2017

Staff # 5 Met

Date of Hire: 02/02/2016

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**Staff Credentials Reviewed: 1**

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

**Comment**

Criminal record checks were observed to be complete.

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**591-1-1-.31 Staff(CR)****Technical Assistance****Comment**

Staff observed to be compliant with applicable laws and regulations.

**Technical Assistance**

591-1-1-.31(2)(b)3.(iii) - Discussed with the director about obtaining updated documentation from the instructor regarding the teachers progress towards obtaining a credential.

**Correction Deadline: 11/23/2021**

<b>Staffing and Supervision</b>
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**591-1-1-.32 Staff:Child Ratios and Group Size(CR)****Met****Comment**

Center observed to maintain appropriate staff:child ratios.

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**591-1-1-.32 Supervision(CR)****Met****Comment**

Adequate supervision observed on this date.