



**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:** 9/28/2022 **VisitType:** Monitoring Visit

**Arrival:** 10:35 AM **Departure:** 12:55 PM

**CCLC-39611**

**First Steps Child Development Center**

3714 Salem Rd Covington, GA 30016 Newton County  
 (770) 788-8555 tawanbridg@aol.com

**Regional Consultant**

Kesha McNeal

Phone: (866) 359-1672  
 Fax: (866) 359-7490  
 kesha.mcneal@dec.al.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.
09/28/2022	Monitoring Visit	Good Standing	
01/19/2022	Monitoring Visit	Good Standing	
09/09/2021	Licensing Study	Good Standing	

  

<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.

**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	1LRt Hall Cookie Monster's	Two Year Olds	2	9	C	16	C	NA	NA	Lunch, Transitioning
Main	Count's Castle Rt Side	PreK	2	20	C	22	C	31	C	Outside, Transitioning
Main	Left Hall 1L Baby Bear's Crib	One Year Olds	2	7	C	10	C	NA	NA	Diapering, Outside, Transitioning, Lunch
Main	Left Hall 1R Big Birs's Nest		0	0	C	16	C	NA	NA	
Main	Left Hall Oscars Cove 2L	Three Year Olds	2	13	C	21	C	29	C	Outside, Lunch, Transitioning

Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 85

Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 102

Total # Children this Date: 49

Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 85

Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 102

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	A- 6Wks-5 Yrs	24	C
Main	B- 6 Wks -12 yrs	7	C

**Comments**

Director provided two file(s) for employees hired since last visit.

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



### 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!**

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)

---

Tawanna Bridges, Program Official

Date

---

Kesha McNeal, 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:** 9/28/2022 **VisitType:** Monitoring Visit **Arrival:** 10:35 AM **Departure:** 12:55 PM

**CCLC-39611**

**First Steps Child Development Center**

3714 Salem Rd Covington, GA 30016 Newton County  
(770) 788-8555 tawanbridg@aol.com

**Mailing Address**  
Same

**Regional Consultant**

Kesha McNeal

Phone: (866) 359-1672

Fax: (866) 359-7490

kesha.mcneal@decal.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.

**Comment**

Discussed rotating toys to support the procedures of daily disinfecting.

**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**

Center appears clean and well maintained.

**Comment**

No hazards observed accessible to children on this date.

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

**Technical Assistance**

**Technical Assistance**

591-1-1-.26(4) - Please ensure that playgrounds be protected from traffic or other hazards by a (4) four foot high fence or other barrier approved by this Department. Fencing material shall not present a hazard to children and shall be maintained so as to prevent children from leaving the playground area by any means other than through an approved access route. Fence gates shall be kept closed except when persons are entering or exiting the area. On this date the consultant observed a three inch fence gap on the toddler playground located on the right middle section across from the yellow slide.

**Correction Deadline: 9/28/2022**

**Technical Assistance**

591-1-1-.26(9) - Please ensure that the playground its 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. On this date the consultant observed the wooden border on the school age playground has spots of weathering.

**Correction Deadline: 9/28/2022**

**Health and Hygiene**

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

**Comment**

Proper diapering procedures observed.

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

**Comment**

Proper hand washing observed throughout the center.

**591-1-1-.20 Medications(CR)** **N/A**

**Comment**

The Provider currently does not dispense/administer medication.

**Safety**

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

**Comment**

Staff were observed to maintain a positive learning environment on this date.

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

**Comment**

A current/completed inspection was observed for all vehicles used in transporting children this date.

**Comment**

Complete documentation of transportation observed.

**Comment**

The vehicle had an approved fire extinguisher and first aid kit on this date.

**Sleeping & Resting Equipment**

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

**Comment**

Pleasant naptime environment observed.

**Comment**

The correct number of mats, sheets and blankets were observed on this date. Cleaning and disinfecting of mats was discussed with the director on this date.

**Staff Records**

**Records Reviewed: 11**

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

Staff # 1

Met

Staff # 2

Met

**Records Reviewed: 11**

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

Date of Hire: 04/01/2016

Staff # 3

Met

Date of Hire: 08/29/2022

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

Staff # 4

Met

Date of Hire: 08/22/2022

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

Staff # 5

Met

Date of Hire: 08/10/2021

Staff # 6

Met

Date of Hire: 01/24/2022

Staff # 7

Met

Date of Hire: 08/01/2014

Staff # 8

Met

Date of Hire: 05/11/2022

Staff # 9

Met

Date of Hire: 07/08/2021

Staff # 10

Met

Date of Hire: 09/07/2022

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

Staff # 11

Met

Date of Hire: 08/02/2013

**Staff Credentials Reviewed: 5**

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

**Met**

**Comment**

Criminal record checks were observed to be complete.

**Comment**

Director provided two file(s) for employees hired since last visit.

**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**

Center observed to maintain appropriate staff:child ratios.

---

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

**Met**

**Comment**

Adequate supervision observed on this date.