



**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:** 6/22/2022    **VisitType:** Monitoring Visit    **Arrival:** 11:00 AM    **Departure:** 1:00 PM

**CCLC-448**

**Stepping Stones Child Care - Free Home**

11930 Cumming Highway Canton, GA 30115 Cherokee County  
 (770) 844-7795 steppingstones@etcmail.com

**Regional Consultant**

Sondra Paster  
 Phone: (478) 314-5803  
 Fax: (478) 314-5811  
 sondra.paster@dec.al.gov

**Mailing Address**

201 Little River Farms Trail  
 Canton, GA 30115

**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.
06/22/2022	Monitoring Visit	Good Standing	
11/22/2021	Licensing Study	Good Standing	
04/29/2021	MV POI Follow Up	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	A1- Left Hallway Left	Infants and One Year Olds	2	9	C	16	C	NA	NA	Feeding,Nap,Flo or Play
Main	B- Left Hallway 3rd right room	One Year Olds	1	7	C	13	C	NA	NA	Lunch,Nap
Main	C- Left Hallway 2nd right	Two Year Olds and Three Year Olds	2	13	C	14	C	NA	NA	Lunch,Transitioning
Main	D-Left side 1st Rt. Pre-k		0	0	C	21	C	29	C	
Main	E- 2 R Right Side Back Three's	Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds	2	19	C	32	C	NA	NA	Transitioning,Lunch
Main	F- Front Right 1R Pre-k	Six Year Olds and Over	2	23	C	26	C	37	C	Lunch
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 122						Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 141				
Total # Children this Date: 71			Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 122			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 141				

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	Playground A Infant	46	C
Main	Playground B Middle	64	C
Main	Playground C Right	83	C

## Comments

Plan of Improvement: Developed This Date 06/22/2022

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)

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Tonya Barrett, Program Official

Date

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Sondra Paster, Consultant

Date



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**Findings Report**

**Date:** 6/22/2022 **VisitType:** Monitoring Visit

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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**

Equipment and furniture observed to be properly secured, as applicable.

**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 met by center.

**591-1-1-.25 Physical Plant - Safe Environment(CR)**

**Met**

**Comment**

Please be mindful to keep items that pose a hazard inaccessible to children.

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

**Not Met**

**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 based on observation that the wooden jungle gym was observed to have splitting wood which resulted in sharp edges being exposed to children in care on the middle playground area. It was further determined that the protective covering over the metal flooring of the jungle gym on the left and right side play areas were observed to be breaking and peeling which resulted in sharp edges being exposed 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: 7/2/2022**

**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**

Staff were observed to remind children to wash hands.

**591-1-1-.20 Medications(CR) Not Met**

**Comment**

Documentation for medication dispensing observed complete for medication dispensed from June 6, 2022 through June 22, 2022.

**Finding**

591-1-1-.20(4) requires the Center to keep medication in a cabinet or container that is locked or otherwise not accessible to the children and to be stored separate from cleaning chemicals, supplies or poisons. Medications requiring refrigeration shall be placed in a leak-proof container in a refrigerator that is not accessible to the children. It was determined based on observation that classroom B (one-year-olds) were observed to have two children backpacks with multiple bottles of medication in each one that was accessible to children.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

The Center will train Staff on the safe and proper storage of medication and monitor to ensure that the rule is met.

**Correction Deadline: 6/22/2022**

**Safety**

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

**Comment**

Age-appropriate discussion and/or redirection observed.

**Comment**

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

**591-1-1-.13 Field Trips(CR) Met**

**Comment**

Field trip documentation observed to be complete.

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

**Comment**

Center does not provide routine transportation.

**Sleeping & Resting Equipment**

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

**Comment**

Discussed SIDS and infant sleeping position.

**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: 26**

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

Staff # 1 Date of Hire: 05/28/2021	Met
Staff # 2 Date of Hire: 02/01/1997	Met
Staff # 3	Met
Staff # 4 Date of Hire: 06/22/2022	Met <u>Reminder - Health &amp; Safety training is required within 90 calendar days of hired</u>
Staff # 5 Date of Hire: 05/31/2022	Met <u>Reminder - Health &amp; Safety training is required within 90 calendar days of hired</u>
Staff # 6 Date of Hire: 05/09/2011	Met
Staff # 7 Date of Hire: 05/26/2022	Met <u>Reminder - Health &amp; Safety training is required within 90 calendar days of hired</u>
Staff # 8 Date of Hire: 03/27/2001	Met
Staff # 9 Date of Hire: 01/28/2013	Met
Staff # 10 Date of Hire: 03/21/2022	Met
Staff # 11 Date of Hire: 02/21/2022	Met
Staff # 12 Date of Hire: 05/26/2022	Met <u>Reminder - Health &amp; Safety training is required within 90 calendar days of hired</u>
Staff # 13 Date of Hire: 02/04/2022	Met

**Records Reviewed: 26**

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

Staff # 14 Date of Hire: 06/08/2016	Met
Staff # 15 Date of Hire: 09/19/2018	Met
Staff # 16 Date of Hire: 06/23/2022	Met <u>Reminder - Health &amp; Safety training is required within 90 calendar days of hired</u>
Staff # 17 Date of Hire: 05/26/2022	Met <u>Reminder - Health &amp; Safety training is required within 90 calendar days of hired</u>
Staff # 18	Met
Staff # 19 Date of Hire: 07/26/2021	Met
Staff # 20 Date of Hire: 09/20/2021	Met
Staff # 21 Date of Hire: 01/27/2022	Met
Staff # 22	Met
Staff # 23 Date of Hire: 02/25/2022	Met
Staff # 24	Met
Staff # 25 Date of Hire: 03/16/2022	Met
Staff # 26 Date of Hire: 05/23/2022	Met <u>Reminder - Health &amp; Safety training is required within 90 calendar days of hired</u>

**Staff Credentials Reviewed: 8**

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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.

**Comment**

Director provided eight files for employees hired since last visit on November 22, 2021.

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

**Comment**

Staff observed to be compliant with applicable laws and regulations.

<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.