



**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:** 8/23/2022    **VisitType:** Complaint Investigation by Phone    **Arrival:** 2:00 PM    **Departure:** 2:30 PM

**CCLC-25589**

**Excell Preparatory Center**

5105 Salem Road Lithonia, GA 30038 DeKalb County  
 (770) 322-5210 Inelson@excellprep.com

**Regional Consultant**

Melyn Smith

Phone: (706) 855-3455

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melyn.smith@decal.ga.gov

**Mailing Address**  
 Same

**Quality Rated:** ★

<b>Compliance Zone Designation</b>		
08/23/2022	Complaint Investigation by Phone	Good Standing
05/27/2022	Licensing Study	Good Standing
04/08/2022	Complaint Closure	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 Rt		0	0		11	C	NA	NA	
Main	B- 2nd Rt-Infants		0	0		12	C	NA	NA	
Main	C- 3rd Rt- 1 y/o		0	0		16	C	NA	NA	
Main	D- 4th Rt- 1 y/o		0	0		16	C	NA	NA	
Main	E-5th Rt- 2 y/o		0	0		20	C	NA	NA	
Main	F-6th Right-2 y/o		0	0		20	C	NA	NA	
Main	G-1st Left- 3 y/o		0	0		25	C	NA	NA	
Main	H- 2nd Lft- 3 y/o		0	0		24	C	NA	NA	
Main	I- 3rd Lft-4 y/o		0	0		17	C	NA	NA	
Main	J-Back Hall-4 y/o		0	0		18	C	NA	NA	
Main	K-Back Hall-5 y/o		0	0		19	C	NA	NA	
Main	L-Back Hall-6y/o		0	0		18	C	NA	NA	
Main	M-Back Hall-End-7+		0	0		18	C	NA	NA	
Main	N-Cafeteria-5-12y/o		0	0		19	C	NA	NA	
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 253						Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0				
Total # Children this Date: 0			Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 759			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0				

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
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**Comments**

A virtual complaint/incident investigation was conducted on this date. An in-person visit was not conducted due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Investigative findings were not concluded on this date. Investigative findings were concluded on August 25, 2022. The Consultant completed exit conference virtually and a copy of the visit report was electronically emailed to the Program on August 25, 2022.

Plan of Improvement: Developed This Date 08/23/2022

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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Donna Brown, Program Official

Date

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Melyn Smith, Consultant

Date



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**Findings Report**

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

**Safety**

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

**Not Met**

**Finding**

591-1-1-.11(2) requires that Personnel not: physically or sexually abuse a child or engage or permit others to engage in sexually overt conduct in the presence of any child enrolled in the Center; inflict corporal/physical punishment upon a child; shake, jerk, pinch or handle a child roughly; verbally abuse or humiliate a child which includes, but is not limited to, the use of threats, profanity or belittling remarks about a child or his family; isolate a child in a dark room, closet or unsupervised area; use mechanical or physical restraints or devices to discipline children; use medication to discipline or control children's behavior without written medical authorization issued by a licensed professional and given with the parent's written consent; restrict unreasonably a child from going to the bathroom; punish toileting accidents; force-feed a child or withhold feeding a child regularly scheduled meals and/or snacks; force or withhold naps; allow children to discipline or humiliate other children; or confine a child for disciplinary purposes to a swing, highchair, infant carrier, walker or jump seat. It was determined, based on investigation, that on August 10, 2022, during lunch time, at approximately 12:00 P.M., a four-year-old child was thumped on the head by a staff member as a form of discipline. No professional medical attention was obtained.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

The Center will take immediate action to ensure the action/conduct has ceased; train/review appropriate child guidance techniques with center staff; and have a system in place to monitor and identify inappropriate actions.

**Correction Deadline: 8/23/2022**