



**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:** 8/24/2022    **VisitType:** Licensing Study    **Arrival:** 8:50 AM    **Departure:** 11:00 AM

**CCLC-3978**

**Stepping Stones Educational Therapy Center**

141 Futral Rd. Griffin, GA 30224 Spalding County  
 (770) 229-5511 e.johns@steppingstonesschool.org

**Regional Consultant**

Brandi Mangino  
 Phone: (478) 314-9726  
 Fax: (478) 599-0169  
 brandi.mangino@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.
08/24/2022	Licensing Study	Good Standing	
01/06/2022	Monitoring Visit	Good Standing	
08/16/2021	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	A-Left Hall	Infants	2	3	C	16	C	NA	NA	Feeding, Floor Play	
Main	B-Left Hall	One Year Olds	2	7	C	15	C	NA	NA	Circle Time	
Main	C-Left Hall	Two Year Olds	2	7	C	15	C	NA	NA	Outside	
Main	D-Left Hall	Three Year Olds	2	10	C	15	C	NA	NA	Centers	
Main	E-Left Hall		0	0	C	13	C	NA	NA		
Main	F-Rear Hall		0	0	C	12	C	NA	NA		
Main	L-Right Hall		0	0	C	12	C	NA	NA		
Main	M-Right Hall		0	0	C	13	C	NA	NA		
Main	N	PreK	2	16	C	22	C	NA	NA	Circle Time	
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.:					133	Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.:					0
Total # Children this Date: 43			Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.:			133	Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.:				0

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	Plgd	31	C
Main	Plgd-Inf./ Preschool	42	C

**Comments**

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 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@decal.ga.gov](mailto:qualityrated@decal.ga.gov) 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)

Emily Johns, Program Official

Date

Brandi Mangino, Consultant

Date



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**Findings Report**

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The following information is associated with a Licensing Study:

**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)**

**Not Evaluated**

**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.

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**591-1-1-.25 Physical Plant - Safe Environment(CR)****Not Met****Finding**

591-1-1-.25(13) requires that potentially hazardous equipment, materials and supplies be stored in a locked area inaccessible to children. It was determined based on observation that the following items were accessible to children in care:

2nd Left (one-year-old)  
-broom and dust pan in the restroom

1st Left (three-year-old)  
-baby wipes on changing station in restroom  
trash can with no lid

2nd Left (two-year-old)  
trash can with no lid  
baby wipes on diapering station

Pre-K:  
two staff bags  
trash can with no lid

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

The Center will identify all hazardous items and keep them in a locked area inaccessible to children. The Center will inform all Staff about hazardous items and the safe storage of those items.

**Correction Deadline: 8/24/2022**

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

Consultant discussed the 2nd Left gate had a gap that is need of being repaired. In addition, the cozy coupe car had busted wheels with sharpe edges.

**Correction Deadline: 8/24/2022**

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<b>Health and Hygiene</b>
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**591-1-1-.10 Diapering Areas & Practices(CR)****Met****Comment**

Proper diapering procedures observed.

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**591-1-1-.17 Hygiene(CR)****Not Met****Finding**

591-1-1-.17(8) requires staff to wash their hands with liquid soap and warm running water upon arrival for the day, when moving from one child care group to another, upon re-entering the child care area after outside play, before and after diapering each child, dispensing medication, applying topical medications, handling and preparing food, eating, drinking, preparing bottles, feeding each child, assisting children with eating and drinking, after toileting or assisting children with toileting, using tobacco products, handling garbage and organic waste, touching animals or pets, handling bodily fluids and after contamination by any means. It was determined based on observation that a center staff member cleaned noises and did not wash hand in between with warm running water.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

The Center will ensure liquid soap and warm running water are available for handwashing, train Staff on the handwashing requirements, review the requirements with Staff periodically, and monitor handwashing.

**Correction Deadline: 8/24/2022**

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<b>Safety</b>
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**591-1-1-.05 Animals** **Not Evaluated**

**Comment**

Center does not keep animals on premises.

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

**Comment**

Age-appropriate discussion and/or redirection observed.

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**591-1-1-.13 Field Trips(CR)** **Not Evaluated**

**Comment**

Center does not participate in field trips at this time.

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**591-1-1-.36 Transportation(CR)** **Not Evaluated**

**Comment**

Center does not provide routine transportation.

## Sleeping & Resting Equipment

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

**Technical Assistance**

Consultant discussed monitoring crib sheets.

**Correction Deadline: 9/3/2022**

## Staffing and Supervision

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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.