



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

Date: 8/15/2019 VisitType: Licensing Study

Arrival: 8:30 AM

Departure: 10:45 AM

CCLC-27904

Hallmark Heights Head Start

605 Hightower Street Valdosta, GA 31601 Lowndes County
(229) 244-7773 ajohnson@cpheadstart.org

Regional Consultant

Beth Houtz

Phone: (229) 238-2130

Fax: (229) 238-2955

beth.houtz@dec.al.ga.gov

Mailing Address

Same

Quality Rated: ★ ★ ★

| Compliance Zone Designation | | | 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. |
|-----------------------------|------------------|---------------|--|
| 08/15/2019 | Licensing Study | Good Standing | |
| 04/09/2019 | Monitoring Visit | Good Standing | |
| 09/25/2018 | Licensing Study | 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 | Rm A | PreK | 2 | 16 | C | 21 | C | NA | NA | Circle Time |
| Main | Rm B | Four Year Olds | 2 | 8 | C | 21 | C | NA | NA | Breakfast |
| Main | Rm C | Three Year Olds | 2 | 16 | C | 20 | C | NA | NA | Breakfast |
| Main | Rm D | Three Year Olds | 2 | 12 | C | 21 | C | NA | NA | Breakfast |
| Main | Rm E | Three Year Olds | 2 | 13 | C | 20 | C | NA | NA | Breakfast |
| Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 103 | | | Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0 | | | | | | | |
| Total # Children this Date: 65 | | | Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 103 | | | Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0 | | | | |

| Building | Playground | Playground Occupancy | Playground Compliance |
|----------|--------------|----------------------|-----------------------|
| Main | playground 1 | 98 | C |

Comments

The purpose of today's visit is a licensing study. This is the first visit of the fiscal year. The center is a Headstart Program that serves children ages three to four. The center does not transport children.

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.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

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@dec.state.ga.us.

- 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://www.dec.state.ga.us/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)



Important New Deadlines:

Your program must be Quality Rated by December 31, 2020 in order to continue to receive Childcare and Parent Services (CAPS).

Get started today! Sign up by completing a short online application: <https://qualityrated.dec.state.ga.us/>
Request free technical assistance to help you earn your star rating by contacting the Quality Rated help desk at 855-800-7747 or qualityrated@dec.state.ga.us

Antranette Johnson, Program Official

Date

Beth Houtz, Consultant

Date



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Findings Report

Date: 8/15/2019 **VisitType:** Licensing Study

Arrival: 8:30 AM

Departure: 10:45 AM

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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)

Met

Comment

Center does not provide swimming activities.

Children's Records

Records Reviewed: 5

Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 0

| | |
|-----------|-----|
| Child # 1 | Met |
| Child # 2 | Met |
| Child # 3 | Met |
| Child # 4 | Met |
| Child # 5 | Met |

591-1-1-.08 Children's Records

Met

Comment

Records were observed to be complete and well organized.

Facility

| | |
|------------------------------|------------|
| 591-1-1-.06 Bathrooms | Met |
|------------------------------|------------|

Comment

Bathrooms observed to be clean and well maintained.

| | |
|---|------------|
| 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 |
|--|------------|

Correction Deadline: 4/9/2019

Corrected on 8/15/2019

.25(13) - This citation was observed to be corrected on this date. All hazards have been removed and are no longer accessible to children in care.

| | |
|------------------------------------|------------|
| 591-1-1-.26 Playgrounds(CR) | Met |
|------------------------------------|------------|

Comment

Playground observed to be clean and in good repair.

| |
|---------------------|
| Food Service |
|---------------------|

| | |
|---|------------|
| 591-1-1-.15 Food Service & Nutrition | Met |
|---|------------|

Comment

Center menu meets USDA guidelines.

| | |
|---------------------------------------|------------|
| 591-1-1-.18 Kitchen Operations | Met |
|---------------------------------------|------------|

Comment

Kitchen appears clean and well organized.

| |
|---------------------------|
| Health and Hygiene |
|---------------------------|

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

Comment

There were no diapered children enrolled in the program on this date.

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

Comment

Proper hand washing observed throughout the center.

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

Comment

The Provider currently does not dispense/administer medication.

| |
|--------------------------------|
| Policies and Procedures |
|--------------------------------|

| | |
|--|------------|
| 591-1-1-.21 Operational Policies & Procedures | Met |
|--|------------|

Comment

Program observed complete emergency drills

| |
|---------------|
| Safety |
|---------------|

| | |
|----------------------------|------------|
| 591-1-1-.05 Animals | Met |
|----------------------------|------------|

Comment

Center does not keep animals on premises.

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

Comment

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

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

Comment

Center does not participate in field trips at this time.

| | |
|---------------------------------------|------------|
| 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

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: 8

Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 0

| | |
|--------------------------|-----|
| Staff # 1 | Met |
| Date of Hire: 05/04/2018 | |
| Staff # 2 | Met |
| Date of Hire: 03/06/2019 | |
| Staff # 3 | Met |
| Date of Hire: 08/27/2018 | |
| Staff # 4 | Met |
| Date of Hire: 09/07/2016 | |
| Staff # 5 | Met |
| Date of Hire: 03/04/2016 | |
| Staff # 6 | Met |
| Date of Hire: 09/01/2016 | |
| Staff # 7 | Met |
| Date of Hire: 02/16/2016 | |
| Staff # 8 | Met |

Date of Hire: 07/15/2019

Staff Credentials Reviewed: 9**591-1-1-.09 Criminal Records and Comprehensive Background Checks(CR)****Not Met****Finding**

591-1-1-.09(1)(c) requires the Center to ensure that every Employee has a valid and current satisfactory Comprehensive Records Check Determination on file prior to being present at the Center while any child is present for care or before an individual age 17 or older resides in the Center. The Comprehensive Records Check Determination must have a Records Check Clearance Date that is no older than the preceding 12 months of the hire date; provided, however, if the Employee has had a lapse of employment from the child care industry that lasted for 180 days (6 months) or longer, a new satisfactory Comprehensive Records Check Determination is required. It was determined based on a review of records that an employee on site did not have a satisfactory comprehensive background check letter on file due to the previous letter expiring on July 18, 2019.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

IMMEDIATE CORRECTION - The Center will monitor to ensure that every Employee has a valid and current satisfactory Comprehensive Records Check Determination on file prior to being present at the Center while any child is present for care or before an individual age 17 or older resides in the Center. The Comprehensive Records Check Determination must have a Records Check Clearance Date that is no older than the preceding 12 months of the hire date; provided, however, if the Employee has had a lapse of employment from the child care industry that lasted for 180 days (6 months) or longer, a new satisfactory Comprehensive Records Check Determination is required. The program's owner or an officer/member of the corporation must view the A to Z Background Check video units pertaining to this records check rule and return the signed affidavit within one week from this visit date. The center will monitor to ensure the CRC rules are maintained. an affidavit and a one day letter was left the center during the visit and the employee was registered to be fingerprinted during the visit. The employee will be fingerprinted by the end of the day per the Director.

Correction Deadline: 8/15/2019**Finding**

591-1-1-.09(1)(l)3. requires the Center to immediately require a new Comprehensive Records Check Determination for a Director, Employee or Provisional Employee at least once every five years. It was determined based on a review of records that an employee on site had a comprehensive satisfactory background check letter that expired on July 18, 2019. The employee had not applied for a new comprehensive background check letter at the time of the visit.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

IMMEDIATE CORRECTION - The Center will monitor to ensure that each Director, Employee and Provisional Employee has a Comprehensive Records Check Determination on file that has been issued within the past five years. The program's owner or an officer/member of the corporation must view the A to Z Background Check video units pertaining to this records check rule and return the signed affidavit within one week from this visit date. The Center will monitor to ensure CRC rules are maintained.

Correction Deadline: 8/15/2019**591-1-1-.14 First Aid & CPR****Met****Comment**

Evidence observed of 50% of center staff certified in First Aid and CPR.

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**

Center observed to maintain appropriate staff:child ratios.