



**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:** 2/27/2023    **VisitType:** Monitoring Visit    **Arrival:** 9:15 AM    **Departure:** 12:15 PM

**CCLC-1786**

**Ware County Head Start Center**

1235 McDonald Street Waycross, GA 31501 Ware County  
 (912) 285-1844 jmercercer@myactionpact.org

**Regional Consultant**

Connie Boatright

Phone: (912) 544-9701  
 Fax: (912) 544-9700  
 connie.boatright@decal.ga.gov

**Mailing Address**  
 Same

**Quality Rated:** ★ ★

<b>Compliance Zone Designation</b>		
02/27/2023	Monitoring Visit	Good Standing
08/18/2022	Licensing Study	Good Standing
03/17/2022	Monitoring Visit	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	1 HS Inclusion	Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds	3	13	C	21	C	NA	NA	Transitioning, Outside, Lunch
Main	1 Pre-K	GA PreK	2	17	C	31	C	NA	NA	Centers
Main	10 Multi Purpose		0	0	C	22	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
Main	11 Sensory Room		0	0	C	22	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
Main	12 Extended Care		0	0	C	22	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
Main	13 Outside Hall		0	0	C	21	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
Main	14 Outside Hall		0	0	C	21	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
Main	15 Outside Hall		0	0	C	21	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
Main	1a Head Start Hall	Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds	2	9	C	22	C	NA	NA	TV
Main	2 HS Inclusion	Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds	2	12	C	21	C	NA	NA	Transitioning, TV, Lunch
Main	2 Pre-K	GA PreK	2	16	C	25	C	NA	NA	Story
Main	2a Head Start Hall		0	0	C	21	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
Main	3 HS Inclusion		0	0	C	22	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
Main	3 Pre-K	GA PreK	2	15	C	25	C	NA	NA	Story
Main	3a Head Start Hall		0	0	C	21	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
Main	4 HS Inclusion		0	0	C	22	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
Main	4a Head Start Hall		0	0	C	21	C	NA	NA	Not In Use

Main	5 Head Start Hall	Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds	2	17	C	21	C	NA	NA	Transitioning,Lun ch
Main	5a Head Start Hall	Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds	2	16	C	24	C	NA	NA	TV
Main	6 Head Start Hall	Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds	2	11	C	21	C	NA	NA	Music
Main	7 Head Start Hall		0	0	C	24	C	NA	NA	Not In Use

Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 471

Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0

Total # Children this Date: 126

Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 471

Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	PG 1	56	C
Main	PG 2	67	C
Main	PG 3	30	C
Main	PG 4	93	C
Main	PG 5	49	C
Main	PG 6	52	C

### Comments

An in person Monitoring Visit was conducted on this day. The center director stated there is a total of 44 staff with 7 staff being new hires since the consultant's last regulatory visit. The center director stated no medication is provided, no field trips or routine transportation is provided. The center has added two new playgrounds which have been in use and have not submitted a request for an amendment to license the two playgrounds. Measurements were taken on this day.

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.

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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.

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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 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.al.ga.gov](mailto:qualityrated@dec.al.ga.gov) for more information. Free technical assistance is available!**

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Jeana Mercer, Program Official

Date

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Connie Boatright, Consultant

Date



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**(Findings Report)**

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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**

A variety of equipment and toys were observed throughout the center.

**Comment**

Toys and equipment were observed to be clean and in good repair.

**Correction Deadline: 2/27/2023**

**591-1-1-.35 Swimming Pools & Water-related Activities(CR)**

**Met**

**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**

No hazards observed accessible to children on this date.

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

**Not Met**

**Finding**

591-1-1.26(1)(a) requires that a Center with a licensed capacity of 19 or more children have ready access to an outdoor play area minimally one hundred square feet times one-third of the licensed capacity. It was determined based on observation and staff statement that two playgrounds have been added, are in use by one, two, and three-year-old children and the center has not submitted a request for an amendment to license the two playgrounds.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

The Center will implement a plan to add outdoor play space or limit the center's licensed capacity.

**Correction Deadline: 3/29/2023**

**Health and Hygiene**

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

**Comment**

Staff state proper knowledge of diapering procedures.

**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.

**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**

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**

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

**Comment**

Criminal record checks were observed to be complete.

**Comment**

Director provided 7 file(s) for employees hired since last visit.

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**591-1-1-.14 First Aid & CPR** **Met**

**Comment**

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

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**591-1-1-.33 Staff Training** **Met**

**Comment**

Documentation observed of required staff training.

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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**

Staff observed to provide direct supervision and be attentive to children's needs.