



**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:** 3/11/2020    **VisitType:** Licensing Study    **Arrival:** 10:00 AM    **Departure:** 1:30 PM

**CCLC-9098**

**Higher Excellence Learning Center**

1465 Burton Avenue Macon, GA 31204 Bibb County  
 (478) 751-2308 helc.learn@gmail.com

**Regional Consultant**

Yolanda Marable  
 Phone: (770) 357-9953  
 Fax: (678) 302-2432  
 yolanda.marable@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.  <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.
03/11/2020	Licensing Study	Good Standing	
07/23/2019	Monitoring Visit	Good Standing	
06/20/2019	Monitoring Visit	Support	

**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(2L) Infants- 2 Years	Infants and One Year Olds	2	7	C	10	C	NA	NA	Outside
Main	B (1L) two years	Two Year Olds	1	10	C	10	C	NA	NA	Circle Time
Main	C (1R) 3-5 Years	Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds	1	17	NC	23	C	NA	NA	Free Play,Art
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 43					Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0					
Total # Children this Date: 34			Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 43			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0				

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	Playground A	20	C
Main	Playground B	24	C

**Comments**

Plan of Improvement: Developed This Date 03/11/2020

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

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

- 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://decal.ga.gov/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.decal.ga.gov/>  
Request free technical assistance to help you earn your star rating by contacting the Quality Rated help desk at 855-800-7747 or [qualityrated@decal.ga.gov](mailto:qualityrated@decal.ga.gov)

JaJuandraula Green, Program Official

Date

Yolanda Marable, Consultant

Date



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**Findings Report**

**Date:** 3/11/2020 **VisitType:** Licensing Study

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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.

**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)**

**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 by consultants observation that hazardous material was accessible to children in classroom B and C.

**Room B (1L):**

Aquaphor healing ointment (keep out of reach of children)

**Room C (1R):**

- Hand sanitizer (keep out of reach of children)

-Disinfecting spray (keep out of reach of children)

**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: 3/11/2020**

**Recited on 3/11/2020**

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

**Comment**

Playground observed to be clean and in good repair.

**Health and Hygiene**

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

**Correction Deadline: 7/23/2019**

**Corrected on 3/11/2020**

**.10(4) - Previous citation corrected 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.

**Correction Deadline: 7/23/2019**

**Corrected on 3/11/2020**

**.20(4) - Previous citation corrected on this date.**

**Safety**

**591-1-1-.05 Animals Met**

**Comment**

Center does not keep animals on premises.

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

**Comment**

Age-appropriate discussion and/or redirection observed.

**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**

Discussed SIDS and infant sleeping position.

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

Criminal record checks were observed to be complete.

**591-1-1-.33 Staff Training****Not Met****Finding**

91-1-1-.33(5) requires that every calendar year after the first year of employment, all supervisory and caregiver Personnel, except independent contractors, Students-in-Training and volunteers shall attend ten (10) clock hours of diverse training which is task-focused in on-going health, safety and early childhood or child development related topics and which is offered by an accredited college, university or vocational program or other Department-approved source. The annual ten (10) clock hours of training shall be chosen from the following fields: child development, including discipline, guidance, nutrition, injury control and safety; health, including sanitation, disease control, cleanliness, detection and disposition of illness; child abuse and neglect, including identification and reporting, and meeting the needs of abused and/or neglected children; and business related topics, including parental communication, recordkeeping, etc.; provided however that such business related training shall be limited to no more than two (2) of the required ten (10) clock hours of training. Records of completion of such training shall be maintained, as required by these rules. It was determined based on review of records staff member number 14 completed eight out of ten hours for 2019 annual training.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

The Center will plan and schedule the required 10 hours of annual training each year and follow up to ensure the training is completed.

**Correction Deadline: 4/10/2020**

**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)****Not Met****Finding**

591-1-1-.32(1) requires the Center to maintain the required Staff:child ratios as follows: under 1 year or under 18 months if not walking = 1:6; 1 year and walking = 1:8; 2 years = 1:10; 3 years = 1:15; 4 years = 1:18; 5 years = 1:20; and 6 years and older = 1:25. A Center must establish groupings of children for care with maximum group sizes as follows: under 1 year = 12; under 18 months/not walking = 12; 1 year and walking = 16; 2 years = 20; 3 years = 30; 4 years = 36; 5 years = 40; and 6 years and older = 50. It was determined upon consultants arrival in classroom C there was one staff member with five three-year-olds and 12 four-year-olds.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

The Center will hire additional Staff or reschedule current Staff to meet required Staff:child ratios and will organize children into groups that meet requirements.

**Correction Deadline: 3/11/2020**

**Correction Deadline: 3/18/2020**

**Corrected on 3/11/2020**

**.32(2) - Previous citation corrected on this date.**

**Correction Deadline: 7/23/2019**

**Corrected on 3/11/2020**

**.32(4) - Previous citation corrected on this date.**

**Finding**

591-1-1-.32(7) requires that children be supervised at all times and that the persons supervising in the child care area be alert, able to respond promptly to the needs and actions of the children being supervised, as well as the actions of the chaperones and Students-in-Training, and provide timely attention to the children's actions and needs. It was determined based upon consultants arrival the second staff member for classroom C was in the office leaving the classroom with one staff member, five three-year-olds, and 12 four-year-olds without a second staff member present.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

The Center will train Staff and monitor to ensure they are providing supervision and watchful oversight to the children at all times.

**Correction Deadline: 3/11/2020**