



**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:** 10/28/2019 **VisitType:** Licensing Study

**Arrival:** 11:50 AM

**Departure:** 3:10 PM

**CCLC-684**

**Towns County Head Start/Pre-K**

1150 Konahetah Road Hiawassee, GA 30546 Towns County  
(706) 896-4131 mbmoss@townscountyschools.org

**Regional Consultant**

Colleen Covey

Phone: (706) 256-7245

Fax: (706) 256-7244

colleen.covey@dec.al.ga.gov

**Mailing Address**

PO Box 475  
Hiawassee, GA 30546

**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.
10/28/2019	Licensing Study	Good Standing	
03/28/2019	Licensing Study	Good Standing	
11/28/2018	Monitoring Visit	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	A01A (GA PreK)	Four Year Olds	2	14	C	21	C	NA	NA	Centers
Main	A02A (3 YR HS)	Three Year Olds	2	14	C	21	C	NA	NA	Music
Main	A07A (Four Year Olds)	PreK	2	16	C	24	C	NA	NA	Centers
Main	A08A (GA PreK)		0	0	C	20	C	NA	NA	
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 86					Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0					
Total # Children this Date: 44			Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 86			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0				

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	Playground	57	C

**Comments**

Follow up to the previous Licensing Study that was conducted on March 28, 2019 was completed on this date.

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.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)

Lisa Henderson, Program Official

Date

Colleen Covey, Consultant

Date



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### Findings Report

**Date:** 10/28/2019 **VisitType:** Licensing Study

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The following information is associated with a Licensing Study:

<b>Activities and Equipment</b>
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**591-1-1-.12 Equipment & Toys(CR)**

**Met**

**Comment**

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

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

**N/A**

**Comment**

Center does not provide swimming activities.

<b>Children's Records</b>
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**591-1-1-.08 Children's Records**

**Met**

**Comment**

Records were observed to be complete and well organized.

<b>Facility</b>
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**591-1-1-.06 Bathrooms**

**Met**

**Comment**

Bathrooms observed to be clean and well maintained.

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**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)**

**Met**

**Comment**

Center appears clean and well maintained.

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

**Comment**

Playground observed to be clean and in good repair.

**Food Service**

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

**Comment**

Center menu meets USDA guidelines.

**591-1-1-.18 Kitchen Operations** **N/A**

**Comment**

Meals are provided by the Towns County School District. The most recent health inspection was completed on October 1, 2019, with a score of 100 received.

**Health and Hygiene**

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**591-1-1-.10 Diapering Areas & Practices(CR)** **N/A**

**Comment**

The center does not serve diapered children.

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

**Comment**

Proper hand washing observed throughout the center.

**591-1-1-.20 Medications(CR)** **N/A**

**Comment**

The Provider currently does not dispense/administer medication.

**Safety**

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**591-1-1-.05 Animals** **N/A**

**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)** **N/A**

**Comment**

Center does not participate in field trips at this time.

**591-1-1-.36 Transportation(CR)** **N/A**

**Comment**

Center does not provide routine transportation.

**Sleeping & Resting Equipment**

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**591-1-1-.30 Safe Sleeping and Resting Requirements(CR)****Met****Comment**

The correct number of cots, sheets and blankets were observed on this date. Cleaning and disinfecting of mats was discussed with the director on this date.

The center does not serve infants.

<b>Staff Records</b>
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**591-1-1-.09 Criminal Records and Comprehensive Background Checks(CR)****Met****Comment**

Criminal record checks were observed to be complete for all staff employed on this date.

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

Evidence observed of 100% of center staff certified in First Aid and CPR.

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**591-1-1-.24 Personnel Records****Met****Comment**

Thank you for maintaining well organized staff records.

**Correction Deadline: 11/4/2019**

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

Documentation observed of required staff training for the 2018 year.

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**591-1-1-.31 Staff(CR)****Not Met****Comment**

Staff observed to be compliant with applicable laws and regulations.

**Finding**

591-1-1-.31(1)(a) requires the Center to have a Director who is responsible for the supervision, operation and maintenance of the Center. The Director must be on the Center's premises. If the Director is absent from the Center at any time during the hours of the Center's operation, there shall be an officially designated person on the Center site to assume responsibility for the operation of the Center, and this person shall have full access to all records required to be maintained under these rules. It was determined based on a review of records that the Director is listed as Director at more than one location.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

The Center will ensure a director, responsible for the supervision, operation and maintenance of the Center is on the premises. during operating hours. The Center will officially designate a person to assume responsibility for the operation of the Center when the director is not present who has full access to all records.

**Correction Deadline: 10/28/2019**

<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.

**Comment**

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