



**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:** 12/21/2021 **VisitType:** Licensing Study

**Arrival:** 2:00 PM

**Departure:** 2:30 PM

**CCLC-39263**

**Merry Hearts Daycare**

508 West 7th Street Rincon, GA 31326 Effingham County  
 (912) 826-9753 lagreeneg@gmail.com

**Mailing Address**

P.O. BOX 904  
 Rincon, GA 31326

**Regional Consultant**

Haley Carwile

Phone: (229) 317-9868

Fax: (229) 317-9865

haley.carwile@dec.al.ga.gov

**Quality Rated:** No

<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.
12/21/2021	Licensing Study	Good Standing	
01/28/2021	Monitoring Visit	Good Standing	
01/22/2020	Monitoring Visit	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		0	0	C	11	C	NA	NA	
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 11			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0							
Total # Children this Date: 0			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0							

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	PG A	77	C

**Comments**

No children enrolled and no children present on this visit.

Plan of Improvement: Developed This Date 12/20/2021

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/RuleAndRegulations.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](mailto: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://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](mailto:qualityrated@dec.state.ga.us)

Loretta Greene- Gaines, Program Official

Date

Haley Carwile, Consultant

Date



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

### Findings Report

**Date:** 12/21/2021 **VisitType:** Licensing Study

**Arrival:** 2:00 PM

**Departure:** 2:30 PM

**CCLC-39263**

**Merry Hearts Daycare**

508 West 7th Street Rincon, GA 31326 Effingham County  
(912) 826-9753 lagreeneg@gmail.com

**Mailing Address**  
P.O. BOX 904  
Rincon, GA 31326

**Regional Consultant**

Haley Carwile

Phone: (229) 317-9868  
Fax: (229) 317-9865  
haley.carwile@decal.ga.gov

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)**

**N/A**

**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**

Center appears clean and well maintained.

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

**Met**

**Comment**

A Virtual Visit was conducted due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This rule was unable to be evaluated in person and will be reviewed during the next regulatory visit. The consultant discussed daily monitoring of the playground and playground equipment to ensure that hazards are not present while children are present for care.

#### Health and Hygiene

---

**591-1-1-.10 Diapering Areas & Practices(CR)****Not Evaluated****Comment**

There were no children enrolled in the program on this date. Proper diaper facilities were observed with warm running water and proper ventilation.

---

**591-1-1-.17 Hygiene(CR)****Not Evaluated****Comment**

There were no children enrolled on this date. Proper hand washing of children and staff was discussed with the director on this date.

---

**591-1-1-.20 Medications(CR)****Not Evaluated****Comment**

The Provider currently does not dispense/administer medication.

<b>Safety</b>
---------------

---

**591-1-1-.05 Animals****Not Evaluated****Comment**

Center does not keep animals on premises.

---

**591-1-1-.11 Discipline(CR)****Not Evaluated****Comment**

There were no children enrolled on this date. The center's discipline policy was reviewed on this date. Regulations regarding proper discipline were discussed with the director on this date.

---

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

<b>Sleeping &amp; Resting Equipment</b>
---

---

**591-1-1-.30 Safe Sleeping and Resting Requirements(CR)****Not Evaluated****Comment**

No children enrolled. No children present.

<b>Staff Records</b>
----------------------

---

**Records Reviewed: 2****Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 0**

Staff # 1

Met

Staff # 2

Met

---

**Staff Credentials Reviewed: 2**

---

---

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

Consultant requested to view all Criminal Record checks for employees hired after last visit. Director stated that there have been no new hires since last visit

**Comment**

Criminal record checks were observed to be complete.

---

**591-1-1-.14 First Aid & CPR****Not Met****Finding**

591-1-1-.14(1) requires the Center Director and, at any given time, at least fifty percent (50%) of the caregiver Staff to successfully complete a biennial training program in cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and a triennial training program in first aid. The first aid training must be done by certified or licensed health care professionals or trainers and must deal with the provision of emergency care to infants and children. The Center shall maintain current evidence of the successful completion of such training which shall be available to the Department for inspection. It was determined based on the director's statement that she has not updated her CPR/First Aid as required.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

The Center Director and at least 50% of the caregiver Staff will complete the needed training. The Director will send written verification to the consultant upon completion and will develop a plan to ensure that at least 50% of the caregiver Staff have completed this training at any given time and that evidence of successful completion of the training is on file available for inspection.

**Correction Deadline: 1/20/2022**

---

**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 the director's statement that ten hours of annual training for 2021 has not been completed.

**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: 1/20/2022**

---

**591-1-1-.31 Staff(CR)****Met****Comment**

Staff observed to be compliant with applicable laws and regulations.

<b>Staffing and Supervision</b>
---------------------------------

---

**591-1-1-.32 Staff:Child Ratios and Group Size(CR)****Not Evaluated****Comment**

There were no children enrolled on this date. Proper ratios and classroom capacities were discussed with the director on this date.

**Comment**

There were no children enrolled on this date. Proper supervision of children, including being prompt to children's needs, was discussed with the director on this date.