



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: 6/4/2025 **VisitType:** Incident Investigation & Follow Up **Arrival:** 12:00 PM **Departure:** 3:45 PM

CCLC-1493

Children's Academy of Hickory Flat

4360 Hickory Rd. Canton, GA 30115 Cherokee County
(770) 345-2929 cahf.parentinfo@gmail.com

Special Investigations Unit Specialist

Stephanie Ellis

Phone: (470) 442-4722

Fax: (470) 226-2710

stephanie.ellis@decal.ga.gov

Mailing Address

Same

Quality Rated: No

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.
06/04/2025	Incident Investigation & Follow Up	Good Standing	
02/04/2025	Incident Investigation Closure	Good Standing	
07/29/2024	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
Bldg 1	C- Second Left Room	Four Year Olds and Five Year Olds	1	18	C	20	C	NA	NA	Lunch
Bldg 1	D- First Left	Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds	1	15	C	17	C	NA	NA	Nap
Bldg 1	E- First Right	Two Year Olds	1	10	C	18	C	NA	NA	Nap
Bldg 1	F-Second Right	One Year Olds and Two Year Olds	1	11	NC	18	C	NA	NA	Nap
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.:			73		Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0					
Bldg 2	A- Downstairs	Six Year Olds and Over	2	22	C	25	C	NA	NA	Lunch
Bldg 2	B- Upper Level-Infants	Infants and One Year Olds	2	9	C	10	C	NA	NA	Floor Play
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.:			35		Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0					
Total # Children this Date: 85			Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 108		Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0					

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Bldg 1	Playground A:	31	C
Bldg 1	Playground B: Preschool	23	C
Bldg 1	Playground C	78	C
Bldg 1	Playground: Toddler Play Area	9	C

Comments

The purpose of this visit was to conduct an incident investigation.

Plan of Improvement: Developed This Date

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.decgal.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), do the following:

- 1) Log into DECAL KOALA www.decalkoala.com with the user id 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.

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:

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 CAPS/ QR Provisional Status, allowing for scholarships while working toward an initial star rating. Provisional Status eligibility will be determined at the time of CAPS enrollment as part of the CAPS application process.

Contact the Quality Rated help desk at 855-800-7747 or qualityrated@decgal.ga.gov for more information. Free technical assistance is available!



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(Findings Report)

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The following information is associated with a Incident Investigation & Follow Up:

Safety

591-1-1-.36 Transportation(CR)

Not Met

Finding

591-1-1-.36(7)(c)2. requires that the driver or other designated person shall immediately document in writing, with a check or other mark/symbol to account for each child listed on the passenger transportation checklist each time a child enters and exits the vehicle. The driver or other designated staff person shall document in writing with a different mark/symbol to account for each child listed on the passenger transportation checklist who was not present on the vehicle for any reason. An explanation shall be documented in writing whenever a child is transported to a field trip site but is not present on the return trip to the Center. It was determined based on a review of records that one out of two children on the Indian Knoll Elementary School Transportation were not marked as loaded or unloaded on May 5-9, 2025 and three out of three children were not marked as loaded or unloaded on the Hickory Flat Elementary transportation form on May 19-23, 2025 on this date.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The driver/other designated person will immediately document in writing with a check/mark/symbol each time a child gets on and off the vehicle.

Correction Deadline: 6/4/2025

Recited on 6/4/2025

Correction Deadline: 7/30/2024

Corrected on 6/4/2025

.36(7)(d)1. - The previous citation was corrected. The consultant reviewed three different weeks of transportation records from Hickory Flat Elementary and Indian Knoll Elementary May 5-9, 2025, May 12-16, 2025, and May 19-23, 2025, they all contained the first check signature on this date.

Correction Deadline: 7/29/2024

Corrected on 6/4/2025

.36(7)(d)2. - The previous citation was corrected. The consultant reviewed three different weeks of transportation records from Hickory Flat Elementary and Indian Knoll Elementary May 5-9, 2025, May 12-16, 2025, and May 19-23, 2025, they all contained the second check signature on this date.

Staffing and Supervision

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 based on observation that in the F-Second Right classroom there were nine 1-year-old and two 2-year-old children present in the classroom with one staff member on this date.

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: 6/4/2025