



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: 1/27/2025 **VisitType:** Licensing Study

Arrival: 1:35 PM **Departure:** 5:00 PM

CCLC-33726

The Highlander School

1212 McPherson Ave. Atlanta, GA 30316 DeKalb County
(404) 221-2420 preschoolrocks365@gmail.com

Regional Consultant

Jessica Johnson

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Mailing Address

Same

Quality Rated: ★ ★

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.
01/27/2025	Licensing Study	Good Standing	
12/05/2024	POI Follow Up	Good Standing	
12/02/2024	Initial-TA	NA	

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	A1- 1st right	Infants and One Year Olds	2	7	C	8	C	NA	NA	Snack,Free Play,Floor Play
Main	A2 - 1R - Napping		0	0	C	5	C	NA	NA	
Main	B - 2nd right	Two Year Olds and Three Year Olds	2	10	C	18	C	NA	NA	Nap
Main	Back Left	Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds and Five Year Olds	2	15	C	20	C	NA	NA	Nap
Main	C - 1st Left	One Year Olds and Two Year Olds	2	9	C	14	C	NA	NA	Nap
			Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 65			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0				
Total # Children this Date: 41			Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 65			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0				

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	Deck Play Area	3	C
Main	Front/Side	14	C
Main	Playground	83	C

Enrolled Children						
Under 1 years	1 years	2 years	3 years	4 years	5 years (Prekonly)	5 years and older
3	8	11	17	5	0	1

Comments

An on-site inspection was conducted on January 27, 2025 with the Director Rukia Rogers. Staff files, children's files, training, and background checks were all reviewed.

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 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.

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@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 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.

Children's Records

Records Reviewed: 5

Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 1

Child # 5

Not Met

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.08(1)(a)-Work Number Missing

591-1-1-08 Children's Records

Technical Assistance

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-08(1) - The Consultant discussed with the Director updating the parent work telephone numbers in child # 5 file.

Correction Deadline: 1/27/2025

Facility

591-1-1-06 Bathrooms

Met

Comment

Bathrooms observed to be clean and well maintained.

591-1-1-19 License Capacity(CR)

Met

Comment

Licensed capacity observed to be routinely met by center.

Comment

Please secure cleaning tools (i.e., broom, plunger) out of reach of children.

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 based on observation that the following hazards were observed:

A1-1st right

- Loose hanging lights around the patio door accessible to children in care..

A2- 1R (napping)

- Diaper wipes and Aquaphor in a brown storage bin on the bottom of the white shelf in the napping room accessible to children in care.

B-2nd Right

- Borax in an unlocked white cabinet near the sink accessible to children in care.

Back Left

- Gloss finish in an unlocked white cabinet near the sink in the back room accessible to children in care.
- Hanging light on the back wall accessible to children in care.

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: 2/10/2025

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.25(8) - The Consultant discussed with the Director that protective caps must be on all unused electrical outlets within children's reach and requires that electrical outlets in use be made inaccessible to children.

Correction Deadline: 1/27/2025

591-1-1-.26 Playgrounds(CR)**Not Met****Finding**

591-1-1-.26(4) requires that playgrounds be protected from traffic or other hazards by a (4) four foot high fence or other barrier approved by this Department. Fencing material shall not present a hazard to children and shall be maintained so as to prevent children from leaving the playground area by any means other than through an approved access route. Fence gates shall be kept closed except when persons are entering or exiting the area. It was determined based on observation that protruding nails were observed on the right fence.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will routinely check the fence to determine if it is in good repair and remains at least 4 feet high, and will repair any hazards. The Center will train Staff to identify and report any fence hazards and to keep the fence gates closed when not in use.

Correction Deadline: 2/10/2025

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.26(9) - The Consultant discussed spray painting the tree trunk on the left side of the Large playground.

Correction Deadline: 1/27/2025

Finding

591-1-1-.26(9) requires the playground to be kept clean, free from litter and free of hazards, such as but not limited to rocks, exposed tree roots and exposed sharp edges of concrete. It was determined based on observation that the following hazards were observed:

Deck Play Area

- A metal wire around the wooden post on the right side of the deck.

Large Playground:

- A bicycle was observed on left side of the building.
- Discarded wooden panels with nails on the left side near the fence.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will remove any litter and fix or remove hazards from the playground and will routinely monitor the playground and remove litter and hazards.

Correction Deadline: 2/3/2025

Recited on 1/27/2025

Food Service**591-1-1-.15 Food Service & Nutrition****Technical Assistance****Technical Assistance**

591-1-1-.15(3) - The Consultant discussed with the Director that baby bottles and formula must be refrigerated at a temperature of forty (40) degrees Fahrenheit or less. The Consultant discussed adding a thermometer to the refrigerator in classroom A1-1st Right.

Correction Deadline: 1/27/2025

591-1-1-.18 Kitchen Operations**Technical Assistance****Technical Assistance**

591-1-1-.18(5) - The Consultant discussed with the Director that the refrigeration of all perishable and potentially hazardous foods must be at 40 degrees Fahrenheit or below and served promptly after cooking. Freezer temperature shall be maintained at zero (0) degrees Fahrenheit or below.

Correction Deadline: 1/27/2025

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**

Staff were observed to remind children to wash hands.

591-1-1-.20 Medications(CR)**Met****Comment**

The Provider currently does not dispense/administer medication.

Policies and Procedures**591-1-1-.21 Operational Policies & Procedures****Technical Assistance****Technical Assistance**

591-1-1-.21(1)(p) - The Consultant discussed with the Director updating the emergency preparedness plans. The Consultant discussed that the Center must have a written plan for handling emergencies, including but not limited to severe weather, loss of electrical power or water and death, serious injury or loss of a child, a threatening event, or natural disaster which may occur at the Center; to have in place procedures for evacuation, relocation, shelter-in-place, lock-down, communication and reunification with families, and continuity of operations. The plan must apply to all children in care and include specific accommodations for infants and toddlers, children with disabilities, and children with chronic medical conditions and shall include assurance that no Center Personnel will impede in any way the delivery of emergency care or services to a child by licensed or certified emergency health care professionals.

Correction Deadline: 2/1/2025

Safety

591-1-1-.05 Animals	Met
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Comment

Center does not keep animals on premises.

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

Staff were observed to maintain a positive learning environment on this date.

591-1-1-.13 Field Trips(CR)	Met
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Comment

Center does not participate in field trips at this time.

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

Center does not provide routine transportation.

Sleeping & Resting Equipment

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

Discussed SIDS and infant sleeping position.

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.

Finding

591-1-1-.30(1)(a)3 requires that each crib shall have only an individual, tight-fitting sheet which is changed daily or more often as needed and prior to a change of occupant. It was determined based on observation that one out of six crib sheets were loose and not tight fitting.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The center will ensure that each crib has an individual, tight-fitting sheet which is changed daily or more often as needed and prior to a change of occupant.

Correction Deadline: 2/10/2025

Staff Records

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

Criminal record checks were observed to be complete.

591-1-1-.09 Criminal Records Check(CR)	Met
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Comment

Criminal records checks were observed to be complete.

591-1-1-.14 First Aid & CPR	Not Met
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Comment

Complete first aid kit observed in the center.

Finding

591-1-1-.14(2) requires a Staff member who is trained in CPR and first aid to be on the premises and on any field trip whenever any child is present. In addition, Staff who provide direct care to children must satisfactorily obtain certification in first aid and CPR by December 29, 2016 if employed prior to September 30, 2016 and within 90 days of their hire date if employed after September 30, 2016. It was determined based a review of records that Staff # 4 (hired on August 12, 2024), Staff # 12 (hired on May 1, 2012) and Staff # 14 (hired on June 3, 2024) did not complete the first aid and CPR training within 90 days of hire.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will develop a schedule to ensure there is always a staff person with current first aid and CPR training present and will develop and implement a plan to ensure all staff members have satisfactorily completed first aid and CPR training by the specified date.

Correction Deadline: 2/27/2025

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

Documentation observed of required staff training.

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

591-1-1-.31(2)(b)2. requires teachers and lead caregivers to meet minimum academic requirements and qualifying experience at the time of employment. It was determined based on a review of records that staff # 11 (hired on July 23, 2023) did not have the lead teacher credential on file on this date.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

A teacher/lead caregiver will be hired that meets the minimum academic requirements and qualifying work experience.

Correction Deadline: 2/27/2025

Staffing and Supervision

591-1-1-.32 Staff:Child Ratios and Group Size(CR)**Met****Comment**

Center observed to maintain appropriate staff:child ratios.

591-1-1-.32 Supervision(CR)**Technical Assistance****Technical Assistance**

591-1-1-.32(7) - The Consultant discussed with the Director that children be supervised at all times appropriate to the individual age, needs and capabilities of each child. Such supervision must include, but not be limited to, indoor and outdoor activities, mealtimes, naptime, transportation, field trips, and transitions between activities. "Supervision" means that the appropriate number of Staff members are physically present in the area where children are being cared for and are providing watchful oversight to the children, volunteers and Students-in-Training. The persons supervising in the child care area must be alert, positioned to maximize their ability to hear and see the children at all times, and able to respond promptly to the needs and actions of the children being supervised, as well as the actions of the volunteers and Students-in-Training, and provide timely attention to the children's actions and needs. Staff shall be attentive and participating with all children during mealtimes and shall be seated within an arm's length away from children thirty-six (36) months of age and younger.

Correction Deadline: 1/27/2025