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: 10/3/2025 **VisitType:** Complaint Investigation & Monitoring Visit **Arrival:** 9:00 AM **Departure:** 3:00 PM

CCLC-53086
Start Bright Academy Hiram
64 Greystone Pkwy Hiram, GA 30141 Paulding County
(770) 943-0058

Regional Consultant
Kaiyah Werts
Phone: (912) 544-9793
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Mailing Address
Same

Quality Rated:

Compliance Zone Designation		
10/03/2025	Complaint Investigation & Monitoring Visit	Good Standing
10/01/2024	Incident Investigation & Follow Up	Good Standing
10/01/2024	Incident Investigation Closure	Good Standing

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.

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- Left Side 1L	Infants and One Year Olds	2	7	C	21	C	NA	NA	Floor Play,Free Play
Main	B- Left side 2R	One Year Olds	2	13	C	17	C	NA	NA	Outside
Main	C- Left side 1R	Two Year Olds	1	9	C	18	C	NA	NA	Outside
Main	D- Back center		0	0	C	22	C	NA	NA	
Main	E- Right Side 2R	Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds	1	12	C	37	C	NA	NA	Outside
Main	F- Right side 1R	Two Year Olds and Three Year Olds	2	12	C	29	C	NA	NA	Transitioning,Clean Up,Centers
		Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 144			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0					
Total # Children this Date: 53		Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 144			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0					

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	Back side of Bldg	64	C
Main	Left side of Bldg	23	C
Main	Right side of Bldg	114	C

Enrolled Children						
Under 1 years	**1 years**	**2 years**	**3 years**	**4 years**	**5 years (Prekonly)**	**5 years and older**
5	20	15	14	9	2	30

Comments
Consultant conducted a monitoring visit and a complaint investigation. The investigative findings were not concluded on this date. The investigation remained open pending additional information. Upon completion, the findings will be reviewed with the child care program and a final copy of the report will be sent.

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.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), 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@decal.ga.gov **for more information. Free techincal assistance is available!**

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Summary Report

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The following information is associated with a Monitoring Visit:

Activities and Equipment

591-1-1-.12 Equipment & Toys(CR) **Not Met**

Comment
Discussed adding equipment and toys to enhance variety.

Comment
Equipment and furniture observed to be properly secured, as applicable.

Technical Assistance
591-1-1-.12(1) - Discussed with the Director to please be sure staff are walking the playground to ensure children are using the outdoor play equipment the correct way and safely.

Correction Deadline: 10/3/2025

Finding
591-1-1-.12(2) requires that all equipment and furniture be free from hazardous conditions such as, but not limited to, sharp rough edges or toxic paint; and be kept clean. It was determined based on observation the following hazards were observed:

-Classroom B Left side 2R had a green child size chair and a blue child size couch and chair with small rips and tears.
-Classroom C Left side 1R had a blue child size couch with small rips and tears.
-Classroom Right side 1R had a red child size couch and chair with small rips and tears.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
The Center will ensure that equipment and furniture are used by the age-appropriate group of children.

Correction Deadline: 10/3/2025

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

Comment
Center does not provide swimming activities.

Facility

591-1-1-.06 Bathrooms **Met**

Comment
Bathrooms observed to be clean and well maintained.

Correction Deadline: 11/1/2024

Corrected on 10/3/2025
.06(4) - Previous citation observed corrected on this date. Consultant observed all exhaust vents, in classroom and bathrooms, to be working properly.

591-1-1-.19 License Capacity(CR) **Met**

Comment
Licensed capacity observed to be routinely met by center on this date.

591-1-1-.25 Physical Plant - Safe Environment(CR) **Not Met**

Comment
The Center appeared clean and well maintained on this date.

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 classroom F had baby wipes in a child's backpack labeled keep out of reach of children and a first aid kit bag hanging on a cubby hook accessible to 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: 10/3/2025

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

Finding
591-1-1-.26(8) requires climbing and swinging equipment to have a resilient surface beneath the equipment and the fall zone from such equipment must be adequately maintained by the Center to assure continuing resiliency. It was determined based on observation Playground Back side of Bldg had no resilient surface for the play structure approximately 5 feet tall when six inches are required.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
The Center will add additional resilient surfacing to the fall zones where needed and check daily, adding resilient surfacing as needed to maintain adequate resiliency.

Correction Deadline: 10/13/2025

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

-Playground Left Side of Bldg had torn rubber mats on the ground
-Playground Back Side of Bldg had a torn rubber mat and exposed concrete near the fence door.

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: 10/3/2025

Recited on 10/3/2025

Health and Hygiene

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

Comment
Proper diapering procedures observed.

591-1-1-.17 Hygiene(CR) **Not Met**

Technical Assistance
591-1-1-.17(2) - Discussed with the Director to please ensure children are clean, dry and comfortable during their outside time.

Correction Deadline: 10/3/2025

Finding
591-1-1-17(7) requires that children wash their hands with liquid soap and warm running water upon arrival for care, when moving from one child care group to another, upon re-entering the child care area after outside play, before and after eating meals and snacks, handling or touching food, playing in water; after toileting and diapering, playing in sand, touching animals or pets, and contact with bodily fluids and after contamination by any other means. It was determined based on observation in Classroom C Left side 1R staff conducted a diaper change and failed to remind a 2-year-old to wash their hands once diapering was completed.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
The Center will train Staff on required handwashing for children and Staff will ensure children's hands are washed when required. The Director will monitor for compliance.

Correction Deadline: 10/3/2025

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

Comment
The Provider currently does not dispense/administer medication.

Policies and Procedures

591-1-1-.29 Required Reporting **Met**

Comment
Thank you for reporting as required.

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) **Not Evaluated**

Comment
Center does not participate in field trips at this time.

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

Comment
A current/completed inspection was observed for all vehicles used in transporting children this date.

Comment
Complete documentation of transportation observed on this date.

Comment
The vehicle had an approved fire extinguisher and first aid kit on this date.

Sleeping & Resting Equipment

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

Comment
Discussed SIDS and infant sleeping position.

Staff Records

Records Reviewed: 13 **Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 1**

Staff # 8 Not Met

Date of Hire: 08/03/2020

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.09-Criminal Records Check Missing

591-1-1-.09 Criminal Records and Comprehensive Background Checks(CR) **Not Met**

Comment
Director provided seven files for employees hired since last visit.

Finding
591-1-1-.09(1)(c) requires the Center to ensure that every Employee has a valid and current satisfactory Comprehensive Records Check Determination on file prior to being present at the Center while any child is present for care or before an individual age 17 or older resides in the Center. The Comprehensive Records Check Determination must have a Records Check Clearance Date that is no older than the preceding 12 months of the hire date; provided, however, if the Employee has had a lapse of employment from the child care industry that lasted for 180 days (6 months) or longer, a new satisfactory Comprehensive Records Check Determination is required. It was determined based on review of records staff #8 was present and caring for children without a completed Criminal Records Check

POI (Plan of Improvement)
IMMEDIATE CORRECTION - The Center will view videos to ensure that every Employee has a valid and current satisfactory Comprehensive Records Check Determination on file prior to being present at the Center while any child is present for care or before an individual age 17 or older resides in the Center. The Comprehensive Records Check Determination must have a Records Check Clearance Date that is no older than the preceding 12 months of the hire date; provided, however, if the Employee has had a lapse of employment from the child care industry that lasted for 180 days (6 months) or longer, a new satisfactory Comprehensive Records Check Determination is required. The program's owner or an officer/member of the corporation must view the A to Z Background Check video units pertaining to this records check rule and return the signed affidavit within one week from this visit date. The center will view videos to ensure the CRC rules are maintained.

Correction Deadline: 10/3/2025

Finding
591-1-1-.09(1)(l)3. requires the Center to immediately require a new Comprehensive Records Check Determination for a Director, Employee or Provisional Employee at least once every five years. It was determined based on review of records staff #8 was present and caring for children with a Criminal Records Check that had expired and a new Records Check was not not completed.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
IMMEDIATE CORRECTION - The Center will view videos to ensure that each Director, Employee and Provisional Employee has a Comprehensive Records Check Determination on file that has been issued within the past five years. The program's owner or an officer/member of the corporation must view the A to Z Background Check video units pertaining to this records check rule and return the signed affidavit within one week from this visit date. The Center will view videos to ensure CRC rules are maintained.

Correction Deadline: 10/3/2025

591-1-1-.14 First Aid & CPR(CR) **Met**

Comment
Evidence observed of 100% of center Staff certified in First Aid and CPR containing emergency care for infants and children on this date.

Comment
Please replace/add missing/expired items in first aid kits on the vehicles used to transport children.

Correction Deadline: 10/31/2024

Corrected on 10/3/2025
.14(1) - Previous citation observed corrected. Consultant observed evidence of a completed CPR Certificate for each employer.

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

Comment
Health and Safety Orientation Training completed as required for each staff member with direct care responsibilities within 90 calendar days of their hire date.

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

Comment
Discussed that all lead staff must enroll in an approved education program within 6 months of hire and complete degree within 18 months.

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**

Comment
Consultant observed appropriate staff:child ratios in each classroom at the time of the visit..

Finding
591-1-1-.32(2) requires the Center maintain Staff:child ratios in mixed-age groups based on the age of the youngest group of children that includes more than twenty percent of the total number of children in the mixed-age group. It was determined based on observation three staff members were present on the playground with 24 children that ranged in age from 2-years-old to 4-years-old. It was further observed that one staff member walked inside the center to allow a child to use the bathroom leaving two staff members present with 23 children on the playground.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
The Center will provide adequate staff when there is a mixed-age group.

Correction Deadline: 10/3/2025

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

Comment
Adequate supervision observed on this date.

Technical Assistance
591-1-1-.32(7) - Discussed with the Director to ensure the staff has a clear view of the classroom while conducting diaper changes.

Correction Deadline: 10/3/2025

The following information is associated with a Complaint Investigation Visit:

Policies and Procedures

591-1-1-.29 Required Reporting **Met**

Correction Deadline: 10/4/2024

Corrected on 10/3/2025
.29(1) - Previous citation observed to be corrected on this date. Consultant observed incidents reported to the Department since the last visit.