



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: 2/18/2026 **VisitType:** Licensing Study

Arrival: 11:25 AM **Departure:** 3:30 PM

CCLC-671

Hart County PreK

500 North Richardson Street Hartwell, GA 30643 Hart County
(706) 376-9355

Regional Consultant

Lynn Schnitzer

Phone: (678) 717-5720

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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.
02/18/2026	Licensing Study	Good Standing	
11/21/2024	Licensing Study	Good Standing	
05/08/2024	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
Main	A-11 mnths-1 yr		0	0	C	8	C	NA	NA	
Main	B-1-2 yrs		0	0	C	8	C	NA	NA	
Main	C-4-5 yrs		0	0	C	21	C	NA	NA	
Main	D-4-5 yrs		0	0	C	21	C	NA	NA	
Main	E- 3-5 years		0	0	C	21	C	NA	NA	
Main	F-3-4 yrs		0	0	C	19	C	NA	NA	
Main	G-3-4 yrs		0	0	C	18	C	NA	NA	
Main	H-4-5 yrs		0	0	C	20	C	NA	NA	
Main	I-4-5 yrs		0	0	C	19	C	NA	NA	
Main	J-3-4 yrs		0	0	C	19	C	NA	NA	
Main	K-3-4 yrs		0	0	C	19	C	NA	NA	
Main	L		0	0	C	19	C	NA	NA	
Main	Library		0	0	C	19	C	NA	NA	
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 191			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0		Building @35 capacity limited by Fire Marshall Limitations					
Total # Children this Date: 0			Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 191		Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0					

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	Playground	521	C
Main	Playground-infant/toddler	71	C

Enrolled Children						
Under 1 years	1 years	2 years	3 years	4 years	5 years (Prekonly)	5 years and older
0	3	8	31	34	13	0

Comments

The consultant discussed the visit report with the Director, Vivian Craft, on February 18, 2026.

Plan of Improvement: No Plan Developed



For additional information regarding any licensing topics discussed during this visit, please consult the Rules and Regulations Indicator Manual. This manual provides comprehensive clarification of each rule, including evaluation indicators, related best practices, and relevant considerations to support your program's continued and sustained compliance.

To access the Indicator Manual, please scan the QR code below or visit our website at <https://www.decal.ga.gov/CCS/RulesAndRegulations.aspx>.

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

You have received permission to operate and the form received with this report is intended to serve as a temporary license which is **valid for thirty(30) days**. Your actual license/ will be emailed to you upon receipt of the licensing fee. You may pay the licensing fee either online at <http://www.decal.ga.gov/> or by certified check or money order mailed to: Bright from the Start, 2 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive SE, Suite 670 East Tower, Atlanta, GA 30334

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 technical assistance is available!



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Summary Report

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The following information is associated with a Licensing Study:

Activities and Equipment

591-1-1-.03 Activities

Technical Assistance

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.03(1) - Consultant discussed with director to ensure that classrooms have the current lesson plan posted.

Correction Deadline: 2/18/2026

591-1-1-.12 Equipment & Toys(CR)

Technical Assistance

Comment

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

Comment

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

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.12(2) - Consultant discussed with director to ensure that worn vinyl climbing pieces are removed from classroom A-11 mnths- 1 yr.

Correction Deadline: 2/18/2026

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

N/A

Comment

Center does not provide swimming activities.

Children's Records

591-1-1-.08 Children's Records

Met

Comment

Parent authorizations obtained/completed.

Comment

Records were observed to be complete and well organized.

Facility

591-1-1-.06 Bathrooms

Met

Comment

Bathrooms observed to be clean and well maintained.

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

Children were not present on this date.

591-1-1-.25 Physical Plant - Safe Environment(CR)	Met
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Comment

The Center appeared clean and well maintained on this date.

Correction Deadline: 11/21/2024

Corrected on 2/18/2026

.25(13) - The previous citation was observed corrected on this date. Children were not present on the date of the visit. The consultant discussed with director to ensure that the scissors with tapered ends are not accessible to children and used for adult supervised activities and that the classroom cabinet is kept locked when the children are present in classroom C and that the stapler is stored out of reach of children in classroom H.

591-1-1-.26 Playgrounds(CR)	Not Met
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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 there was a gap measuring 4 inches under the fence to the left of the gate on Playground-infant/toddler, and a gap measuring 7 inches under the fence at the back of the main playground.

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: 2/18/2026

Correction Deadline: 12/1/2024

Corrected on 2/18/2026

.26(6) - The previous citation was observed corrected on this date. The Consultant observed the playground equipment to be in good repair.

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.26(9) - Consultant discussed with director to ensure that the exposed roots are painted to prevent tripping and the cracked drainage tray is removed from the main playground and the holes under the sand dome closest to the canopy are filled in on playground - infant/toddler.

Correction Deadline: 2/18/2026

Food Service

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

Center menu meets USDA guidelines.

591-1-1-.18 Kitchen Operations	Met
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Comment

Kitchen appears clean and well organized on this date.

Health and Hygiene

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

Staff stated proper knowledge of diapering procedures.

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

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

Comment

The Provider currently does not dispense/administer medication.

Organization**591-1-1-.16 Governing Body & License**

Technical Assistance

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.16(f) - Consultant discussed with director the possibility of removing unused classrooms from the center's license via amendment.

Correction Deadline: 2/18/2026

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

Technical Assistance

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.21(2)(r) - New - Consultant discussed with director that the center's policies and procedures include a description of the practices followed by the Center to prevent shaken baby syndrome and abusive head trauma in children up to five years of age that includes the following information: how to recognize, respond to, and report the signs and symptoms of shaken baby syndrome and abusive head trauma; strategies to assist staff members in understanding how to care for infants and how to cope with a crying, fussing, or distraught child; strategies to ensure staff members understand the brain development of children up to five years of age; and a list of prohibited behaviors when dealing with children.

Correction Deadline: 2/23/2026

Comment

Program observed complete emergency drills

591-1-1-.27 Posted Notices

Met

Comment

Observed all required posted notices.

Safety**591-1-1-.05 Animals**

N/A

Comment

Center does not keep animals on premises.

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

Met

Comment

There were no children present 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)

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

Met

Comment

The center does not enroll infants.

Comment

The correct number of mats, sheets and blankets were observed on this date.

Staff Records

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

Criminal record checks were observed to be complete.

Comment

Director provided one files for employee hired since last visit November 21, 2024.

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

Complete first aid kits observed in center on this date.

Correction Deadline: 12/21/2024

Corrected on 2/18/2026

.14(2) - The previous citation was observed corrected on this date. The Consultant observed 100 percent of staff certified in pediatric first aid and CPR.

591-1-1-.33 Staff Training**Technical Assistance****Comment**

Documentation observed of required staff training.

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.33(3)(a)-(k) - New - Consultant discussed with director to ensure that center staff who originally took the 6-hour Health and Safety Orientation complete the required 10-hour. Consultant discussed that this would meet the 10-hour annual training requirements, but staff would still need to take two hours of language and literacy training and two hours in on-going child development and health and safety related topics for 2026.

Correction Deadline: 3/20/2026

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

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

591-1-1-.32 Supervision(CR)**Met****Comment**

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