



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: 8/1/2025 **VisitType:** Licensing Study

Arrival: 11:00 AM **Departure:** 1:30 PM

CCLC-47648
The YMCA A.V. Kennedy Learning Center
105 Darling Avenue Waycross, GA 31501 Ware County
(912) 584-3831 rhall@ymcawaycross.org

Regional Consultant
Connie Boatright
Phone: (912) 544-9701
Fax: (912) 544-9700
connie.boatright@dec.al.ga.gov

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.
08/01/2025	Licensing Study	Good Standing	
01/24/2025	Complaint Closure	Good Standing	
12/16/2024	Complaint Investigation Follow Up	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- 1's	One Year Olds	2	4	C	9	C	NA	NA	Lunch, Transitioning, Outside, Nap
Main	B- 2's	Two Year Olds	2	10	C	24	C	NA	NA	Lunch, Nap, Centers
Main	E - 3's & 4's	Four Year Olds	1	5	C	13	C	NA	NA	Nap, Transitioning, Centers, Lunch
Main	F- 3's & 4's	Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds	3	12	C	19	C	NA	NA	Lunch, Nap, Outside, Transitioning
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 65					Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0					
Total # Children this Date: 31					Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0					

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	A- Toddlers	9	C
Main	B -2's, 3's & 4's	135	C
Main	Covered Deck	0	C

Enrolled Children						
Under 1 years	1 years	2 years	3 years	4 years	5 years (Prekonly)	5 years and older
0	6	12	20	6	0	0

Comments

The center director stated no medication is administered, no field trips, routine transportation or swimming activities are provided. The consultant discussed policy changes with the center director.

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)

Date: 8/1/2025 **VisitType:** Licensing Study

Arrival: 11:00 AM **Departure:** 1:30 PM

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Mailing Address
Same

The following information is associated with a LS:

Activities and Equipment

Records Reviewed: 10

Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 3

Staff # 2 Not Met

Date of Hire: 11/21/2022

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.14(2)-CPR missing,.14(2)-First Aid Missing

Staff # 4 Not Met

Date of Hire: 04/29/2022

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.14(2)-CPR missing,.14(2)-First Aid Missing

Staff # 5 Not Met

Date of Hire: 10/01/2024

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.14(2)-CPR missing,.14(2)-First Aid Missing

591-1-1-.03 Activities

Not Met

Finding

591-1-1-.03(2) requires the Center to keep current lesson plans on site that reflect appropriate instruction practices and activities to support children's development The Center shall have sufficient and varied play and learning equipment and materials to support the above program of activities in all developmental areas. It was determined based on observation that no lesson plans were posted in classrooms E and F as required.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will keep current lesson plans on site that include appropriate instruction practices and activities and will have sufficient and varied play and learning equipment and materials to support the activities.

Correction Deadline: 8/11/2025

Prior Visits: 08/19/2019

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

Met

Comment

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

Comment

Center does not provide swimming activities.

Comment

The center had water day. The center had four kiddie pools filled with two inches of water. The consultant observed twelve 3 and 4 year-old children to be seated in the pools and splashing water. The children were being provided direct active supervision by 3 staff.

Children's Records**Records Reviewed: 10****Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 3**

Staff # 2

Not Met

Date of Hire: 11/21/2022

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.14(2)-CPR missing,.14(2)-First Aid Missing

Staff # 4

Not Met

Date of Hire: 04/29/2022

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.14(2)-CPR missing,.14(2)-First Aid Missing

Staff # 5

Not Met

Date of Hire: 10/01/2024

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.14(2)-CPR missing,.14(2)-First Aid Missing

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

Met

Comment

Parent agreements observed obtained/completed.

Comment

Parent authorizations obtained/completed.

Comment

Records were observed to be complete and well organized.

Facility**Records Reviewed: 10****Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 3**

Staff # 2

Not Met

Date of Hire: 11/21/2022

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.14(2)-CPR missing,.14(2)-First Aid Missing

Staff # 4

Not Met

Date of Hire: 04/29/2022

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.14(2)-CPR missing,.14(2)-First Aid Missing

Staff # 5

Not Met

Date of Hire: 10/01/2024

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.14(2)-CPR missing,.14(2)-First Aid Missing

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 on this date. The consultant observed thirty one children present during this visit.

591-1-1-.25 Physical Plant - Safe Environment(CR)**Not Met****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 a staff purse was sitting on the diaper changing table in classroom F and accessible to the children. Additionally, a 3 oz. tube of Coppertone Water Babies, A 1 lb. jar of A & D Prevent Diaper Rash Ointment and Skin Protectant, a tube of Maybelline New York Mascara, and 2 one ounce bottles of Cerave Baby Wash and Shampoo were stored in back backs in classroom A-1, labeled keep out of reach of children and stored within reach of 1 year-old 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: 8/1/2025**Prior Visits: 02/18/2020****Finding**

591-1-1-.25(3) requires the Center and surrounding premises to be kept clean, free of debris and in good repair. Hygienic measures such as, but not limited to, screened windows and proper waste disposal procedures shall be utilized to minimize the presence of rodents, flies, roaches and other vermin at the Center. It was determined based on observation that the top part of the screen door located on the back porch had a large tear and the screen located on the left side of the porch had a small tear and accessible to children.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will have the Center and surrounding areas cleaned, make repairs where needed, and remove all debris is removed. The Center will implement a plan to keep areas clean and in good repair that includes regular monitoring.

Correction Deadline: 8/11/2025**Prior Visits: 08/19/2019****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 bolts located on the chain link fence surrounding both playgrounds were protruding more than two threads.

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: 8/1/2025**Prior Visits: 08/19/2019**

Finding

591-1-1-.26(6) requires that playground equipment provide an opportunity for the children to engage in a variety of experiences and shall be age-appropriate. For example, toddlers shall not be permitted to swing in swings designed for School-age Children. The outdoor equipment shall be free of lead-based paint, sharp corners and shall be regularly maintained in such a way as to be free of rust and splinters that could pose significant safety hazard to the children. All equipment shall be arranged so as not to obstruct supervision of children. It was determined based on observation that 1 of 4 Little Likes Red Coupe Cars were missing the top of the car and the door of the car. Further, blue and white sink of the red, beige, yellow, and green Little Likes Play House was detached.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will provide a variety of age-appropriate equipment that is arranged so as not to obstruct supervision of children. Staff will check the equipment daily to ensure that the equipment is free of hazards, rust and splinters.

Correction Deadline: 8/11/2025

Prior Visits: 08/19/2019

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 weeds were growing from the outside of the both playgrounds into both playgrounds on the left side of the center.

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: 8/11/2025

Prior Visits: 08/19/2019

Food Service

Records Reviewed: 10

Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 3

Staff # 2

Not Met

Date of Hire: 11/21/2022

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.14(2)-CPR missing,.14(2)-First Aid Missing

Staff # 4

Not Met

Date of Hire: 04/29/2022

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.14(2)-CPR missing,.14(2)-First Aid Missing

Staff # 5

Not Met

Date of Hire: 10/01/2024

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.14(2)-CPR missing,.14(2)-First Aid Missing

Comment

CACFP Meal Pattern Requirements effective October 1, 2017 will be implemented October 1, 2018: 3 Components for breakfast: Grains, Vegetables, Fruits or both, Milk
 5 Components for lunch – Grains, Meat/Meat alternates, Fruits, Vegetable, and Milk OR Grains, Meat/Meat alternates, 2 different types of vegetables, and Milk
 2 of 5 Components for snack

Provided Updated CACFP Infant Meal pattern and Child/Adult Meal pattern flyers.

The Crediting Handbook for the CACFP can be located on DECAL and USDA's website:

DECAL

<http://dec.al.ga.gov/CACFP/Handbook.aspx>

USDA

<http://www.fns.usda.gov/cacfp/cacfp-handbooks>

591-1-1-.18 Kitchen Operations

Met

Comment

Kitchen appears clean and well organized on this date.

Health and Hygiene

Records Reviewed: 10

Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 3

Staff # 2

Not Met

Date of Hire: 11/21/2022

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.14(2)-CPR missing,.14(2)-First Aid Missing

Staff # 4

Not Met

Date of Hire: 04/29/2022

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.14(2)-CPR missing,.14(2)-First Aid Missing

Staff # 5

Not Met

Date of Hire: 10/01/2024

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.14(2)-CPR missing,.14(2)-First Aid Missing

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

Not Met

Finding

591-1-1-.10(4) requires that if diapers are changed on a diaper changing surface, the surface shall be smooth, nonporous, and equipped with a guard or rails to prevent falls. Between each diaper change, the diaper changing surface shall be cleaned with a disinfectant and dried with a single-use disposable towel. It was determined based on observation that the diaper changing table surface located in classroom B-2 had a 1.5 in by a 1.5 inch rip and exposed foam.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will ensure there is a smooth, nonporous changing surface that has a guard or rails for safety in each classroom that houses children wearing diapers. Center Staff will be trained and have adequate supplies to properly clean the diaper changing surface between each diaper change.

Correction Deadline: 8/11/2025

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

Met

Comment

Proper hand washing observed throughout the center on this date.

Comment

Staff were observed to remind children to wash hands on this date.

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

The Provider currently does not dispense/administer medication.

Policies and Procedures**Records Reviewed: 10****Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 3**

Staff # 2

Not Met

Date of Hire: 11/21/2022

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.14(2)-CPR missing,.14(2)-First Aid Missing

Staff # 4

Not Met

Date of Hire: 04/29/2022

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.14(2)-CPR missing,.14(2)-First Aid Missing

Staff # 5

Not Met

Date of Hire: 10/01/2024

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.14(2)-CPR missing,.14(2)-First Aid Missing

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

591-1-1-.21(1)(p) - Discussed updating the Center's policies and procedures to include the program's practices regarding the expulsion and suspension of children enrolled for care within the description of behavior management and discipline actions used by the Center.

Also discussed to ensure 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: 8/6/2025**Comment**

Program observed complete emergency drills

591-1-1-.27 Posted Notices**Met****Comment**

Please make sure that all required signs are posted and up to date (Communicable Disease).

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

Thank you for reporting as required.

Safety

Staff # 2 Not Met

Date of Hire: 11/21/2022

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.14(2)-CPR missing,.14(2)-First Aid Missing

Staff # 4 Not Met

Date of Hire: 04/29/2022

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.14(2)-CPR missing,.14(2)-First Aid Missing

Staff # 5 Not Met

Date of Hire: 10/01/2024

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.14(2)-CPR missing,.14(2)-First Aid Missing

591-1-1-.05 Animals Met

Comment

Center does not keep animals on premises.

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

Correction Deadline: 1/24/2025

Prior Visits: 12/16/2024

Corrected on 8/1/2025

.11(2) - The previous citation was observed to be corrected on this day. Staff stated positive redirection and time out of 1 minute per child age are used as discipline techniques.

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

Comment

Center does not participate in field trips at this time.

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

Comment

Center does not provide routine transportation.

Sleeping & Resting Equipment

Staff # 2 Not Met

Date of Hire: 11/21/2022

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.14(2)-CPR missing,.14(2)-First Aid Missing

Staff # 4 Not Met

Date of Hire: 04/29/2022

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.14(2)-CPR missing,.14(2)-First Aid Missing

Staff # 5 Not Met

Date of Hire: 10/01/2024

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

Records Reviewed: 10**Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 3**

.14(2)-CPR missing,.14(2)-First Aid Missing

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

Pleasant naptime environment observed.

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.

Staff Records

Records Reviewed: 10**Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 3**

Staff # 2

Not Met

Date of Hire: 11/21/2022

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.14(2)-CPR missing,.14(2)-First Aid Missing

Staff # 4

Not Met

Date of Hire: 04/29/2022

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.14(2)-CPR missing,.14(2)-First Aid Missing

Staff # 5

Not Met

Date of Hire: 10/01/2024

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.14(2)-CPR missing,.14(2)-First Aid Missing

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

Criminal record checks were observed to be complete.

Comment

Director provided 3 file(s) for employees hired since last visit.

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

Please replace/add missing/expired item(s) in first aid kit(s) (triple antibiotic ointment).

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.14(1)(a) - Discussed that effective July 1, 2025, new staff are required to obtain pediatric First Aid and pediatric CPR training within 45 days of employment. It was further discussed that programs must have at least one person with current pediatric First Aid and pediatric CPR training in each classroom at all times.

Correction Deadline: 8/31/2025

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

591-1-1-.33(1) - Discussed that all Employees, including volunteers, independent contractors, students-in-training, etc. should have a completed initial program orientation form on file.

Correction Deadline: 8/1/2025

Prior Visits: 08/19/2019

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.33(5)(a) - New - Discussed that effective July 1, 2025, all staff are required to obtain at least two hours in evidence based, developmentally appropriate language and literacy practices and at least two hours in on-going child development and health and safety related topics as part of their 10 hours of annual training.

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

Staff observed to be compliant with applicable laws and regulations.

Staffing and Supervision**Records Reviewed: 10****Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 3**

Staff # 2

Not Met

Date of Hire: 11/21/2022

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.14(2)-CPR missing,.14(2)-First Aid Missing

Staff # 4

Not Met

Date of Hire: 04/29/2022

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.14(2)-CPR missing,.14(2)-First Aid Missing

Staff # 5

Not Met

Date of Hire: 10/01/2024

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.14(2)-CPR missing,.14(2)-First Aid Missing

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)**Met****Comment**

Center observed to maintain appropriate staff:child ratios.