



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: 2/6/2025 **VisitType:** Licensing Study

Arrival: 10:05 AM **Departure:** 1:50 PM

CCLC-56680

Happy Kidz Early Learning Center

7290 Covington Highway Lithonia, GA 30058 DeKalb County
(770) 484-8226 tombiherd@yahoo.com

Lead Consultant

Tasha McDonald

Phone: (770) 344-3353

Fax: (678) 891-5601

tasha.mcdonald@decal.ga.gov

Joint with: Brittany Cook

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.
02/06/2025	Licensing Study	Good Standing	
09/13/2024	Incident Investigation Closure	Good Standing	
08/02/2024	Incident 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- Far Right (Upstairs)	Three Year Olds	1	12	C	6	NC	NA	NA	Circle Time
Main	B- Front Center (Upstairs)	Two Year Olds	1	6	C	10	C	NA	NA	Free Play
Main	C- Far Left (upstairs)	Infants	1	2	C	16	C	NA	NA	Floor Play
Main	D- Back Center (Upstairs)	One Year Olds	1	4	C	9	C	NA	NA	Centers
Main	E- Far Left (Downstairs)	Four Year Olds	1	8	C	15	C	21	C	Circle Time
Main	F- Front Right (Downstairs)		0	0	C	14	C	20	C	
Main	G- Back Right (Downstairs)	Five Year Olds and Six Year Olds and Over	1	16	C	13	NC	18	C	Circle Time
			Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 83			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 100				
Total # Children this Date: 48			Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 83			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 100				

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	Left Playground	30	C
Main	Right Playground	28	C

Enrolled Children						
Under 1 years	1 years	2 years	3 years	4 years	5 years (Prekonly)	5 years and older
3	5	12	12	8	0	44

Comments

The purpose of this visit was to conduct a licensing visit.

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.decga.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@decga.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-.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 consultant observation current lesson plans were not available in classrooms A- Far Right (Upstairs), B- Front Center (Upstairs), C- Far Left (Upstairs), D- Back Center (Upstairs), E- Far Left (Downstairs), and F- Front Right (Downstairs).

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: 2/6/2025

Correction Deadline: 9/13/2024

Corrected on 2/6/2025

.03(9) - The previous citation was observed to be corrected on this date. Consultant observed staff to provide supervision and watchful oversight on this date.

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.

Facility

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

Met

Comment

Licensed capacity observed to be routinely met by center.

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 consultant observation that the following potentially hazardous items were observed: In the upstairs middle restroom 2 containers of Clorox disinfectant wipes were located on an open low shelving unit.

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: 2/6/2025

591-1-1-.26 Playgrounds(CR)

Not Met

Finding

591-1-1-.26(7) requires that climbing and swinging equipment be anchored. It was determined, based on consultant observation, that the ladder to the monkey bars located on the right playground was not anchored and unstable on this date. The ladder was able to be completely lifted from the ground on the right side out of the exposed concrete.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will remove or repair equipment that is not anchored and will regularly inspect the equipment to ensure it remains anchored.

Correction Deadline: 2/16/2025

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 consultant's observation of the left playground there was less than one inch of resilient surface surrounding the fall zones of the three slides of the red, blue, yellow, and green climbing structure. In addition, there was less than one inch of resilient surface surrounding the fall zones of the swing set and the yellow slide on the climbing structure on the right playground.

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: 2/16/2025

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 Consultant observation, that excessive leaves, pine cones, and pine straws were observed throughout the grounds of both the left and the right playgrounds. A blue water hose was observed loose on the pathway to the playground. A bench located on the left playground was observed to have cracked wood on the right seating area.

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: 2/20/2025

Health and Hygiene

591-1-1-.07 Children's Health

Met

Correction Deadline: 9/13/2024

Corrected on 2/6/2025

.07(2) - The previous citation was observed to be corrected on this date. Consultant discussed with the Provider the proper procedure for parental notification on this date.

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

Proper hand washing observed throughout the center.

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

Comment

The Provider currently does not dispense/administer medication.

Safety

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

Comment

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

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

Comment

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

Sleeping & Resting Equipment

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

Comment

Pleasant naptime environment observed.

Staff Records

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

Comment

Criminal record checks were observed to be complete.

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

Finding

591-1-1-.14(1) requires the Center Director and, at any given time, at least fifty percent (50%) of the caregiver Staff to successfully complete a biennial training program in cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and a triennial training program in first aid. The first aid training must be done by certified or licensed health care professionals or trainers and must deal with the provision of emergency care to infants and children. The Center shall maintain current evidence of the successful completion of such training which shall be available to the Department for inspection. It was determined based on a review of records eight of ten staff did not have proof of current First Aid/CPR training on this date.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center Director and at least 50% of the caregiver Staff will complete the needed training. The Director will send written verification to the consultant upon completion and will develop a plan to ensure that at least 50% of the caregiver Staff have completed this training at any given time and that evidence of successful completion of the training is on file available for inspection.

Correction Deadline: 3/8/2025

Finding

591-1-1-.14(1)(a) requires, in a Center that provides transportation, that either the driver or another Staff person present on the vehicle have current evidence of successful completion of a biennial training program in cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and a triennial training program in first aid offered by certified or licensed health care professionals or trainers and which dealt with the provision of emergency care to infants and children. It was determined based on a review of records that the van drivers did not have CPR and first aid training complete and on file.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will verify proof of CPR/1st aid training and schedule Staff so that there is always a staff person on the vehicle with this training.

Correction Deadline: 2/6/2025

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

Center observed to maintain appropriate staff:child ratios.

591-1-1-.32 Supervision(CR)

Met

Comment

Center observed to maintain appropriate staff:child ratios.