



**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:** 8/25/2025 **VisitType:** Monitoring Visit

**Arrival:** 3:35 PM **Departure:** 5:00 PM

**CCLC-30411**

**YBASE at Heard Elementary**

414 Lee Boulevard Savannah, GA 31405 Chatham County  
(912) 663-4624 joquana.kelson@ymcaofcoastalga.org

Regional Consultant

Rebecca Owsley

Phone: (229) 238-2130

Fax:

rebecca.owsley@decal.ga.gov

**Mailing Address**

Same

**Quality Rated:** ★

| <u>Compliance Zone Designation</u> |                  |               | <b>Compliance Zone Designation</b> - 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.<br><br><b>Good Standing</b> - Program is demonstrating an acceptable level of performance in meeting the rules.<br><b>Support</b> - Program performance is demonstrating a need for improvement in meeting rules.<br><b>Deficient</b> - Program is not demonstrating an acceptable level of performance in meeting the rules. |
|------------------------------------|------------------|---------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 08/25/2025                         | Monitoring Visit | Good Standing |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| 12/02/2024                         | Licensing Study  | Good Standing |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| 08/14/2023                         | 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                            | Cafeteria | Five Year Olds and Six Year Olds and Over and GA PreK | 3     | 72       | C                             | 103        | C            | NA         | NA           | Transitioning,Snack |
| Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 103 |           |                                                       |       |          | Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0 |            |              |            |              |                     |
| Total # Children this Date: 72  |           |                                                       |       |          | Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0 |            |              |            |              |                     |

| Building | Playground | Playground Occupancy | Playground Compliance |
|----------|------------|----------------------|-----------------------|
| Main     | Playground | 54                   | C                     |

| Enrolled Children |         |         |         |         |                    |                   |
|-------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|--------------------|-------------------|
| Under 1 years     | 1 years | 2 years | 3 years | 4 years | 5 years (Prekonly) | 5 years and older |
| 0                 | 0       | 0       | 0       | 7       | 0                  | 98                |

**Comments**

The Consultant conducted the exit conference with staff and sent the Docusign email to Joquana Kelson to be signed. The CCS Consultant discussed and left a copy of the updated Child Care Weather Watch Chart with the program today. Weather does not permit outdoor play when there is active precipitation or when weather advisories are in effect. Consult the Child Care Weather Watch Chart resource for further guidance, considering specific weather conditions.

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.

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#### 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](http://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.

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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](mailto:qualityrated@decal.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 MV:

**Activities and Equipment**

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

**Met**

**Comment**

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

**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 on this date.

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

**Met**

**Comment**

The Center appeared clean and well maintained on this date.

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

**Met**

**Correction Deadline: 12/12/2024**

**Prior Visits: 08/14/2023**

**Corrected on 8/25/2025**

.26(6) - The previous citation was observed corrected on this date. The Center no longer used the playground that had the broken tic tac toe tile and rusted and peeling paint. The Consultant observed that the first playground to the left that the Center did use was free of hazards.

**Correction Deadline: 12/12/2024**

**Prior Visits: 03/31/2023**

**Corrected on 8/25/2025**

.26(8) - The previous citation was observed corrected on this date. The Consultant observed the first left playground that the Center used had three inches of resilient surface for equipment under five feet as required.

**Health and Hygiene**

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|                                                       |            |
|-------------------------------------------------------|------------|
| <b>591-1-1-10 Diapering Areas &amp; Practices(CR)</b> | <b>N/A</b> |
|-------------------------------------------------------|------------|

**Comment**

No children enrolled who require diapering. School age children attend only for after school hours.

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|                               |            |
|-------------------------------|------------|
| <b>591-1-1-17 Hygiene(CR)</b> | <b>Met</b> |
|-------------------------------|------------|

**Comment**

Proper hand washing observed throughout the center on this date.

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|                                   |            |
|-----------------------------------|------------|
| <b>591-1-1-20 Medications(CR)</b> | <b>N/A</b> |
|-----------------------------------|------------|

**Comment**

The Provider currently does not dispense/administer medication.

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|--------------------------------|
| <b>Policies and Procedures</b> |
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|---------------------------------------------------------|------------|
| <b>591-1-1-21 Operational Policies &amp; Procedures</b> | <b>Met</b> |
|---------------------------------------------------------|------------|

**Comment**

591-1-1-.21(1)(a-o) - new - 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.

**Correction Deadline: 8/30/2025**

**Comment**

591-1-1-.21(2)(r) - New - 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. Additional information can be found in the CCLC Indicator Manual found on DECAL's website at: <https://www.dec.state.ga.us/CCS/Regulations.aspx> or through the Center on Shaken Baby Syndrome found at: <https://dontshake.org/>.

**Correction Deadline: 8/30/2025**

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|               |
|---------------|
| <b>Safety</b> |
|---------------|

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|                                  |            |
|----------------------------------|------------|
| <b>591-1-1-11 Discipline(CR)</b> | <b>Met</b> |
|----------------------------------|------------|

**Comment**

Age-appropriate discussion and/or redirection observed.

**Comment**

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

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|                                      |            |
|--------------------------------------|------------|
| <b>591-1-1-36 Transportation(CR)</b> | <b>N/A</b> |
|--------------------------------------|------------|

**Comment**

Center does not provide routine transportation.

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|                                         |
|-----------------------------------------|
| <b>Sleeping &amp; Resting Equipment</b> |
|-----------------------------------------|

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|                                                              |            |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|------------|
| <b>591-1-1-30 Safe Sleeping and Resting Requirements(CR)</b> | <b>N/A</b> |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|------------|

**Comment**

Sleeping/Naps are not required for this program. School age children attend only for after school hours.

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|----------------------|
| <b>Staff Records</b> |
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|                                                                            |            |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|
| <b>591-1-1-09 Criminal Records and Comprehensive Background Checks(CR)</b> | <b>Met</b> |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|

**Comment**

Criminal record checks were observed to be complete.

**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**

591-1-1-.14(1)(a) - New - 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: 9/24/2025**

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

591-1-1-.33(5)(b)1. - 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.

**Correction Deadline: 9/24/2025**

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

591-1-1-.31(1)(a) requires the Center to have a Director who is responsible for the supervision, operation and maintenance of the Center. The Director must be on the Center's premises. If the Director is absent from the Center at any time during the hours of the Center's operation, there shall be an officially designated person on the Center site to assume responsibility for the operation of the Center, and this person shall have full access to all records required to be maintained under these rules. It was determined based on a review of records that the Center did not have a Director responsible for the supervision, operation and maintenance of the Center.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

The Center will ensure a director, responsible for the supervision, operation and maintenance of the Center is on the premises. during operating hours. The Center will officially designate a person to assume responsibility for the operation of the Center when the director is not present who has full access to all records.

**Correction Deadline: 8/25/2025**

**Finding**

591-1-1-.31(1)(c) requires that a copy and/or written verification of the credential or degree awarded to the Director by the technical college, university, school or Department-approved trainer listed in 591-1-1-.31(1)(b)2. (i) through (xiii) be maintained by the Center in the Director's file and such documentation shall be available for inspection by Department staff upon request. It was determined based on the consultant's review of records that the center did not have evidence of a credential/degree at the center for the Director. It was determined based on a review of records that the Center failed to maintain a copy or written verification for a Director credential or degree on file as required.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

The Center will obtain the written verification for a Director, place it in the Director's file, and provide it to the Department if requested.

**Correction Deadline: 9/22/2025**

**Prior Visits: 03/31/2023, 09/20/2022**

**Recited on 8/25/2025**

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

Center observed to maintain appropriate staff:child ratios.

**Comment**

Adequate supervision observed on this date.