



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: 1/7/2025 **VisitType:** Complaint Investigation & Licensing Study **Arrival:** 10:40 AM **Departure:** 3:50 PM

CCLC-39017

Harmony Academy Learning Center

583 Harmony School Rd. Jasper, GA 30143 Pickens County
(706) 253-5437 harmonyacademy@etcmail.com

Regional Consultant

Randy Gaytan

Phone: (770) 357-7022

Fax: (770) 357-7021

randy.gaytan@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.
01/07/2025	Complaint Investigation & Licensing Study	Good Standing	
06/25/2024	Licensing Study	Good Standing	
10/04/2023	Monitoring Visit	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 - 1st Left		0	0	C	13	C	NA	NA	
Main	B - 2nd Left	Infants and One Year Olds	2	11	C	13	C	NA	NA	Floor Play,Nap,Lunch
Main	C - 3rd Left	Two Year Olds	2	16	C	19	C	NA	NA	Lunch
Main	D - 3rd Right	Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds	3	25	C	31	C	NA	NA	Lunch
Main	E - 2nd Right	Four Year Olds and Five Year Olds	2	17	C	32	C	NA	NA	Story,Lunch
Main	F - 1st Right	One Year Olds	2	9	C	16	C	NA	NA	Lunch
Main	G - Right Side Hall 1st Left	One Year Olds	3	12	C	16	C	NA	NA	Lunch
Main	H - Right Side Hall 1st Right	GA PreK	2	20	C	38	C	NA	NA	Circle Time

Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 178

Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0

Total # Children this Date: 110

Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 178

Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	A- Right	40	C
Main	B- Middle	29	C
Main	C- Mid Left	31	C
Main	D- Left	24	C

Enrolled Children						
Under 1 years	1 years	2 years	3 years	4 years	5 years (Prekonly)	5 years and older
12	27	17	18	29	21	18

Comments

The purpose of this visit was to conduct a Complaint Investigation and a Licensing Study.

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 1 855-800-7747 or qualityrated@decga.gov for more information. Free technical assistance is available!



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

(Findings Report)

Date: 1/7/2025 VisitType: Complaint Investigation & Licensing Study Arrival: 10:40 AM Departure: 3:50 PM

CCLC-39017

Harmony Academy Learning Center

583 Harmony School Rd. Jasper, GA 30143 Pickens County
(706) 253-5437 harmonyacademy@etcmail.com

Regional Consultant

Randy Gaytan

Phone: (770) 357-7022

Fax: (770) 357-7021

randy.gaytan@dec.al.ga.gov

Mailing Address
Same

The following information is associated with a Licensing Study Visit:

Activities and Equipment

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

Met

Comment

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

Correction Deadline: 6/25/2024

Corrected on 1/7/2025

.12(2) - The previous citation was observed to be corrected in that both library benches had been recovered.

Correction Deadline: 7/25/2024

Corrected on 1/7/2025

.12(6) - The previous citation was observed to be corrected in that shelves were not pushed against the walls, leaving a variety of materials accessible to the children.

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

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
----------------------------------	-----

Comment

Licensed capacity observed to be routinely met by center.

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

Correction Deadline: 6/25/2024

Corrected on 1/7/2025

.25(13) - The previous citation was observed to be corrected in that there were no hazards accessible to children.

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

Comment

Playground observed to be clean and in good repair.

Food Service

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

Comment

Center menu meets USDA guidelines.

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

Comment

Kitchen appears clean and well organized.

Health and Hygiene

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

Comment

Proper diapering procedures observed.

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

Comment

Proper hand washing observed throughout the center.

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

Comment

Documentation for medication dispensing observed complete.

Policies and Procedures

591-1-1-.21 Operational Policies & Procedures	Met
---	-----

Comment

Program observed complete emergency drills

Safety

591-1-1-.05 Animals	N/A
---------------------	-----

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)**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**

Discussed SIDS and infant sleeping position.

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

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

591-1-1-.09(1)(a) requires that a Center ensure that every actual and potential Director, Employee and Provisional Employee of a Child Care Learning Center submit both a Records Check Application to the Department and Fingerprints to an authorized fingerprinting site. It was determined based on a review of records that staff member #31, that was hired on May 13, 2024, did not submit both a records check application to the Department and fingerprints to an authorized fingerprinting site.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

IMMEDIATE CORRECTION - The Center will routinely review staff and contractor records to ensure that every actual and potential Director, Employee and Provisional Employee of a Child Care Learning Center submit both a Records Check Application to the Department and Fingerprints to an authorized fingerprinting site as 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 follow the procedures presented in the training videos to ensure the CRC rules are maintained.

Correction Deadline: 1/7/2025

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 a review of records that staff member #31 was hired on May 13, 2024, and did not have a valid and current satisfactory comprehensive records check determination on file. The last day staff member #31 was on site to provide services was December 2, 2024.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

IMMEDIATE CORRECTION - The Center will routinely review staff and independent contractor records] 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 follow the procedures presented in the training videos to ensure the CRC rules are maintained.

Correction Deadline: 1/7/2025

591-1-1-.09 Criminal Records Check(CR)**Met****Comment**

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

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

Evidence observed of 100% of center staff certified in First Aid and CPR.

591-1-1-.33 Staff Training**Not Met****Finding**

91-1-1-.33(5) requires that every calendar year after the first year of employment, all supervisory and caregiver Personnel, except independent contractors, Students-in-Training and volunteers shall attend ten (10) clock hours of diverse training which is task-focused in on-going health, safety and early childhood or child development related topics and which is offered by an accredited college, university or vocational program or other Department-approved source. The annual ten (10) clock hours of training shall be chosen from the following fields: child development, including discipline, guidance, nutrition, injury control and safety; health, including sanitation, disease control, cleanliness, detection and disposition of illness; child abuse and neglect, including identification and reporting, and meeting the needs of abused and/or neglected children; and business related topics, including parental communication, recordkeeping, etc.; provided however that such business related training shall be limited to no more than two (2) of the required ten (10) clock hours of training. Records of completion of such training shall be maintained, as required by these rules. It was determined based on a review of records That the following staff members did not complete the required ten clock hours of annual training: 2, 10, 12, 13, 15, 16, 17, 22, 30, 31, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 41, and 42.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will plan and schedule the required 10 hours of annual training each year and follow up to ensure the training is completed.

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**

Adequate supervision observed on this date.