



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: 9/2/2025 **VisitType:** Licensing Study

Arrival: 9:30 AM **Departure:** 3:00 PM

CCLC-1786

Ware County Head Start Center

1235 McDonald Street Waycross, GA 31501 Ware County
(912) 285-1844 astaten@myactionpact.org

Regional Consultant

Connie Boatright

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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.
09/02/2025	Licensing Study	Good Standing	
09/23/2024	Licensing Study	Good Standing	
09/13/2023	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	1 HS Inclusion		0	0	C	21	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
Main	1 Pre-K	GA PreK	2	11	C	31	C	NA	NA	Centers,Circle Time,Lunch,Transitioning,Nap
Main	10 Multi Purpose		0	0	C	22	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
Main	11 Sensory Room		0	0	C	22	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
Main	12 Extended Care		0	0	C	22	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
Main	13 Outside Hall		0	0	C	21	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
Main	14 Outside Hall		0	0	C	21	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
Main	15 Outside Hall		0	0	C	21	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
Main	1a Head Start Hall		0	0	C	22	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
Main	2 HS Inclusion		0	0	C	21	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
Main	2 Pre-K	GA PreK	2	11	C	25	C	NA	NA	Transitioning,Lunch,Circle Time,Centers,Floor Play,Clean Up
Main	2a Head Start Hall	Three Year Olds	3	3	C	21	C	NA	NA	Lunch,Centers,Nap,Transitioning
Main	3 HS Inclusion	Infants and One Year Olds	2	6	C	22	C	NA	NA	Lunch,Transitioning,Floor Play,Nap

Main	3 Pre-K	GA PreK	3	11	C	25	C	NA	NA	Lunch,Circle Time,Centers,Transitioning,Nap,Clean Up
Main	3a Head Start Hall	Three Year Olds	3	3	C	21	C	NA	NA	Centers,Clean Up,Transitioning,Lunch,Nap
Main	4 HS Inclusion	Infants and One Year Olds and Two Year Olds	2	8	C	22	C	NA	NA	Transitioning,Not In Use,Circle Time,Lunch,Nap,Outside
Main	4a Head Start Hall		0	0	C	21	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
Main	5 Head Start Hall		0	0	C	21	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
Main	5a Head Start Hall		0	0	C	24	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
Main	6 Head Start Hall	Two Year Olds and Three Year Olds	2	6	C	21	C	NA	NA	Lunch,Transitioning,Nap,Centers
Main	7 Head Start Hall	Two Year Olds and Three Year Olds	2	6	C	24	C	NA	NA	Lunch,Circle Time,Transitioning,Nap,Centers
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 471			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0							
Total # Children this Date: 65			Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 471			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0				

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	PG 1	56	C
Main	PG 2	67	C
Main	PG 3	30	C
Main	PG 4	93	C
Main	PG 5	49	C
Main	PG 6	52	C
Main	Playground 7	13	C
Main	Playground 8	27	C

Enrolled Children						
Under 1 years	1 years	2 years	3 years	4 years	5 years (Prekonly)	5 years and older
4	12	13	27	35	0	0

Comments

The provider stated medication is administered, no field trips, routine transportation, or swimming activities are provided. 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.

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.

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 user id 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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(Findings Report)

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The following information is associated with a LS:

Activities and Equipment

591-1-1-.03 Activities

Met

Comment

Lesson Plans were observed to be posted and reflected the current weeks activities in each classroom.

Comment

The consultant observed age appropriate activities through out the center.

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

Met

Comment

Toys and equipment were observed to be clean and in good repair.

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

Met

Comment

The center director stated no swimming activities are provided.

Children's Records

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

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 ninety one children present during this visit.

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****Comment**

Playground observed to be clean and in good repair on this date.

Food Service

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

591-1-1-.07 Children's Health**Technical Assistance****Technical Assistance**

591-1-1-.07(5) - The center staff will ensure that children not wear around their necks or attach to their clothing pacifiers or other hazardous items (Small beads in the hair of an early 1-year-old potential choking hazard).

Correction Deadline: 9/2/2025

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

Staff stated proper knowledge of diapering procedures.

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.

Finding

591-1-1-.20(3) requires the Center to maintain a record of medication dispensed that includes the date, time and amount of medication, any noticeable adverse reaction, and the signature or initials of the person administering the medication. It was determined based on review of child records and medication records that child # 4 was dispensed medication on August 12, 2025 at 11:57 AM and no comment or any noticeable adverse reaction was documented. Additionally, child # 4 was dispensed medication on August 14, 2025 at 11:43 AM and no comment or any noticeable adverse reaction was documented. Furthermore, child # 4 was dispensed medication on August 27, 2025 at 9:05 AM and no comment or any noticeable adverse reaction was documented.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will train Staff responsible for dispensing medication in the accurate completion and storage of the records and will implement a plan to monitor this.

Correction Deadline: 9/2/2025

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

591-1-1-.21(1)(a-o) - 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: 9/7/2025

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.21(1)(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.decal.ga.gov/CCS/RulesAndRegulations.aspx> or through the Center on Shaken Baby Syndrome found at: <https://dontshake.org/>.

Correction Deadline: 9/7/2025

Comment

Program observed complete emergency drills

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

Observed all required posted notices.

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

Thank you for reporting as required.

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

Center does not keep animals on premises.

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

Age-appropriate discussion and/or redirection observed.

Comment

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

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

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

Discussed SIDS and infant sleeping position.

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

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

Criminal record checks were observed to be complete.

Comment

Director provided 4 file(s) for employees hired since last visit.

591-1-1-.14 First Aid & CPR(CR)**Technical Assistance****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: 9/2/2025

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: 9/2/2025

Technical Assistance

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: 10/2/2025

Comment

Staff observed to be compliant with applicable laws and regulations.

Staffing and Supervision

Comment

Center observed to maintain appropriate staff:child ratios.

Comment

Adequate supervision observed on this date.