



**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:** 3/22/2023 **VisitType:** Licensing Study

**Arrival:** 8:50 AM

**Departure:** 1:15 PM

**CCLC-46380**

**Amazing Hearts Child Development Center**

6467 Nature's Way Appling, GA 30802 Columbia County  
(706) 760-0004 amazinghearts@yahoo.com

**Regional Consultant**

Melyn Smith

Phone: (706) 855-3455

Fax: (706) 434-7640

melyn.smith@decal.ga.gov

Joint with: Tiffany Carter

**Mailing Address**

PO Box 346  
Grovetown, GA 30813

**Quality Rated:** ★ ★

| <b>Compliance Zone Designation</b> |                  |               | <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. |
|------------------------------------|------------------|---------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 03/22/2023                         | Licensing Study  | Good Standing |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| 12/12/2022                         | Monitoring Visit | Good Standing |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| 06/21/2022                         | Licensing Study  | Good Standing |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |

**Ratios/License Capacity**

Comments were not specified for the subject of this visit. (CCLC-46380) Located at: 6467 Nature's Way Appling, GA 30802

**Comments**

The purpose of this visit was to conduct a Licensing Study. This visit was completed as part of the Child Care Services Quality Assurance Initiative.

Plan of Improvement: Developed This Date 03/22/2023

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@dec.al.ga.gov](mailto:qualityrated@dec.al.ga.gov) for more information. Free technical assistance is available!**

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Elisha Fitzgerald, Program Official

Date

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Melyn Smith, Consultant

Date

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Tiffany Carter, Consultant

Date



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(Findings Report)

Date: 3/22/2023 VisitType: Licensing Study Arrival: 8:50 AM Departure: 1:15 PM

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The following information is associated with a Licensing Study:

Activities and Equipment

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

Technical Assistance

Comment

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

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.12(2) - The Consultant discussed with the Director to please ensure the toys and furniture were in good repair, as a foam brick and a yellow cardboard brick were observed to have tears or holes and the bottom shelf where the foam bricks were stored was observed to have a connector piece from a broken divider protruding in Room E on this date.

Correction Deadline: 3/22/2023

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

N/A

Comment

Center does not provide swimming activities.

Children's Records

Records Reviewed: 5

Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 1

Child # 2

Not Met

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.08(1)(a)-Work Address Missing,.08(1)(a)-Work Number Missing

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

Technical Assistance

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.08(1) - The Consultant discussed with the Provider to please ensure that children's files contained all required information, as one of five children's files reviewed was lacking the work information for the parent.

**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)****Technical Assistance****Technical Assistance**

591-1-1-.25(11) - The Consultant discussed the Director to please ensure that the carpet and rugs were smooth and free of any hazards, as frays were observed in the carpet near the classroom door and the rug in Room C on this date.

**Correction Deadline: 4/21/2023**

**Technical Assistance**

591-1-1-.25(3) - The Consultant discussed with the Director to please ensure the facility was free of vermin, as one dead roach was observed present in Room D which was not in use on this date. The Consultant also discussed ensuring that the outside of the building was free of mildew and mold on this date.

**Correction Deadline: 3/22/2023**

**Technical Assistance**

591-1-1-.25(7) - The Consultant discussed with the Director to please ensure that unapproved rooms were kept locked or inaccessible on this date.

**Correction Deadline: 3/22/2023**

**591-1-1-.26 Playgrounds(CR)****Not Met****Comment**

Discussed maintenance of resilient surface. Please fluff and redistribute and remove the small patches of grass growing through the resilient surface around the playground equipment.

**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 the following fencing hazards were observed on this date:

- Playground A (Right Playground)– The back fence beside the gate measured three feet and eight inches in height, when it was required to be four feet in height. The back gate was observed to have bolts protruding and a fence pole with a sharp edge. The third panel of fencing facing the road was observed to be detached at the bottom, which could pose as an escape or entrapment hazard. The second panel of fencing facing the road was observed to have a fence tie loose and fence detached from the pole at the bottom. Rust was observed present on the gates and fencing.

- Playground B (Back Playground) – The fence facing outward was observed to measure three feet and seven inches in height, when it was required to be four feet in height. Bolts were observed protruding near the gates on this date.

- Playground C (Left Playground) – The first front panel and second panel from back on the front fence was observed detached on the bottom. The bottom of the back fence over the concrete sidewalk was observed to have sharp prongs accessible. Fence straps were observed accessible with sharp edges on the back fence post near the building. Bolts were observed protruding on the fence on gates. A five-inch gap was observed at the front gate. Rust was observed on the fence.

**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: 4/21/2023****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 the bottom and second ring of the tube slide on Playground C (Left Playground) was observed to be cracked and broken with sharp edges on this date.

**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: 4/21/2023****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 a whole was observed with sharp edges in the white PVC pipe barrier behind the swings on Playground A (Right Playground). Cracks were observed with sharp edges along the bottom siding of the building on all playgrounds on this date.

**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: 4/21/2023****Food Service****591-1-1-.15 Food Service & Nutrition****Met****Comment**

Center menu meets USDA guidelines.

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

Staff state proper knowledge of diapering procedures.

**591-1-1-.17 Hygiene(CR)****Technical Assistance****Technical Assistance**

591-1-1-.17(7) - The Consultant discussed with the Director to please ensure children were washing their hands using warm running water and soap for at least 20 seconds.

**Correction Deadline: 3/22/2023****591-1-1-.20 Medications(CR)****N/A****Comment**

The Provider currently does not dispense/administer medication.

**Policies and Procedures**

**Finding**

591-1-1-.21(3) requires that the Center conduct drills for fire, tornado and other emergency situations. The fire drills will be conducted monthly and tornado and other emergency situation drills will be conducted every six months. The Center shall maintain documentation of the dates and times of these drills for two years. It was determined, based on review of records, that the center was lacking documentation for completing a fire drill in December 2022, when fire drills were required to be conducted monthly. It was further determined that the center was lacking documentation of conducting lockdown drills every six months as required, as the last lockdown drill documented was in August 2022.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

The Center will hold the drills as required and keep the documentation of the drills on file for two years.

**Correction Deadline: 3/31/2023**

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

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

**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)****Technical Assistance****Technical Assistance**

591-1-1-.30(4) - The Consultant discussed with the Director to please ensure cots were stored inaccessible to children and in a place where they were secure to avoid the potential risk of injury from the cots tipping over or falling.

**Correction Deadline: 3/22/2023**

**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****Met****Comment**

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

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

Documentation observed of required staff training.

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

**Met**

**Comment**

Staff observed to be compliant with applicable laws and regulations.

|                                 |
|---------------------------------|
| <b>Staffing and Supervision</b> |
|---------------------------------|

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

**Met**

**Comment**

Center observed to maintain appropriate staff:child ratios.

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

**Met**

**Comment**

Staff observed to provide direct supervision and be attentive to children's needs.