



**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:** 1/14/2025 **VisitType:** Licensing Study

**Arrival:** 10:20 AM **Departure:** 2:15 PM

**CCLC-37951**

**Happy Hearts Learning Academy**

1190 King George Boulevard, Suite A-2 Savannah, GA 31419

Chatham County

(912) 920-5022 happyhearts\_academy@hotmail.com

Regional Consultant

Rebecca Owsley

Phone: (229) 238-2130

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rebecca.owsley@decal.ga.gov

**Mailing Address**

Same

**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. |
|------------------------------------|------------------|---------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 01/14/2025                         | Licensing Study  | Good Standing |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| 02/21/2024                         | Licensing Study  | Good Standing |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| 07/25/2023                         | 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                           | 1-1st Left  | Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds | 1                              | 5        | C    | 11                            | C            | NA         | NA           | Free Play,Centers |
| Main                           | 2-2nd Left  | Two Year Olds and Three Year Olds  | 1                              | 4        | C    | 7                             | C            | NA         | NA           | Free Play         |
| Main                           | 3-1st Right |                                    | 0                              | 0        | C    | 6                             | C            | NA         | NA           | Not In Use        |
| Main                           | 4-2nd Right | One Year Olds                      | 1                              | 5        | C    | 6                             | C            | NA         | NA           | Free Play         |
|                                |             |                                    | Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 30 |          |      | Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0 |              |            |              |                   |
| Total # Children this Date: 14 |             |                                    | Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 30 |          |      | Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0 |              |            |              |                   |

| Building | Playground | Playground Occupancy | Playground Compliance |
|----------|------------|----------------------|-----------------------|
| Main     | A          | 4                    | C                     |
| Main     | B          | 8                    | C                     |

| <b>Enrolled Children</b> |         |         |         |         |                    |                   |
|--------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|--------------------|-------------------|
| Under 1 years            | 1 years | 2 years | 3 years | 4 years | 5 years (Prekonly) | 5 years and older |
| 0                        | 5       | 4       | 4       | 3       | 0                  | 3                 |

**Comments**

An in person licensing study was conducted on 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 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 observation that posted lesson plans did not have current dates on them.

**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: 1/15/2025**

**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)**

**N/A**

**Comment**

The Director stated the Center does not provide swimming activities.

**Evening Care**

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

**N/A**

**Comment**

The Director stated there are no evening care hours provided.

**Facility**

**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)****Not Met****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 observation that there were grocery bags and a trash bag storing items in the unlocked cabinet beneath the changing table in Main 4-2nd Right. Additionally, in this room, there were wipes marked "Keep out of reach of children" in the children's cubbies accessible to children.

**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: 1/14/2025****591-1-1-.26 Playgrounds(CR)****Met****Comment**

Playground observed to be clean and in good repair.

**Health and Hygiene****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.

**591-1-1-.20 Medications(CR)****N/A****Comment**

The Director stated the Center currently does not dispense/administer medication.

**Safety****591-1-1-.05 Animals****N/A****Comment**

The Director stated the 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)****N/A****Comment**

The Director stated the Center does not participate in field trips.

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

Complete documentation of transportation observed.

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

Pleasant naptime environment observed.

**Staff Records**

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

Criminal record checks were observed to be complete.

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

591-1-1-.33(4) requires within the first year of employment, the Director and person with primary responsibility for food preparation shall have four clock hours of training in food nutrition planning, preparation, serving, proper dish washing and food storage. It was determined based on review of records that the Director and Staff #5, the Center's cook, did not complete the four clock hours of training in food nutrition as required.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

The Center will schedule food preparation training, as required, and follow up to ensure the training is completed.

**Correction Deadline: 2/13/2025**

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

Discussed that all lead staff must enroll in an approved education program within 6 months of hire and complete degree within 18 months.

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

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

Center observed to maintain appropriate staff:child ratios.

**Technical Assistance**

591-1-1-.32(4)(b) - Please ensure an agreement from the older child's Parent(s) is kept on file for the continued placement of a child who turned three years old during the regular school year to remain with two-year-olds for the remainder of the school year.

**Correction Deadline: 1/14/2025**

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

Adequate supervision observed on this date.