



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: 4/22/2025 **VisitType:** Licensing Study

Arrival: 10:15 AM **Departure:** 12:20 PM

CCLC-33125

Early County Head Start

5050 Freeman Road Blakely, GA 39823 Early County
(229) 723-6814 mharris@swgacac.com

Regional Consultant

Angela Williams-Jackson

Phone: (404) 710-3984

Fax: (678) 717-5765

angela.williams-jackson@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.
04/22/2025	Licensing Study	Good Standing	
10/01/2024	Monitoring Visit	Good Standing	
04/29/2024	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	Class 1 (3 yrs)		0	0	C	17	C	NA	NA	
Main	Class 2 (3 yrs)	Three Year Olds	2	13	C	17	C	NA	NA	Transitioning, Centers
Main	Class 3 (3-4 yrs)	Four Year Olds	2	14	C	20	C	NA	NA	Free Play
Main	Class 4 (4-5 yrs)	Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds	3	14	C	20	C	NA	NA	Free Play, Centers

Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 74

Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0

Total # Children this Date: 41

Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 74

Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	Playground	115	C

Enrolled Children						
Under 1 years	1 years	2 years	3 years	4 years	5 years (Prekonly)	5 years and older
0	0	0	26	25	0	0

Comments

The purpose of this visit was to conduct a licensing study.

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.decal.ga.gov](http://www.decal.ga.gov/CCS/RulesAndRegulations.aspx) 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:

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 CAPS/ QR Provisional Status, allowing for scholarships while working toward an initial star rating. Provisional Status eligibility will be determined at the time of CAPS enrollment as part of the CAPS application process.

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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Mailing Address

Same

The following information is associated with a Licensing Study:

Activities and Equipment

Records Reviewed: 28

Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 2

Staff # 15

Not Met

Date of Hire: 07/17/2020

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training

Staff # 17

Not Met

Date of Hire: 10/05/2020

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training

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

Not Met

Finding

591-1-1-.12(4) requires that equipment and furniture is secured if it is of a weight or mass that could cause injury from tipping, falling, or being pulled or pushed over. It was determined based on observation that the shelves in Class 3 were on wheels and that the shelf with the green, red, yellow, and blue containers was unstable in classroom 2 and posed a tipping hazard to children.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will ensure that the identified equipment or furniture and any other such existing or future items are secured adequately and will have a system for checking these for stability.

Correction Deadline: 4/22/2025

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

N/A

Comment

Center does not provide swimming activities.

Children's Records

Records Reviewed: 28

Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 2

Staff # 15

Not Met

Records Reviewed: 28**Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 2**

Date of Hire: 07/17/2020

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training

Staff # 17

Not Met

Date of Hire: 10/05/2020

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training

591-1-1-.08 Children's Records**Met****Comment**

Parent agreements observed obtained and completed.

Facility

Records Reviewed: 28**Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 2**

Staff # 15

Not Met

Date of Hire: 07/17/2020

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training

Staff # 17

Not Met

Date of Hire: 10/05/2020

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training

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 the center.

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

No hazards observed accessible to children on this date.

591-1-1-.26 Playgrounds(CR)**Met****Correction Deadline: 10/11/2024****Corrected on 4/22/2025**

The previous citation was observed corrected on this date. The hole was repaired.

Food Service

Records Reviewed: 28**Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 2**

Staff # 15

Not Met

Date of Hire: 07/17/2020

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training

Staff # 17

Not Met

Date of Hire: 10/05/2020

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training

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://decalf.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.

Health and Hygiene

Staff # 15

Not Met

Date of Hire: 07/17/2020

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training

Staff # 17

Not Met

Date of Hire: 10/05/2020

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training

591-1-1-.10 Diapering Areas & Practices(CR)**N/A****Comment**

There were no diapered children enrolled in the program on this date.

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

Staff were observed to remind children to wash hands.

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

Documentation for medication dispensing observed complete on this date.

Policies and Procedures

Records Reviewed: 28

Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 2

Staff # 15

Not Met

Date of Hire: 07/17/2020

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training

Staff # 17

Not Met

Date of Hire: 10/05/2020

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training

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

Met

Comment

Program observed to have complete emergency drills.

Safety

Records Reviewed: 28

Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 2

Staff # 15

Not Met

Date of Hire: 07/17/2020

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training

Staff # 17

Not Met

Date of Hire: 10/05/2020

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training

591-1-1-.05 Animals

Met

Comment

Center does not keep animals on the premises.

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

Records Reviewed: 28

Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 2

Staff # 15

Not Met

Date of Hire: 07/17/2020

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training

Staff # 17

Not Met

Date of Hire: 10/05/2020

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training

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

Please ensure that cots are labeled for individual use.

Staff Records

Staff # 15

Not Met

Date of Hire: 07/17/2020

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training

Staff # 17

Not Met

Date of Hire: 10/05/2020

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training

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

Consultant requested to view all Criminal Record checks for employees hired after the last visit. Director stated that there have been no new hires since the last visit.

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

Evidence observed of 50% 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 staff members #15 and #17 did not have evidence of 10 hours of annual training for the year 2024 as required.

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: 5/22/2025

Comment

Staff observed to be compliant with applicable laws and regulations.

Staffing and Supervision**Records Reviewed: 28****Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 2**

Staff # 15

Not Met

Date of Hire: 07/17/2020

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training

Staff # 17

Not Met

Date of Hire: 10/05/2020

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training

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

Adequate supervision observed on this date.

Technical Assistance

The consultant discussed with the director to ensure Staff are attentive and seated within an arm's length away from children 36 months of age and younger. Additionally, the consultant discussed ensuring that children do not have excessive amounts of food in their mouths while eating and are chewing their food appropriately to prevent of choking. Children must always be seated when eating and shall not be allowed to lie down or be put to sleep while food is present in their mouths.

Correction Deadline: 4/22/2025