



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: 9/21/2023 **VisitType:** Licensing Study

Arrival: 9:00 AM

Departure: 2:30 PM

CCLC-27904

Hallmark Heights Head Start

605 Hightower Street Valdosta, GA 31601 Lowndes County
(229) 244-7773 koliver@cpheadstart.org

Regional Consultant

Lindsey Ray

Phone: ()

Fax:

lindsey.ray@decal.ga.gov

Joint with: Rena Keene

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.
09/21/2023	Licensing Study	Good Standing	
03/15/2023	Monitoring Visit	Good Standing	
11/17/2022	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	Rm A	Three Year Olds	2	14	C	21	C	NA	NA	Free Play
Main	Rm B	Three Year Olds	2	13	C	21	C	NA	NA	Circle Time
Main	Rm C	Three Year Olds	2	16	C	20	C	NA	NA	Transitioning,Outside Centers
Main	Rm D	Three Year Olds	2	14	C	21	C	NA	NA	
Main	Rm E	Three Year Olds	2	14	C	20	C	NA	NA	Free Play
		Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 103			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0					
Total # Children this Date: 71		Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 103			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0					

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	playground 1	98	C

Comments

The purpose of today's visit is to conduct a licensing study.

Plan of Improvement: No Plan Developed

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.dec.state.ga.us/CCS/RuleAndRegulations.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 855-800-7747 or qualityrated@dec.state.ga.us for more information. Free technical assistance is available!

Kvonne Oliver, Program Official

Date

Rena Keene, Regional Consultant

Date

Lindsey Ray, Regional Consultant

Date



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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-.12 Equipment & Toys(CR)

Met

Comment

Equipment and furniture observed to be properly secured, as applicable.

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

Met

Comment

Center does not provide swimming activities.

Facility

591-1-1-.06 Bathrooms

Not Met

Finding

591-1-1-.06(7) requires Center Staff to ensure bathrooms are cleaned daily with a disinfectant. It was determined based on observation that the bathrooms in all classrooms were not properly cleaned and disinfected.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will develop and implement a plan to ensure that bathrooms are cleaned and disinfected daily and that this is monitored daily.

Correction Deadline: 9/21/2023

591-1-1-.19 License Capacity(CR)

Met

Comment

Licensed capacity observed to be routinely met by center.

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 the following hazards were present and accessible to the children in care:

- on the back porch to the left of the main exit door, a water hose was left on the ground
- in classroom A, a stapler was on top of the filing cabinet and cords were on the floor
- in classroom B, a broom and dust pan were next to the cots, a bottle of Antibac foam and a pack of Microdot was under the sink in an unlocked cabinet, rust on the filing cabinet, adult scissors inside of an unlocked cabinet
- in classroom C, plastic bags were under the sink in an unlocked cabinet, adult scissors were out and within reach, batteries were on top of the filing cabinet, and a roll of Scotch packing tape
- in classroom D, a stapler was on top of the filing cabinet, adult scissors accessible to the children
- in classroom E, a stapler was out and accessible, large plastic bags were on top of the children's bookcase

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: 9/21/2023

Finding

591-1-1-.25(3) requires the Center and surrounding premises to be kept clean, free of debris and in good repair. Hygienic measures such as, but not limited to, screened windows and proper waste disposal procedures shall be utilized to minimize the presence of rodents, flies, roaches and other vermin at the Center. It was determined based on observation that the center was not in good repair as follows:

- all classrooms had chipping paint in multiple areas
- all classrooms had rust and debris around the exterior door
- classroom A had water damage on the cabinet door beneath the sink
- classroom B cabinets had water damage
- classroom D had a broken and water damaged cabinet under the sink which prevented the door from closing and became detached from the hinges. The faucet also had a leak.
- classroom E had water damaged cabinets that did not close properly

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will have the Center and surrounding areas cleaned, make repairs where needed, and remove all debris is removed. The Center will implement a plan to keep areas clean and in good repair that includes regular monitoring.

Correction Deadline: 9/21/2023

591-1-1-.26 Playgrounds(CR)**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 gate on the back side of the playground had a gap at the bottom measuring 9 and 1/2 inches. It was also observed that this same gate had a rod 3 and 1/2 feet above the ground welded into the latch that portruded 3 inches imposing a hazard to the children

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: 9/21/2023

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 there were multiple tree roots exposed posing tripping hazards to the children. Trash was observed on the playground. On the large octagon shaped sitting structure, the wood had become detached posing a hazard to the children. The black plastic bumper retaining the mulch on the large playground was missing a bolt that holds it together.

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: 9/21/2023

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

No children enrolled who require diapering. School age children attend only for after school hours.

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

Staff were observed to remind children to wash hands.

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

The Provider currently does not dispense/administer medication.

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

Please be mindful of voice tone in redirecting children.

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)****Not Met****Finding**

591-1-1-.30(4). requires that if cots and mats are stored in the children's activity room or area, they shall be stored to prevent children's access to them and to allow maximum use of play space. When storage is available and used for the storage of cots and mats that allows the cots, mats and any bedding to be stored without touching any other cots, mats or bedding, the bedding may be left on the cot or mat. When such storage is not available for the cots and mats, each child's bedding shall be kept separate from other children's bedding and stored in containers marked for individual use, such as, but not limited to, bins, cubbies, or bags. It was determined based on observation that the cots on classroom B were stacked in a way that allowed the bedding to hang over on to the bedding of other children.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will store cots and mats so children do not have access to them and they don't take up play space and will store them so each child's bedding is separate from the others.

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

591-1-1-.09(1)(j) requires that for portability for Directors, Employees and Provisional Employees, excluding Students-in-Training, only the most recently issued determination letter is eligible for portability and must be ported electronically. A Center may accept a satisfactory Fingerprint Records Check Determination letter or a satisfactory Comprehensive Records Check Determination letter issued by the Department if the Records Check Clearance Date is within the preceding 12 months from the hire date, the individual has not had a lapse of employment from the child care industry that lasted for 180 days (6 months) or longer, and the Center does not know or reasonably should not know that the individual's satisfactory status has changed. It was determined based on a review of records that the director of the center was present for the month of August through September 15 with no portability.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

IMMEDIATE CORRECTION - The Center will ensure that only the most recently issued determination letter is electronically ported for Directors, Employees and Provisional Employees, excluding Students-in-Training. A Center may accept a satisfactory Fingerprint Records Check Determination letter or a satisfactory Comprehensive Records Check Determination letter issued by the Department if the Records Check Clearance Date is within the preceding 12 months from the hire date, the individual has not had a lapse of employment from the child care industry that lasted for 180 days (6 months) or longer, and the Center does not know or reasonably should not know that the individual's satisfactory status has changed. 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 ensure CRC rules are maintained.

Correction Deadline: 9/21/2023**591-1-1-.14 First Aid & CPR****Not Met****Finding**

591-1-1-.14(1) requires the Center Director and, at any given time, at least fifty percent (50%) of the caregiver Staff to successfully complete a biennial training program in cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and a triennial training program in first aid. The first aid training must be done by certified or licensed health care professionals or trainers and must deal with the provision of emergency care to infants and children. The Center shall maintain current evidence of the successful completion of such training which shall be available to the Department for inspection. It was determined based on a review of records that the director who was hired in August of 2023 and on the premises until September 15 2023 did not have current evidence of First Aid & CPR certification.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center Director and at least 50% of the caregiver Staff will complete the needed training. The Director will send written verification to the consultant upon completion and will develop a plan to ensure that at least 50% of the caregiver Staff have completed this training at any given time and that evidence of successful completion of the training is on file available for inspection.

Correction Deadline: 10/21/2023

Finding

591-1-1-.24(1) requires the center to maintain a personnel file on the Director, all Employees, Provisional Employees, Personnel, Staff, Students-in-Training, Volunteers, Clerical, Housekeeping, Maintenance, and other Support Staff for the duration of the term of employment plus one calendar year, and it shall contain the following: identifying information to include: name, date of birth, social security number, current address and current telephone number; employment history; as applicable to the position held: evidence of education and qualifying work experience; evidence of all training required by these rules which shall include: title of training, date of training, trainer's signature, location of training and number of clock hours obtained; a statement completed by the staff member that the information provided is true and accurate; any other records required by these rules; and as applicable to the position held, evidence of required orientation including date and signature of person providing the orientation; It was determined based on a review of records that non of the personnel records include the staffs dates of birth.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will secure required information for all Personnel. The Center will ensure that complete information is in the personnel file for all Directors, Employees, Provisional Employees, Personnel, Staff, Students-in-Training, Volunteers, Clerical, Housekeeping, Maintenance and other Support Staff.

Correction Deadline: 9/26/2023

591-1-1-.33 Staff Training

Not Met

Finding

591-1-1-.33(2) requires the initial Center orientation to include the following subjects: the Center's policies and procedures; the portions of these rules dealing with the care, health and safety of children; the Staff person's assigned duties and responsibilities; reporting requirements for suspected cases of child abuse, neglect or deprivation; communicable diseases and serious injuries; emergency weather plans; the program's emergency preparedness plan; childhood injury control; the administration of medicine; reducing the risk of Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS); hand washing; fire safety; water safety; and prevention of HIV/AIDS and blood borne pathogens. It was determined based on a review of records that one employee was missing documentation of orientation.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will provide orientation in all missing subjects to the employee(s) and will take steps to provide a complete orientation to new Employees in the future.

Correction Deadline: 9/22/2023

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

Not Met

Finding

591-1-1-.31(2)(b)2. requires teachers and lead caregivers to meet minimum academic requirements and qualifying experience at the time of employment. It was determined based on a review of records that one classroom does not have a lead teacher with qualifying credentials.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

A teacher/lead care giver will be hired that meets the minimum academic requirements and qualifying work experience.

Correction Deadline: 9/21/2023

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

Met

Comment

Center observed to maintain appropriate staff:child ratios.

Comment

Center observed to maintain appropriate staff:child ratios.