



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: 10/23/2025 **VisitType:** Licensing Study

Arrival: 8:45 AM **Departure:** 11:40 AM

CCLC-50809

Paulding Head Start Center

145 Academy Drive Dallas, GA 30132 Paulding County
(770) 505-4356

Regional Consultant

Kaiyah Werts

Phone: (912) 544-9793

Fax: (912) 544-9757

kaiyah.werts@decal.ga.gov

Mailing Address

Same

Quality Rated: No

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.
10/23/2025	Licensing Study	Good Standing	
02/17/2025	Complaint Closure	Good Standing	
02/10/2025	Complaint Investigation Follow Up	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 Building	A - 1st Left	Three Year Olds	2	15	C	20	C	29	C	Breakfast
Main Building	B - 2nd Left	Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds	2	15	C	20	C	29	C	Breakfast
Main Building	C - 3rd Left	GA PreK	2	13	C	23	C	33	C	Music
Main Building	D - 4th Left		0	0	C	21	C	29	C	

Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 84

Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 120

Total # Children this Date: 43

Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 84

Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 120

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main Building	Playground A	66	C
Main Building	Playground B	105	C

Enrolled Children						
Under 1 years	1 years	2 years	3 years	4 years	5 years (Prekonly)	5 years and older
0	0	0	24	26	3	0

Comments

Consultant discussed the new rule changes as of July 1, 2025.

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.decgal.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 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@decgal.ga.gov for more information. Free technical assistance is available!



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Summary Report

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The following information is associated with a Licensing Study:

Activities and Equipment

591-1-1-.03 Activities

Met

Comment

Age-appropriate activities observed throughout the center.

Comment

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

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

Technical Assistance

Comment

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

Comment

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

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.12(2) - Discussed with the Director to ensure the plush child size furniture is free of any rips and tears.

Correction Deadline: 10/23/2025

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

N/A

Comment

Center does not provide swimming activities.

Children's Records

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

Met

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.

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

Please secure cleaning tools (i.e., broom, plunger) out of reach of children.

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.25(13) - Discussed with the Director to ensure baby wipes are locked in a cabinet or out of reach of children.

Correction Deadline: 10/23/2025

591-1-1-.26 Playgrounds(CR)**Technical Assistance****Comment**

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

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.26(4) - Discussed with the Director requirements for the temporary fence put in place to block off the wooded area on the playground. Consultant recommended the temporary fence be tightly secured at all times, until the wooded area is cleared.

Correction Deadline: 10/23/2025

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://decalfga.gov/CACFP/Handbook.aspx>

USDA

<http://www.fns.usda.gov/cacfp/cacfp-handbooks>

591-1-1-.18 Kitchen Operations**Met****Comment**

Kitchen appeared clean and well organized on this date.

Health and Hygiene

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

No children enrolled who require diapering.

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

Proper hand washing observed throughout the center on this date.

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

Documentation for emergency medication observed completed on this date.

Policies and Procedures

591-1-1-.21 Operational Policies & Procedures**Met****Comment**

Program observed complete emergency drills

Safety

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

Center does not keep animals on premises.

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

Age-appropriate discussion and/or redirection observed.

591-1-1-.13 Field Trips(CR)	N/A
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Comment

Center does not participate in field trips at this time.

591-1-1-.36 Transportation(CR)	N/A
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Comment

Center does not provide routine transportation.

Sleeping & Resting Equipment

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

No children enrolled that require cribs. The correct number of cots, sheets and blankets were observed on this date.
Cleaning and disinfecting of cots was discussed with the staff on this date.

Staff Records

Records Reviewed: 19

Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 7
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Staff # 1

Not Met

Date of Hire: 08/26/2022

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.14(2)-CPR missing,.14(2)-First Aid Missing,.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training,.33(3)-Health & Safety Certificate

Staff # 2

Not Met

Date of Hire: 07/29/2022

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(3)-Health & Safety Certificate,.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training

Staff # 3

Not Met

Date of Hire: 08/26/2022

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.14(2)-CPR missing,.14(2)-First Aid Missing,.33(3)-Health & Safety Certificate,.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training

Staff # 6

Not Met

Date of Hire: 08/26/2022

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(3)-Health & Safety Certificate,.33(4)-Food Prep Training Missing 4 hrs.

Staff # 9

Not Met

Date of Hire: 09/14/2014

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(3)-Health & Safety Certificate,.14(2)-CPR missing,.14(2)-First Aid Missing

Staff # 16

Not Met

Date of Hire: 02/21/2025

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.14(2)-First Aid Missing,.14(2)-CPR missing

Staff # 17

Not Met

Date of Hire: 10/28/2024

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.14(2)-CPR missing,.14(2)-First Aid Missing

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

Director provided six files for employees hired since last visit.

Correction Deadline: 2/10/2025

Corrected on 10/23/2025

.09(1)(j) - Previous citation observed corrected on this date. Consultant observed all staff to have a completed satisfactory background check.

591-1-1-.14 First Aid & CPR(CR)**Not Met****Finding**

591-1-1-.14(1)(a) requires all Staff who provide direct care to children must obtain certification in a biennial training program in pediatric cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and a triennial training program in pediatric first aid within the first 45 days of employment. Current and valid evidence of the successful completion of such training shall be maintained on the Center's premises. The hours obtained completing this certification will not count towards the required annual training hours. It was determined based on review of records that 5 of 14 staff members were missing their First Aid and CPR certification at the time of the visit.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

All caregiver Staff will complete the required training. The Director will send copies via email verification of completed CPR/First Aid certification to the Consultant upon completion and will develop a plan to ensure all caregiver Staff have completed this training within the first 45 days of employment and that evidence of successful completion of the training is on file available for inspection.

Correction Deadline: 11/22/2025

Finding

591-1-1-.14(2)(b) requires that there must always be one staff person present in each classroom where children are present that has current and valid pediatric cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and pediatric first aid training. It was determined based on review of records classroom C-3rd Left had two staff members present without a First Aid and CPR certification on file.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Director will schedule and/or position caregiver Staff throughout the Center to ensure at least one currently pediatric CPR and First Aid trained Staff person is present in each classroom where children are present.

Correction Deadline: 10/23/2025

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

Finding

591-1-1-.33(3)(a)-(k) requires each Staff member with direct care responsibilities to complete health and safety orientation training within the first 90 days of employment. The state-approved training hours obtained will count toward required first year training hours. The training must address the following health and safety topics: a) prevention and control of infectious diseases (including immunizations); b) prevention of sudden infant death syndrome and use of safe sleeping practices; c) administration of medication, consistent with standards for parental consent; d) prevention of and response to emergencies due to food and allergic reactions; e) building and physical premises safety, including identification of and protection from hazards that can cause bodily injury such as electrical hazards, bodies of water, and vehicular traffic; f) prevention of shaken baby syndrome, abusive head trauma and child maltreatment; g) emergency preparedness and response planning for emergencies resulting from a natural disaster or a human-caused event (such as violence at a child care facility); h) handling and storage of hazardous materials and the appropriate disposal of bio contaminants; i) precautions in transporting children; j) recognition and reporting of child abuse and neglect; and k) child development to include all major domains: cognitive; social and emotional; physical development and motor skills; communication, language, and literacy; and approaches to play and learning. It was determined based on review of records 5 of 14 staff member were missing their 10 hour Health and Safety Orientation at the time of the visit.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will develop and implement a plan to schedule and track this training for all employees based on their hire dates and will ensure that the training includes all required components as required.

Correction Deadline: 11/22/2025

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.33(4) - Discussed with the Director to ensure the designated cook complete 4 clock hours of Nutrition Training.

Correction Deadline: 11/22/2025

Finding

591-1-1-.33(5)(a) 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 offered by an accredited college, university or vocational program or other Department-approved source. It was determined based on review of records 4 of 14 staff member had incomplete annual 10 hour training at the time of the visit.

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: 11/22/2025

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

Met

Comment

Staff observed to be compliant with applicable laws and regulations.

Staffing and Supervision

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)

Met

Comment

Adequate supervision observed on this date.