



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: 1/31/2025 VisitType: Licensing Study

Arrival: 9:45 AM Departure: 2:00 PM

CCLC-38751

Benning Hills Head Start

190 Munson Drive Columbus, GA 31903 Muscogee County  
(706) 223-3901 TStreeter@espcaa.org

Regional Consultant

Penny Svenson

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Mailing Address

190 Munson Drive  
Columbus, GA 31906

Quality Rated: ★

| Compliance Zone Designation |                  |               | <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. |
|-----------------------------|------------------|---------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 01/31/2025                  | Licensing Study  | Good Standing |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| 10/24/2024                  | MV POI Follow Up | Good Standing |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| 01/25/2024                  | 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                           | A    | One Year Olds                      | 2     | 6        | C                             | 21         | C            | NA                                                         | NA           | Free Play         |
| Main                           | B    | Two Year Olds                      | 2     | 3        | C                             | 21         | C            | NA                                                         | NA           | Centers,Free Play |
| Main                           | C    | Three Year Olds                    | 2     | 13       | C                             | 21         | C            | NA                                                         | NA           | Centers,Free Play |
| Main                           | D    | Three Year Olds                    | 2     | 10       | C                             | 21         | C            | NA                                                         | NA           | Centers,Free Play |
| Main                           | E    | Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds | 2     | 13       | C                             | 21         | C            | NA                                                         | NA           | Circle Time       |
| Main                           | F    | Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds | 2     | 11       | C                             | 21         | C            | NA                                                         | NA           | Free Play,Centers |
| Main                           | G    | GA PreK                            | 2     | 15       | C                             | 27         | C            | NA                                                         | NA           | Circle Time       |
| Main                           | H    | GA PreK                            | 2     | 12       | C                             | 27         | C            | NA                                                         | NA           | Circle Time,Music |
|                                |      | Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 178    |       |          | Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0 |            |              | Building @35 capacity limited by Fire Marshall Limitations |              |                   |
| Total # Children this Date: 83 |      | Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 178    |       |          | Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0 |            |              |                                                            |              |                   |

| Building | Playground   | Playground Occupancy | Playground Compliance |
|----------|--------------|----------------------|-----------------------|
| Main     | Playground A | 24                   | C                     |
| Main     | Playground B | 41                   | C                     |

| Enrolled Children |         |         |         |         |                    |                   |
|-------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|--------------------|-------------------|
| Under 1 years     | 1 years | 2 years | 3 years | 4 years | 5 years (Prekonly) | 5 years and older |
| 0                 | 3       | 9       | 31      | 42      | 20                 | 0                 |

#### Comments

January 31, 2025--The Licensing Study was conducted on this date. The findings were discussed with the Director. A one day letter was left and the Affidavit was read.

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](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.

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](mailto:qualityrated@decgal.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-.12 Equipment & Toys(CR)**

**Met**

**Comment**

Discussed rotating toys to support the procedures of daily disinfecting.

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

**Met**

**Comment**

Center does not provide swimming activities.

**Children's Records**

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

**Technical Assistance**

**Technical Assistance**

The Consultant discussed ensuring the complete address was listed for each person a child was permitted to be released to per their parent(s).

**Correction Deadline: 1/31/2025**

**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.

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

**Met**

**Comment**

No hazards observed accessible to children on this date.

**Technical Assistance**

The Consultant discussed with the Director to ensure the ant beds present from rain in the area were treated and no longer active before children were allowed on the playground.

**Correction Deadline: 1/31/2025**

**Food Service****591-1-1-.15 Food Service & Nutrition****Met****Comment**

Center menu meets USDA guidelines.

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

Kitchen appears clean and well organized. The kitchen received a 100% on their inspection conducted by DHS.

**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)****Met****Comment**

Proper hand washing observed throughout the center.

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

**Correction Deadline: 10/24/2024**

**Corrected on 1/31/2025**

The correction was observed during the licensing study. No medication was observed to be present in classrooms on this date.

**Policies and Procedures****591-1-1-.29 Required Reporting****Met****Comment**

Thank you for reporting as required.

**Safety****591-1-1-.05 Animals****Met****Comment**

Center does not keep animals on 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)****Met****Comment**

Field trip documentation observed to be complete.

**Comment**

Paperwork, checklist, permission forms, annual inspection form and proper check of the vehicle after transportation were discussed with the director. Buses are kept off the premises. The Consultant discussed with the Director to ensure the vehicle transportation document and the emergency vehicle transportation forms were present on the vehicle for each child transported.

|                                         |
|-----------------------------------------|
| <b>Sleeping &amp; Resting Equipment</b> |
|-----------------------------------------|

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

Met

**Comment**

The correct number of mats, sheets and blankets were observed on this date. Cleaning and disinfecting of mats was discussed with the director on this date.

|                      |
|----------------------|
| <b>Staff Records</b> |
|----------------------|

## 591-1-1-.09 Criminal Records and Comprehensive Background Checks(CR)

Not Met

**Finding**

591-1-1-.09(1)(a) requires that a Center ensure that every actual and potential Director, Employee and Provisional Employee of a Child Care Learning Center submit both a Records Check Application to the Department and Fingerprints to an authorized fingerprinting site. It was determined based on a review of records that the Center did not ensure staff member number seven (7) and fourteen (14) submitted both a Records Check Application to the Department and Fingerprints to an authorized fingerprinting site as required.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

IMMEDIATE CORRECTION - The Center will to ensure that every actual and potential Director, Employee and Provisional Employee of a Child Care Learning Center submit both a Records Check Application to the Department and Fingerprints to an authorized fingerprinting site as required. 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 to ensure the CRC rules are maintained. The Center will review Koala and ensure any person present on the premises has a current and valid Criminal Records Check in Koala and any staff member that is shared between centers will be ported into the program.

**Correction Deadline: 1/31/2025**

**Finding**

591-1-1-.09(1)(c) requires the Center to ensure that every Employee has a valid and current satisfactory Comprehensive Records Check Determination on file prior to being present at the Center while any child is present for care or before an individual age 17 or older resides in the Center. The Comprehensive Records Check Determination must have a Records Check Clearance Date that is no older than the preceding 12 months of the hire date; provided, however, if the Employee has had a lapse of employment from the child care industry that lasted for 180 days (6 months) or longer, a new satisfactory Comprehensive Records Check Determination is required. It was determined based on a review of records that the Center did not ensure staff member number seven (7) and fourteen (14) had a valid and current satisfactory Comprehensive Records Check on file for this program while any child was present for care.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

IMMEDIATE CORRECTION - The Center will to ensure that every Employee has a valid and current satisfactory Comprehensive Records Check Determination on file prior to being present at the Center while any child is present for care or before an individual age 17 or older resides in the Center. The Comprehensive Records Check Determination must have a Records Check Clearance Date that is no older than the preceding 12 months of the hire date; provided, however, if the Employee has had a lapse of employment from the child care industry that lasted for 180 days (6 months) or longer, a new satisfactory Comprehensive Records Check Determination is required. 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 to ensure the CRC rules are maintained.

**Correction Deadline: 1/31/2025**

## 591-1-1-.14 First Aid &amp; CPR

Met

**Correction Deadline: 2/24/2024**

Corrected on 1/31/2025

100% of staff required to have first aid and CPR training by this date was observed to have completed the training.

591-1-1-.33 Staff Training

Met

Correction Deadline: 2/24/2024

Corrected on 1/31/2025

The correction was observed during a review of records.

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

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