



**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:** 3/5/2025 **VisitType:** Licensing Study

**Arrival:** 3:15 PM **Departure:** 4:50 PM

**CCLC-51731**  
**Towns County YMCA Kids Time**  
1400 US-76 Hiawassee, GA 30546 Towns County  
(770) 297-9622 TownsCo@gamountainsymca.org

Lead Consultant  
Dianne Clarke  
Phone: (770) 357-4923  
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Joint with: Francine Arnone

**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. |
|------------------------------------|------------------|---------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 03/05/2025                         | Licensing Study  | Good Standing |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| 09/19/2024                         | Monitoring Visit | Good Standing |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| 05/13/2024                         | 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                           | Room 207 | Four Year Olds and Five Year Olds and Six Year Olds and Over | 1     | 7        | C                             | 24         | C            | NA         | NA           | Free Play,Snack |
| Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 24 |          |                                                              |       |          | Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0 |            |              |            |              |                 |
| Total # Children this Date: 7  |          |                                                              |       |          | Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0 |            |              |            |              |                 |

| Building | Playground | Playground Occupancy | Playground Compliance |
|----------|------------|----------------------|-----------------------|
|----------|------------|----------------------|-----------------------|

| <b>Enrolled Children</b> |         |         |         |         |                    |                   |
|--------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|--------------------|-------------------|
| Under 1 years            | 1 years | 2 years | 3 years | 4 years | 5 years (Prekonly) | 5 years and older |
| 0                        | 0       | 0       | 0       | 1       | 1                  | 14                |

**Comments**

The purpose of the visit is to conduct a licensing study visit.

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.dec.state.ga.us/CCS/Regulations.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 user id 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@dec.state.ga.us](mailto:qualityrated@dec.state.ga.us) 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**

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

**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**

**Not Met**

**Technical Assistance**

591-1-1-.08(1) - Please ensure that all information is recorded on all children's files.

**Correction Deadline: 3/5/2025**

**Finding**

591-1-1-.08(6) requires the Center to maintain records of a child's daily arrival and departure for the twelve (12) preceding months that the Parent or person(s) authorized by the Parent documents, in written or electronic format, each time the Parent or authorized person drops off and picks up the child. The documentation shall include at least the date, the child's name, the arrival and departure times, and the signature or initials of the Parent or authorized person at the time of arrival and departure. These records shall be made available to the Department in printed or written form upon request. It was determined based on a review of records that the sign in and out records were not available for the consultant to review for the last two weeks.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

The Center will maintain arrival and departure records as required, will ensure the documentation includes all of the required information, and will provide the records to the Department when requested.

**Correction Deadline: 3/5/2025**

**Facility**

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**591-1-1-.19 License Capacity(CR)****Met****Comment**

Licensed capacity observed to be routinely met by center.

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**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 the following hazards were observed to be accessible:

-Room 206: In an unlocked cabinet to the right of the classroom, disinfectant sprays and Lysol wipes were accessible. Also, in a drawer on the teacher's desk, contact lens solution and white out were accessible and read keep out of reach of children. Further, on top of a shelf near the closet to the right, a pair of adult scissors were observed to be accessible. Under the sink, in an unlocked cabinet, Degreaser spot remover which read keep out of reach of children were observed to be accessible and near the sink a bottle of hand sanitizer was accessible.

-Room 207: A tape dispenser was observed on a desk to the front left. Also, a stapler was observed on a desk straight ahead on the right.

**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: 3/7/2025****Technical Assistance**

591-1-1-.25(3) - Please ensure to have the ceiling tile replaced in room 206.

**Correction Deadline: 3/5/2025****Technical Assistance**

591-1-1-.25(8) - Please ensure that all outlets are covered at all times.

**Correction Deadline: 3/5/2025**

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**591-1-1-.26 Playgrounds(CR)****Met****Comment**

Playground observed to be clean and in good repair.

|                     |
|---------------------|
| <b>Food Service</b> |
|---------------------|

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**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://dec.al.ga.gov/CACFP/Handbook.aspx>

USDA

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

|                           |
|---------------------------|
| <b>Health and Hygiene</b> |
|---------------------------|

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**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.

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

**Comment**

Proper hand washing observed throughout the center.

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

**Comment**

The Provider currently does not dispense/administer medication.

**Organization**

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**591-1-1-.16 Governing Body & License** **Not Met**

**Finding**

591-1-1-.16(f) requires the Center to submit an application for an amended License at least 30 days prior to a change if there is a change in the name of the program or Center, changes in the ages of the children to be served, an increase in the regular hours of operation such that the Center would be providing evening or night-time care in addition to day-time care, changes in the services provided, or additions to or changes in the use of the building by the licensed Center. If an emergency situation arises which makes it impossible to give thirty (30) days' notice, the management of the Center shall notify the Department by telephone and shall submit an application for an amended License as soon as management becomes aware of the change that will be necessitated by the emergency situation. In no case, however, shall a new owner operate the Center without first securing a new License or Permit from the Department. It was determined based on observation that the center was using an unlicensed space when it was observed that the cafeteria and room 206 were being used by the staff and children.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

An application for amendment and all necessary documentation will be submitted.

**Correction Deadline: 3/12/2025**

**Safety**

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

**Comment**

Age-appropriate discussion and/or redirection observed.

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

**Comment**

Center does not provide routine transportation.

**Sleeping & Resting Equipment**

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

**Comment**

Sleeping/Naps are not required for this program. School age children attend only for after school hours.

**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.

**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 #2 hired on January 11, 2022, did not have evidence of ten hours of annual training for 2024.

**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: 4/4/2025**

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

Not Met

**Finding**

591-1-1-.31(1)(b)2 requires the Director to possess at least one of the sets of minimum academic requirements and qualifying child care experience listed in Rule 591-1-1-.31(1)(b)2.(i-xiii). It was determined based on a review of records that staff #2 did not have evidence of the minimum academic requirements.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

The Center will ensure that the Director meets the minimum education and work requirements and secure the necessary documentation.

**Correction Deadline: 6/5/2025**

**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.