



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: 9/3/2025 VisitType: Monitoring Visit

Arrival: 10:45 AM Departure: 4:00 PM

CCLC-33856

Newton County Head Start Center

25 Lover's Lane Covington, GA 30016 Newton County
(770) 784-7528 cbrooks@mtecdc.org

Regional Consultant

Cassandra Jakes-Beasley

Phone: (770) 357-7016

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cassandra.jakes-beasley@decal.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.
09/03/2025	Monitoring Visit	Good Standing	
11/08/2024	Licensing Study	Good Standing	
10/03/2023	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 - 1R		0	0	C	27	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
Main	B - 2R	Three Year Olds	2	0	C	24	C	NA	NA	Transitioning
Main	C - 3R Back	Three Year Olds	2	15	C	24	C	NA	NA	Lunch
Main	C - 3R Front		0	0	C	28	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
Main	D - 4R	GA PreK	2	20	C	37	C	NA	NA	Lunch
Main	E - 5R	Three Year Olds	2	15	C	37	C	NA	NA	Lunch
Main	F - 6R		0	0	C	12	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
Main	G - 7R		0	0	C	18	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
Main	H - 8R		0	0	C	29	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
Main	I - 9R	Infants and One Year Olds	2	8	C	23	C	NA	NA	Floor Play,Nap
Main	J - 1L	Three Year Olds	2	15	C	18	C	NA	NA	Lunch,Not In Use
Main	K - 10R Left Hall	Three Year Olds	2	15	C	39	C	NA	NA	Lunch
Main	N - 2L Left Hall		0	0	C	24	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 340			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0							
Total # Children this Date: 88			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0							

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	A - Front	21	C
Main	B - Back	50	C
Main	C - Right Side	344	C

Enrolled Children						
Under 1 years	1 years	2 years	3 years	4 years	5 years (Prekonly)	5 years and older
4	9	17	68	20	0	0

Comments

Background checks were reviewed. The Consultant completed the exit conference, and a copy of the report was email to the Provider.

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



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(Findings Report)

Date: 9/3/2025 **VisitType:** Monitoring Visit

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The following information is associated with a MV:

Activities and Equipment

591-1-1.12 Equipment & Toys(CR)

Met

Comment

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

591-1-1.35 Swimming Pools & Water-related Activities(CR)

Met

Comment

Center does not provide swimming activities.

Facility

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 be mindful to keep items that pose a hazard inaccessible to children.

Technical Assistance

591-1-1.25(8) - The consultant discussed with the director that protective caps are required on all unused electrical outlets within children's reach and requires that electrical outlets and cords in use be made inaccessible to children.

Correction Deadline: 9/3/2025

Technical Assistance

591-1-1.25(8) -The consultant discussed with the director that protective caps are required on all unused electrical outlets within children's reach and requires that electrical outlets and cords in use be made inaccessible to children.

Correction Deadline: 9/3/2025

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 the double fence gate on the right playground facing the road was not securely latched. The gate was secured at the top with a loose bungee cord, creating a four inch gap between the fence poles. In addition, on the back playground the fencing material surrounding the green septic system was bent inwards, creating a four inch gap at the bottom.

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: 9/3/2025

Finding

591-1-1-.26(6) requires that playground equipment provide an opportunity for the children to engage in a variety of experiences and shall be age-appropriate. For example, toddlers shall not be permitted to swing in swings designed for School-age Children. The outdoor equipment shall be free of lead-based paint, sharp corners and shall be regularly maintained in such a way as to be free of rust and splinters that could pose significant safety hazard to the children. All equipment shall be arranged so as not to obstruct supervision of children. It was determined based on observation the red tunnel on the right playground was cracked on the top with a jagged edges.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will provide a variety of age-appropriate equipment that is arranged so as not to obstruct supervision of children. Staff will check the equipment daily to ensure that the equipment is free of hazards, rust and splinters.

Correction Deadline: 9/13/2025

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.26(9) - The consultant discussed with the director to monitor all play equipment for spider webs.

Correction Deadline: 9/3/2025

Health and Hygiene

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

Staff stated proper knowledge of diapering procedures.

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**

The Provider currently does not dispense/administer medication.

Policies and Procedures

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.21(4) - Discussed updating the Center's policies and procedures to include the program's practices regarding the expulsion and suspension of children enrolled for care within the description of behavior management and discipline actions used by the Center.

Also discussed to ensure a description of the practices followed by the Center to prevent shaken baby syndrome and abusive head trauma in children up to five years of age that includes the following information: how to recognize, respond to, and report the signs and symptoms of shaken baby syndrome and abusive head trauma; strategies to assist staff members in understanding how to care for infants and how to cope with a crying, fussing, or distraught child; strategies to ensure staff members understand the brain development of children up to five years of age; and a list of prohibited behaviors when dealing with children.

Additional information can be found in the CCLC Indicator Manual found on DECAL's website at:

<https://www.dec.al.gov/CCS/RulesAndRegulations.aspx> or through the Center on Shaken Baby Syndrome found at: <https://dontshake.org/>.

Correction Deadline: 9/8/2025

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

Staff were observed to maintain a positive learning environment on this date.

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

Center does not provide routine transportation.

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

Discussed SIDS and infant sleeping position.

Comment

Pleasant naptime environment observed.

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

Director provided [3] file(s) for employees hired since last visit.

591-1-1-.14 First Aid & CPR(CR)**Technical Assistance****Technical Assistance**

591-1-1-.14(1)(a) - Discussed that all Employees, including volunteers, independent contractors, students-in-training, etc. should have a completed initial program orientation form on file.

Correction Deadline: 10/3/2025

591-1-1-.33 Staff Training**Technical Assistance****Technical Assistance**

591-1-1-.33(5)(b)1. - New - Discussed that effective July 1, 2025, all staff are required to obtain at least two hours in evidence based, developmentally appropriate language and literacy practices and at least two hours in on-going child development and health and safety related topics as part of their 10 hours of annual training.

Correction Deadline: 10/3/2025

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.33(6) - New - Discussed that all Employees, including volunteers, independent contractors, students-in-training, etc. should have a completed initial program orientation form on file.

Correction Deadline: 9/13/2025

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.