



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: 4/13/2026 **VisitType:** Licensing Study

Arrival: 9:20 AM **Departure:** 2:30 PM

CCLC-24915

Morgan County Headstart/Early Headstart

864 Garnett Street Madison, GA 30650 Morgan County
(706) 342-1634

Process & QI Unit Consultant

Melyn Smith

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Joint with: Karyn Presley

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.
04/13/2026	Licensing Study	Good Standing	
12/09/2025	Monitoring Visit	Good Standing	
07/17/2025	Incident Investigation Closure	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-1L		0	0	C	13	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
Main	B:Left Wing-2R	Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds	92	5	C	20	C	NA	NA	Centers
Main	C: Lt Wing-1R		0	0	C	21	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
Main	D: Rt Wing-1L	Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds and Five Year Olds	2	16	C	20	C	NA	NA	Transitioning,Ce nters
Main	E: Rt.Wing-2L		0	0	C	20	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
Main	F: Rt.wing-1R	Two Year Olds and Three Year Olds	3	6	C	17	C	NA	NA	Transitioning,Fr ee Play,Circle Time
Main	G: Rt.Wing-2R	One Year Olds and Two Year Olds	2	6	C	17	C	NA	NA	Outside
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 128					Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0					
Total # Children this Date: 33					Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0					

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	PG: Bk Left	105	C
Main	PG: Bk Right	80	C
Main	PG: Far Left-Toddler	16	C

Enrolled Children						
Under 1 years	1 years	2 years	3 years	4 years	5 years (Prekonly)	5 years and older
0	4	6	27	11	0	4

Comments

The Consultant completed the exit conference with the Director. The Consultant provided the No Liability Insurance document and the Emergency Preparedness Plan template by email on this date.

Plan of Improvement: Developed This Date



For additional information regarding any licensing topics discussed during this visit, please consult the Rules and Regulations Indicator Manual. This manual provides comprehensive clarification of each rule, including evaluation indicators, related best practices, and relevant considerations to support your program's continued and sustained compliance.

To access the Indicator Manual, please scan the QR code below or visit our website at <https://www.decal.ga.gov/CCS/RulesAndRegulations.aspx>.

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



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

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.

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.12(2) - The Consultant discussed with the Director to monitor the vinyl furniture and replace when needed, as one of seven classrooms, Room F: Rt. wing - 1R, had a red vinyl chair where vinyl was beginning to peel on the arm on this date.

Correction Deadline: 4/13/2026

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-.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)

Not Met

Comment

No hazards observed accessible to children on this date.

Finding

591-1-1-.25(17) requires that the Center premises be free of plants and shrubs which are poisonous or hazardous. It was determined based on observation that Virginia Creeper vines and a nandina bush determined to be toxic to children were growing through the back fence on the PG: Back Left and were accessible to children on this date.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The harmful item will be removed.

Correction Deadline: 4/17/2026

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.25(7) - The Consultant discussed with the Director to ensure doors to rooms not approved for child care were latched or locked so children could not wander into those areas, as the door to the Janitor's closet was not locked containing cleaning supplies and the door to the Instructional Support Coach's office containing a staff purse and a copier was open on this date.

Correction Deadline: 4/13/2026

591-1-1-.26 Playgrounds(CR)**Not Met****Technical Assistance**

591-1-1-.26(4) - The Consultant discussed with the Director to ensure that the fences enclosing the playgrounds were secured at the bottom, as one fence on the PG: Far Left - Toddler was not secure at the bottom beneath the blue art station and one fence on the PG: Bk Right surrounding the HVAC units was not secured at the bottom and had a gap of 2 inches on this date.

Correction Deadline: 4/13/2026

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 active ant beds were present on the PG: Bk Left and PG: Bk Right on this date accessible to children present on the playground. It was further determined that spider webs were present throughout the blue musical playground equipment accessible to children present on the PG: Bk Right on this date.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center treated the active ant beds and removed the spider webs during the visit and will routinely monitor the playground and remove any hazards.

Correction Deadline: 4/15/2026

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

Center menu meets USDA guidelines.

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.

Comment

Staff were observed to remind children to wash hands on this date.

591-1-1-.20 Medications(CR)**Not Met****Finding**

591-1-1-.20(3) requires the Center to maintain a record of medication dispensed that includes the date, time and amount of medication, any noticeable adverse reaction, and the signature or initials of the person administering the medication. It was determined based on a review of records that in Room D: Rt Wing - 1L, the Center failed to maintain the dispensing record for a medication that was required before outdoor play time based on the child's Asthma Action Plan in that it was not documented that the medication was not dispensed due to the parent stating the medication was dispensed at home prior to arrival at the center.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will train Staff responsible for dispensing medication in the accurate completion and storage of the records and will implement a plan to monitor this.

Correction Deadline: 4/13/2026

Policies and Procedures**591-1-1-.21 Operational Policies & Procedures****Technical Assistance****Technical Assistance**

591-1-1-.21(1)(p) - The Consultant discussed with the Director to ensure that the Center's Emergency Preparedness Plan contained information on procedures to follow in the case of a child's death or loss of a child on this date.

Correction Deadline: 4/18/2026

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

Center does not keep animals on premises.

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

Age-appropriate discussion and/or redirection observed.

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

Center does not participate in field trips at this time.

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

The correct number of cots, sheets, and blankets were observed on this date. The Center does not provide care for infants.

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

Consultant requested to view all Criminal Record checks for employees hired after last visit. Director stated that there have been no new hires since last visit

Comment

Criminal record checks were observed to be complete.

591-1-1-.14 First Aid & CPR(CR)**Met****Comment**

Complete first aid kits observed in the center and each classroom on this date.

Comment

Evidence observed of 100% of center Staff certified in First Aid and CPR containing emergency care for infants and children on this date.

591-1-1-.33 Staff Training**Met****Comment**

Documentation observed of required staff training.

Comment

Staff observed to be compliant with applicable laws and regulations.

Staffing and Supervision

Comment

Center observed to maintain appropriate staff:child ratios.

Comment

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