



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: 4/14/2026 VisitType: Licensing Study

Arrival: 9:35 AM Departure: 1:30 PM

CCLC-56680

Happy Kidz Early Learning Center

7290 Covington Highway Lithonia, GA 30058 DeKalb County
(770) 484-8226

Regional Consultant

Evon Hewitt

Phone: ()

Fax:

evon.hewitt@dec.al.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.
04/14/2026	Licensing Study	Good Standing	
07/15/2025	MV POI Follow Up	Good Standing	
02/06/2025	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- Far Right (Upstairs)	Infants and One Year Olds	1	3	C	6	C	NA	NA	Floor Play,Story
Main	B- Front Center (Upstairs)	Two Year Olds	1	5	C	10	C	NA	NA	Art,Transitioning
Main	C- Far Left (upstairs)	Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds	1	11	C	16	C	NA	NA	Music
Main	D- Back Center (Upstairs)	One Year Olds and Two Year Olds	1	5	C	9	C	NA	NA	Free Play,Floor Play
Main	E- Far Left (Downstairs)	Four Year Olds and Five Year Olds	2	13	C	15	C	21	C	Centers
Main	F- Front Right (Downstairs)	Five Year Olds and Six Year Olds and Over	1	7	C	14	C	20	C	Music
Main	G- Back Right (Downstairs)		0	0	C	13	C	18	C	Not In Use
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 83			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 100							
Total # Children this Date: 44			Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 83							
			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 100							

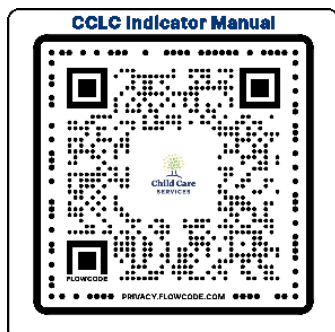
Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	Left Playground	30	C
Main	Right Playground	28	C

Enrolled Children						
Under 1 years	1 years	2 years	3 years	4 years	5 years (Prekonly)	5 years and older
4	7	8	13	13	0	30

Comments

The findings of this report were reviewed with the Provider on this date. Previous rule violations were observed/discussed.

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.dec.al.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.dec.al.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!



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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

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

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

Met

Correction Deadline: 7/15/2025

Corrected on 4/14/2026

.12(2) - Previous citation corrected in that the Consultant did not observe any equipment/furniture hazards on this date.

Correction Deadline: 7/15/2025

Corrected on 4/14/2026

.12(4) - Previous citation corrected in that the Consultant did not observe any potential tipping hazards 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

Correction Deadline: 7/15/2025

Corrected on 4/14/2026

.19(1) - Previous citation corrected in that the Consultant observed the Center to maintain the license capacity as required on this date.

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

Not Met

Correction Deadline: 8/15/2025

Corrected on 4/14/2026

.25(11) - Previous citation corrected in that the Consultant observed the flooring to smooth as required on this date.

Finding

591-1-1-.25(12) requires heating and cooling equipment to be protected to prevent children from touching it. Fans, space heaters, etc. shall be positioned or installed so as to be inaccessible to the children. It was determined based on observation that there was a heating cooling equipment in an unlocked closet outside of classroom G- Back Right (Downstairs) 5+ accessible to children on this date. It was further determined that there was a heating cooling unit located at the front right of classroom F- Front Right (Downstairs) accessible to children on this date.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will re-position or re-install equipment, as needed, and will make all such equipment inaccessible to children.

Correction Deadline: 4/14/2026

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 potential hazards were accessible to children on this date:

Classroom C- Far Left (Upstairs)

-There was a plunger to the right of the toilet in the children's bathroom.

Classroom F- Front Right (Downstairs)

-There was an unlocked closet with several plastic grocery bags on a shelf located at the front right of the classroom.

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: 4/15/2026

Recited on 4/14/2026

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.25(3) - requires the Center and surrounding premises to be kept clean, free of debris and in good repair. Hygienic measures such as, but not limited to, screened windows and proper waste disposal procedures shall be utilized to minimize the presence of rodents, flies, roaches and other vermin at the Center. The Consultant and Director discussed ensuring that protruding toilet bolts are capped as required.

Correction Deadline: 4/14/2026

591-1-1-.26 Playgrounds(CR)**Not Met****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 that there was a blue car equipment with wooden slats that had unsecured splintering wood located on the Left Playground on this date.

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: 5/19/2026

Recited on 4/14/2026

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 the following playground hazards were accessible to children on this date:

Front Right-

- There was a mop leaning against the right railing outside the upstairs playground entry door.
- There was an unsecured water hose to the right of the steps near the playground entry door.

Left Middle

- There was a rake leaning against the chain link fence in front of the Left Playground.

Left Playground

- There were exposed tree roots at the front left of the playground causing a potential tripping hazard.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will remove any litter and fix or remove hazards from the playground and will routinely monitor the playground and remove litter and hazards.

Correction Deadline: 4/14/2026

Health and Hygiene**591-1-1-.07 Children's Health****Met**

Correction Deadline: 7/15/2025

Corrected on 4/14/2026

.07(5) - Previous citation corrected in that the Consultant did not observe any hazardous items around children's necks or attached to their clothing on this date.

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

Correction Deadline: 7/18/2025

Corrected on 4/14/2026

.10(4) - Previous citation corrected in that the Consultant observed the diapering surfaces to nonporous as required on this date.

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

Proper hand washing observed throughout the center on this date.

591-1-1-.20 Medications(CR)**N/A****Comment**

The Provider currently does not dispense/administer medication.

Safety**591-1-1-.05 Animals****N/A****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-.36 Transportation(CR)**Met**

Correction Deadline: 7/26/2025

Corrected on 4/14/2026

.36(4)(b) - Previous citation corrected in that the Consultant did not observe any interior hazards on this date.

Sleeping & Resting Equipment

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.

Staff Records

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

Criminal record checks were observed to be complete.

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