



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: 2/17/2026 **VisitType:** Licensing Study

Arrival: 12:05 PM **Departure:** 3:30 PM

CCLC-3418

Wayne Head Start

724 North Fourth Street Jesup, GA 31545 Wayne County
(912) 427-4527

Regional Consultant

Connie Boatright

Phone: (912) 544-9701

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connie.boatright@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.
02/17/2026	Licensing Study	Good Standing	
09/03/2025	Monitoring Visit	Good Standing	
02/17/2025	Complaint 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	1-2nd Right	GA PreK	1	8	C	17	C	NA	NA	Nap,Snack,Transitioning
Main	2 - Front Room	Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds	2	17	C	18	C	NA	NA	Nap,Transitioning,Snack
Main	3 - 1st Right	Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds	2	11	C	16	C	NA	NA	Snack,Transitioning,Nap
Main	4 - 3rd Left	Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds	2	11	C	19	C	NA	NA	Transitioning,Nap,Snack
Main	5 - 2nd Left		0	0	C	17	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
Main	6 - 1st Left	Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds	1	10	C	15	C	NA	NA	Snack,Nap,Transitioning
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 102					Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0					
Total # Children this Date: 57					Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0					

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	Playground	165	C

Enrolled Children						
Under 1 years	1 years	2 years	3 years	4 years	5 years (Prekonly)	5 years and older
0	0	0	29	46	6	0

Comments

The Licensing Study was reviewed with the Center Director. A copy was emailed to the Center Director via DocuSign.

Plan of Improvement: No Plan Developed



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

You have received permission to operate and the form received with this report is intended to serve as a temporary license which is **valid for thirty(30) days**. Your actual license/ will be emailed to you upon receipt of the licensing fee. You may pay the licensing fee either online at <http://www.decal.ga.gov/> or by certified check or money order mailed to: Bright from the Start, 2 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive SE, Suite 670 East Tower, Atlanta, GA 30334

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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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.

Comment

The Consultant observed a variety of age appropriate activities through out the center.

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

Met

Comment

Toys and equipment were observed to be clean and in good repair.

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

Parent agreements observed obtained/completed.

Comment

Parent authorizations obtained/completed.

Comment

Records were observed to be complete and well organized.

Comment

The Consultant observed 57 children present upon arrival and 57 children signed in.

Correction Deadline: 2/17/2026

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 on this date. The Consultant observed 57 children present during this visit.

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 1 broom and 1 dust pan were stored in child classrooms 2, 3, and 6 within reach of the children. Additionally, 1 brown staff purse was stored on the top of a book case and within reach of the children in classroom 4. Further, 1 plunger was stored in the girls bathroom between classrooms 1 and 2 and accessible to the children, and 1 plunger was stored in the boys bathroom located in the hall near classroom 6 and accessible to the children.

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: 2/17/2026

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 14 of 14 plastic covers for swing chains were cracked leaving rough edges causing a potential cutting hazard.

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: 3/2/2026

Food Service

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>

Comment

The Consultant observed a current menu.

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

The Center received meals and snacks daily which are transported from the Hinesville location.

Health and Hygiene

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

The Center Director stated no diapering children are enrolled.

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.

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

591-1-1-.16(b) requires the Director of a Center responsible for its day-to-day operations to have completed a 40-hour director's training course that has been approved by the Department. At a minimum, the subject matter taught at a Director's training course shall cover the areas of administrator competencies that serve as a framework for professional development, which include, but are not limited to, early learning standards, business management, communication, developmentally appropriate practices, professional and leadership development, and advocacy for the Center, Parents, children and Staff. It was determined based on review of records that staff # 5 serves as the Center Director and has not completed the required 40-hour Director Training.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

Prior to licensure, the Child Care Learning Center Director will obtain the required 40-hour director's training or will hire a director with the required 40-hour director's training to run the day-to-day operations of the Child Care Learning Center.

Correction Deadline: 3/31/2026

Policies and Procedures**591-1-1-.21 Operational Policies & Procedures****Met****Comment**

Program observed complete emergency drills

591-1-1-.22 Parental Access**Met****Comment**

The Consultant observed the parental access notice to be posted on the parent bulletin board.

Correction Deadline: 2/17/2026

591-1-1-.27 Posted Notices**Met****Comment**

Observed all required posted notices.

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**

Age-appropriate discussion and/or redirection observed.

Comment

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

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

Staff Records**Records Reviewed: 16****Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 9**

Staff # 2

Not Met

Date of Hire: 02/28/1994

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training

Staff # 3

Not Met

Date of Hire: 08/11/2021

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training

Staff # 4

Not Met

Date of Hire: 08/08/2024

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.24(1)-Evidence of Orientation Missing

Staff # 5

Not Met

Date of Hire: 09/15/2025

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.16(b)-40 Hr. Director Training Missing,.33(3)-Health & Safety Certificate,.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training

Staff # 8

Not Met

Date of Hire: 01/02/2025

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training

Staff # 10

Not Met

Date of Hire: 04/25/2016

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training

Staff # 11

Not Met

Date of Hire: 06/30/2025

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.24(1)-Evidence of Orientation Missing,.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training

Staff # 13

Not Met

Date of Hire: 10/14/2025

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.24(1)-Evidence of Orientation Missing,.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training

Staff # 15

Not Met

Date of Hire: 10/22/2025

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.31(2)(b)2.-Staff Qualifications-Education Missing,.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training

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

Criminal record checks were observed to be complete.

Comment

Director provided 6 file(s) for employees hired since last visit.

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-.33 Staff Training**Not Met****Finding**

591-1-1-.33(2)(a)-(n) requires the initial Center orientation to include the following subjects: a) the Center's policies and procedures; b) the portions of these rules dealing with the care, health and safety of children; c) the Staff person's assigned duties and responsibilities; d) reporting requirements for suspected cases of child abuse, neglect or deprivation; e) communicable diseases and serious injuries; f) emergency weather plans; g) the program's emergency preparedness plan; h) childhood injury control; i) the administration of medicine; j) reducing the risk of Sudden Unexpected Infant Death (SUID), which includes Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS); k) hand washing; l) fire safety; m) water safety; and n) prevention of HIV/AIDS and blood borne pathogens. It was determined based on review of staff records that staff # 4, 11, and 13 do not have proof of completion of orientation on file.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will provide orientation in all missing subjects to the employee(s) and will take steps to provide a complete orientation to new Employees in the future.

Correction Deadline: 2/26/2026**Finding**

591-1-1-.33(3)(a)-(k) requires each Staff member with direct care responsibilities to complete health and safety orientation training within the first 90 days of employment. The state-approved training hours obtained will count toward required first year training hours. The training must address the following health and safety topics: a) prevention and control of infectious diseases (including immunizations); b) prevention of sudden infant death syndrome and use of safe sleeping practices; c) administration of medication, consistent with standards for parental consent; d) prevention of and response to emergencies due to food and allergic reactions; e) building and physical premises safety, including identification of and protection from hazards that can cause bodily injury such as electrical hazards, bodies of water, and vehicular traffic; f) prevention of shaken baby syndrome, abusive head trauma and child maltreatment; g) emergency preparedness and response planning for emergencies resulting from a natural disaster or a human-caused event (such as violence at a child care facility); h) handling and storage of hazardous materials and the appropriate disposal of bio contaminants; i) precautions in transporting children; j) recognition and reporting of child abuse and neglect; and k) child development to include all major domains: cognitive; social and emotional; physical development and motor skills; communication, language, and literacy; and approaches to play and learning. It was determined based on review of staff records that staff # 5 has no proof of completion of the required health and safety orientation training.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will develop and implement a plan to schedule and track this training for all employees based on their hire dates and will ensure that the training includes all required components as required.

Correction Deadline: 3/19/2026

Finding

591-1-1-.33(5)(a) 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 offered by an accredited college, university or vocational program or other Department-approved source. It was determined based on review of staff records that staff # 2 completed 7.5 hours of annual training, staff # 3 completed 7.5 hours of annual training, staff # 5 has no proof of completing any hours of annual training, and staff # 10 completed 4.5 hours of annual training for the year of 2025 where 10 hours are required.

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: 3/19/2026

Finding

591-1-1-.33(5)(b)1. requires the annual ten (10) clock hours of training shall include at least two (2) hours in evidence based, developmentally appropriate language and literacy practices. It was determined based on review of staff files that staff # 2, 3, 5, 8, 10, 11, 13, and 15 have no proof of 2 hours of annual training for the year of 2025 in evidence based developmentally appropriate language and literacy practices as required.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will plan and schedule the required 10 hours of annual training each year to include a least two (2) hours in evidence based, developmentally appropriate language and literacy practices and follow up to ensure the training is completed.

Correction Deadline: 3/19/2026

591-1-1-.31 Staff(CR)**Not Met****Finding**

591-1-1-.31(2)(b)3.(i) requires that newly hired teachers who do not possess the educational and qualifying child care experience requirements must enroll in a program of study to obtain one of the educational credentials and qualifying experience requirements as required by these rules within six months after employment at the Center and complete the credential or degree within 18 months after enrollment. It was determined based on review of staff records and the Center Director's statement that staff # 15 was hired October, 22, 2025 as a lead teacher and does not have educational credentials as required.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will ensure that all teachers will comply with the educational and qualifying child care experience requirements.

Correction Deadline: 2/26/2026

Finding

591-1-1-.31(2)(b)3.(ii)(I)-(VIII) requires the Center develop a written plan for newly hired teacher's who do not possess the educational credential or degree listed in 591-1-1-.31(2)(b)2.(i) through (xii). It was determined based on review of staff records and the Center Director's Statement that staff # 15 was hired as a lead teacher on October 22, 2025, does not have the required educational credentials to be a lead teacher, and has no professional learning plan on file.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will develop a written plan for newly hired teacher's and ensure that the teacher's follow the plan.

Correction Deadline: 2/26/2026

Staffing and Supervision**591-1-1-.32 Staff:Child Ratios and Group Size(CR)****Met****Comment**

Center observed to maintain appropriate staff:child ratios.

Comment

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