



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

Cover Sheet

Date: 12/15/2021 **VisitType:** Licensing Study

Arrival: 11:00 AM

Departure: 1:00 PM

CCLC-684

Towns County Head Start/Pre-K

1150 Konahetah Road Hiawassee, GA 30546 Towns County
 (706) 896-4131 lisa.henderson@ndohs.org

Regional Consultant

Stephanie Clark

Phone: (770) 357-1712

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stephanie.clark@dec.al.ga.gov

Mailing Address

PO Box 475
 Hiawassee, GA 30546

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.
12/15/2021	Licensing Study	Good Standing	
02/25/2021	Monitoring Visit	Good Standing	
10/07/2020	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	A01A (GA PreK)		0	0	C	21	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
Main	A02A (3 YR HS)	Three Year Olds	2	13	C	21	C	NA	NA	Centers
Main	A07A (Four Year Olds)	Four Year Olds	2	11	C	24	C	NA	NA	Centers
Main	A08A (GA PreK)		0	0	C	20	C	NA	NA	
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 86			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0							
Total # Children this Date: 24			Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 86							
			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0							

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	Playground	57	C

Comments

An Administrative Review was conducted on December 15th, 2021. Staff files, children's files, training, and background checks were all reviewed. A virtual inspection was conducted on December 15th, 2021 with the Provider. An in-person visit was not conducted due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Consultant requests the provider to sign and date the report in two areas and return to back to the consultant after the report is reviewed and signed.

Plan of Improvement: No Plan Developed

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



Important New Deadlines:

Due to the ongoing COVID restrictions, the deadline to become Quality Rated for programs who want to continue to receive Childcare and Parent Services (CAPS), has been extended to at least December 31, 2021.

Get started today! Sign up by completing a short online application: <https://qualityrated.dec.state.ga.us/>
Request free technical assistance to help you earn your star rating by contacting the Quality Rated help desk at 855-800-7747 or qualityrated@dec.state.ga.us

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), e-mail the following information to CCSRefutations@dec.state.ga.us.

- 1) Facility name, license number and visit date
- 2) Your name, title/relationship to the facility, e-mail address & up to two phone number(s) where you can be reached
- 3) Specific rule number(s) that you are refuting, along with your concerns or questions regarding the rule citation

Refutations must be submitted to Child Care Services (CCS) within 10 business days of the completion date.

A sample form for submitting a refutation can be found at: <http://dec.state.ga.us/ChildCareServices/RefutationInformation.aspx>

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)

Lisa Henderson, Program Official

Date

Stephanie Clark, Consultant

Date



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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.

Facility

591-1-1-.19 License Capacity(CR)

Met

Comment

Licensed capacity observed to be routinely met by center.

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

Technical Assistance

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.25 - Please be mindful to keep items that pose a hazard inaccessible to children.

591-1-1-.26 Playgrounds(CR)

Technical Assistance

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.26 – Please ensure to monitor the playground areas for the following hazards: - Normal wear and tear of playground equipment and toys. Potential entrapment hazards in the fence surrounding the playground area. Biting and/or stinging insects (i.e. ants, bees, etc.). Loose and/or weak tree branches surrounding the playground area. Standing water in and around playground equipment after inclement weather. Fall zones and resilient surface.

Food Service

591-1-1-.18 Kitchen Operations**Not Evaluated****Comment**

Provider stated all food is catered by the Towns County Board of Education. Proper documentation was provided.

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

Staff state proper knowledge of diapering procedures.

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

Staff were observed to remind children to wash hands.

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

The Provider currently does not dispense/administer medication.

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

Age-appropriate discussion and/or redirection observed.

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**

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: 8****Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 0**

Staff # 1

Met

Date of Hire: 08/02/2021

Staff # 2

Met

Date of Hire: 11/13/2020

Staff # 3

Met

Date of Hire: 09/24/2018

Staff # 4

Met

Date of Hire: 08/17/2021

Staff # 5	Met
Date of Hire: 08/05/2021	
Staff # 6	Met
Date of Hire: 10/29/2012	
Staff # 7	Met
Date of Hire: 08/30/2018	
Staff # 8	Met
Date of Hire: 08/30/2021	

Staff Credentials Reviewed: 3

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 February 25th, 2021. Director stated that there have been no new hires since last visit on February 25th, 2021.

Comment

Criminal record checks were observed to be complete.

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

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.14 - Please be mindful of training expiration dates.

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

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.33 - Discussed staff training. Please obtain required documentation each year.

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.