



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: 4/23/2026 **VisitType:** Monitoring Visit

Arrival: 9:30 AM **Departure:** 1:10 PM

CCLC-27904

Hallmark Heights Head Start

605 Hightower Street Valdosta, GA 31601 Lowndes County
(229) 244-7773

Regional Consultant

Kayla Coats

Phone: (470) 676-8185

Fax:

kayla.coats@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.
04/23/2026	Monitoring Visit	Good Standing	
09/24/2025	Incident Investigation Closure	Good Standing	
09/24/2025	Incident Investigation/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	Rm A	Four Year Olds and Five Year Olds	3	21	C	21	C	NA	NA	Outside,Lunch, Nap
Main	Rm B	Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds and Five Year Olds	2	14	C	21	C	NA	NA	Lunch,Transitioning,Nap,Outside
Main	Rm C		0	0	C	20	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
Main	Rm D	Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds	2	16	C	21	C	NA	NA	Lunch,Nap,Transitioning
Main	Rm E	Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds and Five Year Olds	2	17	C	20	C	NA	NA	Lunch,Nap,Transitioning
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 103			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0							
Total # Children this Date: 68			Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 103			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0				

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	playground 1	98	C

Enrolled Children						
Under 1 years	1 years	2 years	3 years	4 years	5 years (Prekonly)	5 years and older
0	0	0	13	35	24	0

Comments

A copy of the visit report was left with the Provider on this date.

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.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!



Summary Report

Date: 4/23/2026 VisitType: Monitoring Visit

Arrival: 9:30 AM Departure: 1:10 PM

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The following information is associated with a Monitoring Visit:

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)

N/A

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)

Met

Correction Deadline: 9/24/2025

Corrected on 4/23/2026

.25(13) - The previous citation was observed corrected on this date. The large robotic sanitizer had been relocated to an area that was not accessible to the children.

Correction Deadline: 9/24/2025

Corrected on 4/23/2026

.25(3) - The previous citation was observed corrected on this date. The toilets in Main Rm D were flushing properly, and Main Rm C was not currently in use.

Correction Deadline: 9/24/2025

Corrected on 4/23/2026

.25(7) - The previous citation was observed corrected on this date. All doors in the main lobby next to Main Rm A were locked and inaccessible to the children in care.

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

Met

Correction Deadline: 9/24/2025

Corrected on 4/23/2026

.26(4) - The previous citation was observed corrected on this date. The gates on Main Playground 1 had openings that were tight and closed which prevented an escape hazard, and all bolts had been nailed down to less than two threads.

Corrected on 4/23/2026

.26(6) - The previous citation was observed corrected on this date. The large slide had been repaired with a new hard plastic top that covered areas of previously exposed rust and sharp edges. All other equipment had been repaired or removed from the playground.

Health and Hygiene

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

Not Evaluated

Comment

No children enrolled who require diapering. School age children attend only for after school hours.

591-1-1-.17 Hygiene(CR)

Met

Comment

Please ensure lids remain on trash containing organic waste.

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-.11 Discipline(CR)

Met

Comment

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

591-1-1-.36 Transportation(CR)

N/A

Comment

Center does not provide routine transportation per Director's statement.

Sleeping & Resting Equipment

591-1-1-.30 Safe Sleeping and Resting Requirements(CR)

Met

Comment

Pleasant naptime environment observed.

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.

Comment

Director provided 2 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-.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**

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

Correction Deadline: 8/28/2025

Corrected on 4/23/2026

.32(7) - The previous citation was observed corrected on this date. All staff were observed to provide proper and consistent supervision to the children in care on this date.