



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: 7/15/2025 **VisitType:** MV POI Follow Up

Arrival: 9:50 AM **Departure:** 1:50 PM

CCLC-56680

Happy Kidz Early Learning Center

7290 Covington Highway Lithonia, GA 30058 DeKalb County
(770) 484-8226 tombiherd@yahoo.com

Regional Consultant

Evon Hewitt

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Fax:

evon.hewitt@decal.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.
07/15/2025	MV POI Follow Up	Good Standing	
02/06/2025	Licensing Study	Good Standing	
08/02/2024	Incident Investigation & Follow Up	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)	Three Year Olds	1	7	C	6	NC	NA	NA	Music
Main	B- Front Center (Upstairs)	Two Year Olds	1	5	C	10	C	NA	NA	Music
Main	C- Far Left (upstairs)	Infants	1	3	C	16	C	NA	NA	Floor Play
Main	D- Back Center (Upstairs)	One Year Olds	1	4	C	9	C	NA	NA	Centers
Main	E- Far Left (Downstairs)	Four Year Olds	1	9	C	15	C	21	C	Centers
Main	F- Front Right (Downstairs)		0	0	C	14	C	20	C	
Main	G- Back Right (Downstairs)	Five Year Olds and Six Year Olds and Over	1	12	C	13	C	18	C	Outside
			Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 83			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 100				
Total # Children this Date: 40			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

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

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



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(Findings Report)

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The following information is associated with a MV POI/Follow-Up:

Activities and Equipment

591-1-1-.03 Activities

Met

Correction Deadline: 2/6/2025

Prior Visits: 02/06/2025

Corrected on 7/15/2025

.03(2) - previous citation corrected in that the Consultant observed the Center to have current lesson plans for all classrooms on this date.

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

Not Met

Comment

A variety of equipment and toys were observed throughout the center on this date.

Finding

591-1-1-.12(2) requires that all equipment and furniture be free from hazardous conditions such as, but not limited to, sharp rough edges or toxic paint; and be kept clean. It was determined based on observation that there were four small tears on the green vinyl furniture and two large tears on the red and pink vinyl furniture inside classroom D- Back Center (Upstairs).

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will ensure that equipment and furniture are used by the age-appropriate group of children.

Correction Deadline: 7/15/2025

Finding

591-1-1-.12(4) requires that equipment and furniture be secured if it is of a weight or mass that could cause injury from tipping, falling, or being pulled or pushed over. It was determined based on observation that there were four sets of stacked chairs in the upstairs hallway area leading to the playground causing a potential tipping hazard.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will ensure that the identified equipment or furniture and any other such existing or future items are secured adequately and will have a system for checking these for stability.

Correction Deadline: 7/15/2025

Prior Visits: 09/21/2022

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 on this date.

591-1-1-.25 Physical Plant - Safe Environment(CR)**Not Met****Finding**

591-1-1-.25(11) requires that floor coverings be tight, smooth, free of odors and washable or cleanable. It was determined based on observation that the burgundy colored carpet in classroom G- Back Right (Downstairs) was not smooth and tight, causing a potential tripping hazard.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

Floors will be maintained to be safe and sanitary.

Correction Deadline: 8/15/2025**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 A- Far Right (Upstairs)

-There was an opened plastic Pull Ups packaging, a clear plastic diaper packaging, and two plastic grocery bags inside the children's cubbies outside of the classroom.

Classroom E- Far Left (Upstairs)

-There was a Shein plastic bag with a plastic slider and a plastic grocery bag, inside the children's cubbies.

Classroom G- Back Right (Downstairs)

- There was a plastic grocery bag in the children's cubbies.

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: 7/15/2025**Prior Visits: 09/21/2022****Recited on 7/15/2025**

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

591-1-1-.26(4) requires that playgrounds be protected from traffic or other hazards by a (4) four foot high fence or other barrier approved by this Department. Fencing material shall not present a hazard to children and shall be maintained so as to prevent children from leaving the playground area by any means other than through an approved access route. Fence gates shall be kept closed except when persons are entering or exiting the area. It was determined based on observation that there was a six inch gap in the fence gate located at the front left corner at the top of the hill.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will routinely check the fence to determine if it is in good repair and remains at least 4 feet high, and will repair any hazards. The Center will train Staff to identify and report any fence hazards and to keep the fence gates closed when not in use.

Correction Deadline: 8/15/2025**Prior Visits: 09/19/2023****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 were several riding toys (six tricycles and a black Benz car) with broken plastic pieces with sharp jagged corners/edges.

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: 7/25/2025

Correction Deadline: 2/16/2025

Prior Visits: 02/06/2025

Corrected on 7/15/2025

.26(7) - Previous citation corrected in that the Consultant observed that the monkey bar structure had been removed from the playground.

Correction Deadline: 2/16/2025

Prior Visits: 09/21/2022

Corrected on 7/15/2025

.26(8) - Previous citation corrected in that the Consultant observed there to be sufficient resilient surfacing for the fall zones of the swing set and play structure with the blue slides.

Correction Deadline: 2/20/2025

Prior Visits: 02/06/2025

Corrected on 7/15/2025

.26(9) - Previous citation corrected in that the Consultant did not observe any excessive leaves, pine cones, pine straw on this date. Additionally, The blue water hose had been removed, and the bench had been replaced.

Health and Hygiene**591-1-1-.07 Children's Health****Not Met****Finding**

591-1-1-.07(5) requires Center Staff to not permit children to wear around their necks or attach to their clothing pacifiers or other hazardous items. It was determined based on observation that a 1-year-old child in classroom D-Back Center (Upstairs) had a pacifier clip attached to their clothing.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will instruct Staff regarding this safety requirement.

Correction Deadline: 7/15/2025

Prior Visits: 09/21/2022

591-1-1-.10 Diapering Areas & Practices(CR)**Not Met****Finding**

591-1-1-.10(4) requires that if diapers are changed on a diaper changing surface, the surface shall be smooth, nonporous, and equipped with a guard or rails to prevent falls. Between each diaper change, the diaper changing surface shall be cleaned with a disinfectant and dried with a single-use disposable towel. It was determined based on observation that the diaper changing pad inside classroom C- Far Left (Upstairs) had several tears with exposed foam.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will ensure there is a smooth, nonporous changing surface that has a guard or rails for safety in each classroom that houses children wearing diapers. Center Staff will be trained and have adequate supplies to properly clean the diaper changing surface between each diaper change.

Correction Deadline: 7/18/2025

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**Met****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-.36 Transportation(CR)**Not Met****Comment**

Complete documentation of transportation observed on this date.

Comment

The vehicle had an approved fire extinguisher and first aid kit on this date.

Finding

591-1-1-.36(4)(b) requires that the interior of a transportation vehicle be clean, in safe repair and free of hazardous items, objects and/or other non-essential items which could cause injury. It was determined based on observation that there was a broken seat belt buckle at the front left of the vehicle used for transportation of children (TAG-TDM2038) on this date.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The center will maintain that all transportation vehicles are clean, in safe repair, and free from hazards.

Correction Deadline: 7/26/2025

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**

Correction Deadline: 3/8/2025

Prior Visits: 02/06/2025

Corrected on 7/15/2025

.14(1)(a) - Previous citation corrected in that the Consultant observed 100% of the Center staff to have evidence of completing First Aid and CPR training on this date.

Correction Deadline: 2/6/2025

Prior Visits: 02/06/2025

Corrected on 7/15/2025

.14(2)(c) - Previous citation corrected in that the Consultant observed the Center to have evidence of current CPR and First Aid training for the Van drivers 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
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Comment

Center observed to maintain appropriate staff:child ratios.

591-1-1-.32 Supervision(CR)	Met
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Comment

Adequate supervision observed on this date.