



**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:** 9/2/2025 **VisitType:** Licensing Study

**Arrival:** 10:00 AM **Departure:** 1:40 PM

**CCLC-36455**

**Happy Days Learning Center**

109 Bridgewood Drive LaGrange, GA 30240 Troup County  
(706) 298-7390 happydayslearningcenter@gmail.com

Regional Consultant

Laura Swann

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**Mailing Address**  
Same

**Quality Rated:** ★

| <u>Compliance Zone Designation</u> |                 |               | <b>Compliance Zone Designation</b> - 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.<br><br><b>Good Standing</b> - Program is demonstrating an acceptable level of performance in meeting the rules.<br><b>Support</b> - Program performance is demonstrating a need for improvement in meeting rules.<br><b>Deficient</b> - Program is not demonstrating an acceptable level of performance in meeting the rules. |
|------------------------------------|-----------------|---------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 09/02/2025                         | Licensing Study | Good Standing |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| 09/11/2024                         | Licensing Study | Good Standing |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| 09/07/2023                         | 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-1st Left    |                                             | 0     | 0        | C                             | 7          | C            | NA         | NA           |           |
| Main                           | B-1st Right   | Two Year Olds                               | 1     | 15       | NC                            | 21         | C            | NA         | NA           | Nap       |
| Main                           | C- 2nd Right  | Infants and One Year Olds and Two Year Olds | 2     | 18       | NC                            | 22         | C            | NA         | NA           | Nap       |
| Main                           | D- back left  | GA PreK                                     | 1     | 13       | C                             | 26         | C            | NA         | NA           | Free Play |
| Main                           | E- Back Right | Infants and Three Year Olds                 | 2     | 15       | NC                            | 20         | C            | NA         | NA           | Nap       |
| Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 96 |               |                                             |       |          | Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0 |            |              |            |              |           |
| Total # Children this Date: 61 |               |                                             |       |          | Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0 |            |              |            |              |           |

| Building | Playground | Playground Occupancy | Playground Compliance |
|----------|------------|----------------------|-----------------------|
| Main     | Playground | 118                  | C                     |

| <b>Enrolled Children</b> |         |         |         |         |                    |                   |
|--------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|--------------------|-------------------|
| Under 1 years            | 1 years | 2 years | 3 years | 4 years | 5 years (Prekonly) | 5 years and older |
| 7                        | 0       | 15      | 15      | 15      | 0                  | 12                |

### **Comments**

Licensing study completed on September 2, 2025. The CCS Consultant discussed and left a copy of the updated Child Care Weather Watch Chart with the program today. Weather does not permit outdoor play when there is active precipitation or when weather advisories are in effect. Consult the Child Care Weather Watch Chart resource for further guidance, considering specific weather conditions." Consultant also reviewed the new rule changes with the center as documented on the visit report as technical assistance.

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.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.

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### **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](http://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.

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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](mailto:qualityrated@dec.al.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 LS:

**Activities and Equipment**

**591-1-1-.03 Activities**

**Technical Assistance**

**Technical Assistance**

591-1-1-.03(13) - Please review your classroom daily schedules to ensure they reflect the correct times for activities.

**Correction Deadline: 9/2/2025**

**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(1) requires each Employee and child in attendance to use all indoor and outdoor furniture, activity materials, and equipment in a safe and appropriate manner and in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions, recommendations, and intended use. All equipment and furniture shall be used only by the age-appropriate group of children. It was determined based on observation that eight children were sitting in feeding table chairs without being strapped in as required by the manufacturer.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

The Center will ensure Staff are trained in and children are taught the proper use of all furniture, materials and equipment; will implement a plan for this information to be reviewed with both groups on an ongoing basis; and for monitoring proper and age-appropriate usage.

**Correction Deadline: 9/2/2025**

**591-1-1-.35 Swimming Pools & Water-related Activities(CR)**

**Met**

**Comment**

Center does not provide swimming activities.

**Children's Records**

**591-1-1-.08 Children's Records**

**Met**

**Comment**

Records were observed to be complete and well organized.

## Evening Care

### 591-1-1-.32 Staffing/Supervision(CR)

Not Evaluated

#### Comment

No evening care hours provided

## 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)

Technical Assistance

#### Comment

No hazards observed accessible to children on this date.

#### Comment

Please secure cleaning tools (i.e., broom, plunger) out of reach of children.

Correction Deadline: 9/12/2024

Prior Visits: 09/26/2022

Corrected on 9/2/2025

.25(3) - Correction observed on this date. Blinds, ventilation fans and cabinet had been cleaned.

#### Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.25(3) - Please continue to monitor the ceiling tiles for water stains and broken/missing pieces and replace when observed.

Correction Deadline: 9/2/2025

Prior Visits: 09/26/2022

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

Met

Correction Deadline: 9/18/2024

Prior Visits: 09/07/2023

Corrected on 9/2/2025

.26(9) - Correction observed on this date. Airplane had been repainted.

## Food Service

### 591-1-1-.15 Food Service & Nutrition

Met

#### Comment

Infant feeding forms are updated regularly.

## 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 in classroom C- 2nd right there were two infants with pacifier clips attached to their clothing posing a choking hazard.

#### POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will instruct Staff regarding this safety requirement. The center will not attach pacifier clips to children's clothing..

Correction Deadline: 9/2/2025

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

Met

#### Comment

Staff stated proper knowledge of diapering procedures.

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

Staff were observed to remind children to wash hands on this date.

**591-1-1-.20 Medications(CR)****Not Evaluated****Comment**

The Provider currently does not dispense/administer medication.

**Policies and Procedures****591-1-1-.21 Operational Policies & Procedures****Technical Assistance****Technical Assistance**

591-1-1-.21(2)(r) - New - Discussed updating the Center's policies and procedures to include the program's practices regarding the expulsion and suspension of children enrolled for care within the description of behavior management and discipline actions used by the Center.

Also discussed to ensure a description of the practices followed by the Center to prevent shaken baby syndrome and abusive head trauma in children up to five years of age that includes the following information: how to recognize, respond to, and report the signs and symptoms of shaken baby syndrome and abusive head trauma; strategies to assist staff members in understanding how to care for infants and how to cope with a crying, fussing, or distraught child; strategies to ensure staff members understand the brain development of children up to five years of age; and a list of prohibited behaviors when dealing with children.

Additional information can be found in the CCLC Indicator Manual found on DECAL's website at:

<https://www.dec.state.ga.us/CCS/Regulations.aspx> or through the Center on Shaken Baby Syndrome found at: <https://dontshake.org/>.

**Correction Deadline: 9/7/2025****591-1-1-.29 Required Reporting****Met****Comment**

Discussed reporting requirements with the director. Discussed that when the center is reported to be closed the center can not have children present. Consultant observed children to enter the building for care after the required report was entered for closure.

**Safety****591-1-1-.05 Animals****Met****Comment**

Center does not keep animals on premises.

**591-1-1-.11 Discipline(CR)****Technical Assistance****Technical Assistance**

591-1-1-.11(2) - Consultant discussed with the director that when time-out is used for discipline. Children may only sit out for one minute per year of age.

**Correction Deadline: 9/2/2025****Prior Visits: 09/11/2024****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**

**Finding**

591-1-1-.30(2) requires the Center to provide a safe sleep environment in accordance with American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) and American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) recommendations as listed in these rules for all infants. Center Staff shall place an infant to sleep on the infant's back in a crib unless the Center has been provided a physician's written statement authorizing another sleep position for that particular infant that includes how the infant shall be placed to sleep and a time frame that the instructions are to be followed. When an infant can easily turn over from back to front and back again, Staff shall continue to put the infant to sleep initially on the infant's back but allow the infant to roll over into his or her preferred position and not re-position the infant. Sleepers, sleep sacks and wearable blankets that fit according to the commercial manufacturer's guidelines and will not slide up around the infant's face may be used when necessary for the comfort of the sleeping infant. Swaddling shall not be used unless the Center has been provided a physician's written statement authorizing its use for a particular infant that includes instructions and a time frame for swaddling the infant. Center Staff shall not place objects or allow objects to be placed in or on the crib with an infant such as but not limited to toys, pillows, quilts, comforters, bumper pads, sheepskins, stuffed toys, or other soft items and shall not attach objects or allow objects to be attached to a crib with a sleeping infant, such as, but not limited to, crib gyms, toys, mirrors and mobiles. It was determined based on observation that in classroom C-2nd right there were two infants in cribs with blankets. Further, an infant was observed to have a bib on sleeping in a crib.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

The Center will take all steps necessary to provide a safe sleep environment for infants as listed in these rules; will train Staff to follow these rules; and will monitor for compliance.

**Correction Deadline: 9/2/2025****Prior Visits: 09/26/2022****Staff Records****591-1-1-.09 Criminal Records and Comprehensive Background Checks(CR)****Met****Correction Deadline: 9/11/2024****Prior Visits: 09/11/2024****Corrected on 9/2/2025**

**.09(1)(c) - Correction observed on this date. Current staff had a valid and current satisfactory Comprehensive Records Check Determination on file.**

**Correction Deadline: 9/11/2024****Prior Visits: 09/11/2024****Corrected on 9/2/2025**

**.09(1)(l)3. - Correction observed on this date. Current staff had a comprehensive records check determination letter.**

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

591-1-1-.14(1)(a) - Discussed that effective July 1, 2025, new staff are required to obtain pediatric First Aid and pediatric CPR training within 45 days of employment. It was further discussed that programs must have at least one person with current pediatric First Aid and pediatric CPR training in each classroom at all times.

**Correction Deadline: 10/2/2025****591-1-1-.33 Staff Training****Technical Assistance****Technical Assistance**

591-1-1-.33(2)(a)-(n) - Discussed that all Employees, including volunteers, independent contractors, students-in-training, etc. should have a completed initial program orientation form on file.

**Correction Deadline: 9/3/2025****Technical Assistance**

591-1-1-.33(5)(b)1. - New - Discussed that effective July 1, 2025, all staff are required to obtain at least two hours in evidence based, developmentally appropriate language and literacy practices and at least two hours in on-going child development and health and safety related topics as part of their 10 hours of annual training.

**Correction Deadline: 10/2/2025**

**Comment**

Discussed that all lead staff must enroll in an approved education program within 6 months of hire and complete degree within 18 months.

**Staffing and Supervision****591-1-1-.32 Staff:Child Ratios and Group Size(CR)****Not Met****Finding**

591-1-1-.32(2) requires the Center maintain Staff:child ratios in mixed-age groups based on the age of the youngest group of children that includes more than twenty percent of the total number of children in the mixed-age group. It was determined based on observation that in classroom C there were two staff with seven infants, seven one-year-olds and four two-year olds one additional staff was required.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

The Center will provide adequate staff when there is a mixed-age group.

**Correction Deadline: 9/2/2025****Finding**

591-1-1-.32(4) requires that children under three years old be housed in separate physical areas from older children and cannot be mixed with older children except at specified times and circumstances. It was determined based on observation that in classroom E back right there were two infants mixed with thirteen three-year-olds. Infants should have been in a classroom with children under three-years-old.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

The Center will maintain separation of these children under three years old.

**Correction Deadline: 9/2/2025****591-1-1-.32 Supervision(CR)****Technical Assistance****Technical Assistance**

591-1-1-.32(7) - Consultant discussed with the director active supervision.

**Correction Deadline: 9/2/2025****Prior Visits: 03/06/2023**