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: 7/22/2026 **VisitType:** Initial Licensing Study **Arrival:** 9:20 PM **Departure:** 2:00 PM

CCLC-68889
Start Bright Academy Hiram
55 Hiram Dr Hiram, GA 30141 Paulding County
(770) 943-0058

Application Services Unit Consultant
Margaret Pringle
Phone: (404) 985-6259
Fax:
margaret.pringle@decal.ga.gov

Mailing Address
Same

Quality Rated: No

Compliance Zone Designation		
07/22/2026	Initial Licensing Study	Good Standing

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.

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	Conference Rm		0	0	C	0	C	NA	NA	
Main	F117-Threes		0	0	C	21	C	NA	NA	
Main	G118-Preschool		0	0	C	21	C	NA	NA	
Main	H121-Prek 2		0	0	C	24	C	NA	NA	
Main	Indoor Play Room		0	0	C	0	C	NA	NA	
Main	J122- PreK 3		0	0	C	23	C	NA	NA	
Main	Library		0	0	C	0	C	NA	NA	
Main	Rm A101		0	0	C	17	C	NA	NA	
Main	Rm,K120 Prek 7		0	0	C	25	C	NA	NA	
Main	Rm.B102 Ones		0	0	C	16	C	NA	NA	
Main	Rm.C-Ones		0	0	C	16	C	NA	NA	
Main	Rm.D104		0	0	C	16	C	NA	NA	
Main	Rm.E106 Twos		0	0	C	15	C	NA	NA	
Main	Rm.I123 Prek1		0	0	C	24	C	NA	NA	
Main	Rm.L119- Fours		0	0	C	22	C	NA	NA	
Main	Rm.O-G-05 Prek/School age		0	0	C	24	C	NA	NA	
Main	Rm.P-G06 PreK 5		0	0	C	24	C	NA	NA	
Main	Rm.Q-G-08		0	0	C	21	C	NA	NA	
		Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 309			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0					
Total # Children this Date: 0		Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 309			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0					

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	Infants	7	C
Main	Preschool/Scholl age	70	C
Main	Toddlers	43	C

Comments

The final license was received on July 22, 2026. Facility carries liability insurance. This was a change of location, additional equipment will be added as needed..

Plan of Improvement: No Plan Developed

CCLC Indicator Manual

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

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 Initial Licensing Study:

Activities and Equipment

591-1-1-.12 Equipment & Toys(CR) **Not Met**

Comment
Equipment and furniture observed to be properly secured, as applicable.

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, the following hazards

Rust observed on table and chair legs, plus stoppers in room D through room Q-G-08.
Old adhesive on bookshelves and doors throughout the center.
Exposed rust on screws at the bottom of toilets in room H, I, O-G05, P-G06 and Q-G08
Rust on top of air condition vent in room C and E.
Stained carpet in room A, B, C, D and E.
Please ensure all toys requiring batteries are operable,

POI (Plan of Improvement)
The Center will ensure that equipment and furniture are used by the age-appropriate group of children.

Correction Deadline: 7/22/2026

Finding
591-1-1-.12(6) requires that a variety of age-appropriate toys and play materials be available, stored on low, open shelves accessible to children in each room or assigned area. It was determined based on observation , the infant and toddler room A, B, C and D lacked a variety of art materials.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
The Center director will ensure there is a variety of age-appropriate toys and play materials in each room for each age group. that are stored on low, open shelves accessible to children.

Correction Deadline: 8/21/2026

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

Comment
Center does not provide swimming activities.

Facility

591-1-1-.06 Bathrooms — Not Met

Finding
591-1-1-.06(4) requires a Center first licensed after March 1, 1991, and Centers that remodel or add to existing plumbing facilities, to have the bathroom area fully enclosed and ventilated to the outside of the building with either an open screened window or functioning exhaust fan and duct system and requires Centers without fully enclosed bathrooms to ensure there is adequate ventilation to control odors and adequate sanitation measures to prevent the spread of contagious diseases. It was determined based on observation the following rooms (D, and E) bathroom area was not fully enclosed. Both had a half door. Also exhaust fans in bathroom in room D, E, J, O-G05 and, Q-G08 were not functionally properly, all failed the tissue test.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
The Center will fully enclose and ventilate bathroom areas, as required, and will provide adequate ventilation and sanitation in bathrooms that are not fully enclosed.

Correction Deadline: 8/21/2026

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

Technical Assistance
591-1-1-.25(3) - Please ensure the Center and surrounding premises to be kept clean, free of debris and in good repair.

Correction Deadline: 7/22/2026

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 the following hazards on the fencing:

Preschool/School age
Chipped paint on fence poles surrounding the air condition unit.
Gap between building and fence panel.

Infant/Toddler
Rust on top of fencing prongs surrounding the playground.

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: 7/22/2026

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 the following hazards on the equipment:

Prwschool/School age
Chipped paint on red tables and red poles for ball activity.
Mold spots on shade awning/
Water table stained with dirt debris.

Infant/Toddler
Mold spots on shade awning
Rust on screw caps and top of art easel.
Spider webs and spiders on play structure with tunnel.

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.Awnings will be power washed and or replaced.

Correction Deadline: 9/30/2026

Food Service

591-1-1-.15 Food Service & Nutrition **Met**

Comment
Center menu meets USDA guidelines.

Health and Hygiene

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

Comment
There were no children present in the program on this date. Proper diaper facilities were observed with warm running water.

Finding
591-1-1-.10(1) requires Centers first licensed after March 1, 1991, and Centers that are renovated after March 1, 1991, to provide ventilation in the diapering areas with functioning exhaust fans and a duct system or by the required amount of window space provided by operable windows when open. It was determined based on observation, the exhaust fan in room A, B and C were not functioning properly. All failed the tissue test.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
The responsible person(s) at the center will ensure that the exhaust fans and duct systems are functioning or that the required amount of operable window space is provided in each diapering area.

Correction Deadline: 7/22/2026

Finding
591-1-1-.10(7) requires Center Staff to provide liquid soap, individually dispensed single-use hand towels, single-use wash cloths, and covered storage container for soiled items. It was determined based on observation room A, B, C, D and E lacked a covered storage container for soiled items. Disposable container also lacked a label in all diapering rooms.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
The Center will secure missing items listed and ensure the ongoing availability of all supplies.

Correction Deadline: 7/22/2026

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

Comment
There were no children enrolled on this date. Proper hand washing of children and staff was discussed with the director on this date.

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

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
There were no children enrolled on this date. The center's discipline policy was reviewed on this date. Regulations regarding proper discipline were discussed with the director on this date.

591-1-1-.13 Field Trips(CR) **Met**

Comment
Center does not participate in field trips at this time.

591-1-1-.36 Transportation(CR) **Not Met**

Comment
A current/completed inspection was observed for all vehicles used in transporting children this date.

Finding
591-1-1-.36(4)(a) requires an annual safety check for each vehicle. The annual safety check, completed by a trained individual, should include a check of the: tires, headlights, horn, taillights, turn signals, brake lights, brakes, suspension, exhaust system, steering, windows, windshields and windshield wipers. A copy of the annual safety check will be kept in the Center or on the vehicle and should include evidence of any repairs and/or replacements that were identified as needed on the inspection report. It was determined based on observation the tire treads were very low on van 1.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
The Center will obtain the annual vehicle inspection. Tires will be replaced.

Correction Deadline: 7/27/2026

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 the following hazards:

Van 1
Dirt debris and trash on the floor throughout the vehicle.

Van 2
Dirt debris on the floor and heavily soiled seats.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
The center will maintain that all transportation vehicles are clean, in safe repair, and free from hazards.

Correction Deadline: 7/23/2026

Finding
591-1-1-.36(4)(c) requires that each vehicle be equipped with a fire extinguisher maintained in working order and kept inaccessible to children. It was determined based on observation, the vans lacked a fire extinguisher.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
The center will ensure that each vehicle has a working fire extinguisher and that the fire extinguisher is kept out of reach of children.

Correction Deadline: 7/22/2026

Sleeping & Resting Equipment

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

Comment
The correct number of mats/cots and sheets were observed on this date.

Technical Assistance
591-1-1-.30(1)(a) - Thirteen (13) of thirteen (13) cribs were in compliance with Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) and American Society of Testing and Materials International (ASTM) safety standards as they were manufactured in 2017 and 2019.

Correction Deadline: 8/1/2026

Technical Assistance
591-1-1-.30(1)(b)4 - Please ensure a light cover be available for each child's use on a cot or mat and shall be marked for individual use or laundered daily.

Correction Deadline: 7/22/2026

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-.09 Criminal Records Check(CR) **Met**

Comment
Criminal records checks were observed to be complete.

591-1-1-.14 First Aid & CPR(CR) **Not Met**

Comment
Evidence observed over 50% of center Staff certified in First Aid and CPR.

Finding
591-1-1-.14(3) requires the Center to have a first aid kit in each building of the Center and in any vehicle used by the Center for transportation of children, that contains scissors, tweezers, gauze pads, adhesive tape, thermometer, band-aids, assorted sizes, antibacterial ointment, insect-sting preparation, an antiseptic cleansing solution, triangular bandages, rubber gloves, protective eye wear, a protective face mask, and a cold pack. The first aid kit, together with a first aid instruction manual which must be kept with the kit at all times, shall be stored so that it is not accessible to children but is easily accessible to Staff. It was determined based on observation the transportation vehicles lacked the following items in the first aide kit: scissor, thermometer, antibacterial ointment, insect sting preparation, antiseptic cleansing solution, rubber glove, eye protection and first aid manual.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
Center Staff will provide any missing first aid kits, add any missing items to each first aid kit and will develop and use a plan for checking the kits and replacing missing items in each kit in the future. First aid kits and instruction manuals will be stored so that they kits are not accessible to children but are easily accessible to Center Staff.

Correction Deadline: 8/1/2026

591-1-1-.24 Personnel Records **Not Met**

Finding
591-1-1-.24(1) requires the center to maintain a personnel file on the Director, all Employees, Provisional Employees, Personnel, Staff, Students-in-Training, Volunteers, Clerical, Housekeeping, Maintenance, and other Support Staff for the duration of the term of employment plus one calendar year, and it shall contain the following: identifying information to include: name, date of birth, social security number, current address and current telephone number; employment history; as applicable to the position held: evidence of education and qualifying work experience; evidence of all training required by these rules which shall include: title of training, date of training, trainer's signature, location of training and number of clock hours obtained; a statement completed by the staff member that the information provided is true and accurate; any other records required by these rules; and as applicable to the position held, evidence of required orientation including date and signature of person providing the orientation; It was determined based on observation, during the reviewing of files, the staff note book lacked a completed employee application for each hired staff available for review.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
The Center will secure required information for all Personnel. The Center will ensure that complete information is in the personnel file for all Directors, Employees, Provisional Employees, Personnel, Staff, Students-in-Training, Volunteers, Clerical, Housekeeping, Maintenance and other Support Staff.

Correction Deadline: 7/27/2026

591-1-1-.33 Staff Training **Met**

Comment
Please ensure completed orientation checklists are documented and signed.

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
There were no children enrolled on this date. Proper ratios and classroom capacities were discussed with the director on this date.

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

Comment
There were no children enrolled on this date. Proper supervision of children, including being prompt to children's needs, was discussed with the director on this date.