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: 4/2/2026 **VisitType:** Licensing Study **Arrival:** 8:00 AM **Departure:** 12:30 PM

CCLC-53086
Start Bright Academy Hiram
64 Greystone Pkwy Hiram, GA 30141 Paulding County
(770) 943-0058

Regional Consultant
Kaiyah Werts
Phone: (912) 544-9793
Fax: (912) 544-9757
kaiyah.werts@decal.ga.gov

Mailing Address
Same

Quality Rated:

Compliance Zone Designation		
04/02/2026	Licensing Study	Good Standing
10/15/2025	Complaint Closure	Good Standing
10/03/2025	Complaint Investigation & Monitoring Visit	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	A- Left Side 1L	Infants	3	9	C	21	C	NA	NA	Free Play,Nap,Feeding
Main	B- Left side 2R	One Year Olds and Two Year Olds	2	11	C	17	C	NA	NA	Free Play
Main	C- Left side 1R	Two Year Olds	2	11	C	18	C	NA	NA	Circle Time,Free Play
Main	D- Back center		0	0	C	22	C	NA	NA	
Main	E- Right Side 2R	Four Year Olds and Five Year Olds	1	12	C	37	C	NA	NA	Centers
Main	F- Right side 1R	Three Year Olds	1	11	C	29	C	NA	NA	Circle Time
		Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 144			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0					
Total # Children this Date: 54		Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 144			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0					

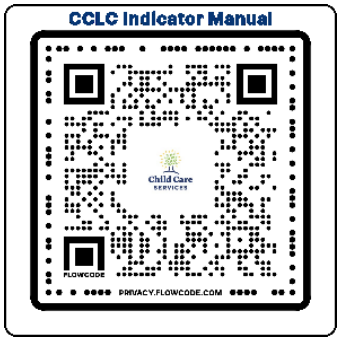
Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	Back side of Bldg	64	C
Main	Left side of Bldg	23	C
Main	Right side of Bldg	114	C

Enrolled Children

Under 1 years	1 years	2 years	3 years	4 years	5 years (Prekonly)	5 years and older
8	13	22	11	15	8	30

Comments
Consultant discussed the report and addressed any questions can concerns at the time of the visit.

Plan of Improvement: Developed This Date



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

You have received permission to operate and the form received with this report is intended to serve as a temporary license which is **valid for thirty(30) days**. Your actual license/ will be emailed to you upon receipt of the licensing fee. You may pay the licensing fee either online at http://www.decal.ga.gov/ or by certified check or money order mailed to: Bright from the Start, 2 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive SE, Suite 670 East Tower, Atlanta, GA 30334

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

Date: 4/2/2026 **VisitType:** Licensing Study **Arrival:** 8:00 AM **Departure:** 12:30 PM

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The following information is associated with a Licensing Study:

Activities and Equipment

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

Comment
Age-appropriate activities observed throughout the center.

Comment
Lesson Plans were observed to be posted and reflected the current weeks activities in each classroom.

Correction Deadline: 10/15/2025

Corrected on 4/2/2026
.03(9) -Previous citation observed corrected on this date. Consultant observed no rough play between the staff and children, at the time of the visit.

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

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

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 were observed:

B- Left side 2R had a green and blue child size chair/couch with small rips and tears and exposed mesh accessible to children. .
C- Left side 1R had a broken handle on the play kitchen, a blue child size couch with small rips and tears accessible to children.
E-Right side 2R had a missing sink bucket, in the play kitchen, at the time of the visit.
F- Right side 1R had a red child size couch and chair with small rips and tears accessible to children.

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

Correction Deadline: 4/30/2026

Recited on 4/2/2026

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

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.

Facility

591-1-1-.06 Bathrooms **Met**

Comment
Bathrooms observed to be clean and well maintained.

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**

Comment
The Center appeared clean and well maintained on this date.

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 room C-Left side 1R had an unlocked cabinet with a teacher's bag and a basket, in the bathroom, with multiple types of diapering creams and baby wipes accessible to children.

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: 4/2/2026

Recited on 4/2/2026

Finding
591-1-1-.25(3) requires the Center and surrounding premises to be kept clean, free of debris and in good repair. Hygienic measures such as, but not limited to, screened windows and proper waste disposal procedures shall be utilized to minimize the presence of rodents, flies, roaches and other vermin at the Center. It was determined based on observation the following items need attention:

A-Left side 1L had multiple water marks on the ceiling.
C-left side 1R had a child sized sink with the left nozzle, on the sink. did not cut on and multiple water marks on the ceiling.
E-Right side 2R had chipped paint behind the toilet in both of the children's bathroom and torn boarder at the bottom of the boys bathroom.
F-Right side 1R had a child size sink, on the left side, where the water pressure was too low and multiple water marks on the ceiling. .

POI (Plan of Improvement)
The Center will have the Center and surrounding areas cleaned, make repairs where needed, and remove all debris is removed. The Center will implement a plan to keep areas clean and in good repair that includes regular monitoring.

Correction Deadline: 4/30/2026

591-1-1-.26 Playgrounds(CR) **Technical Assistance**

Comment
Playground observed to be clean and in good repair on this date.

Technical Assistance
591-1-1-.26(4) - Discussed with the Director about the fencing material, at the bottom, the fence bulges leaving sharp edges.

Correction Deadline: 4/2/2026

Correction Deadline: 10/13/2025

Corrected on 4/2/2026
.26(8) - Previous citation observed corrected on this date. Consultant observed the appropriate amount of rubber mulch added to each playground at the center.

Correction Deadline: 10/3/2025

Corrected on 4/2/2026
.26(9) - Previous citation observed corrected on this date. Consultant observed the rubber mats on the playground removed at the time of the visit.

Food Service

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

Comment
Please ensure that infant feeding forms are updated regularly.

Comment
CACFP Meal Pattern Requirements effective October 1, 2017 will be implemented October 1, 2018: 3 Components for breakfast: Grains, Vegetables, Fruits or both, Milk
5 Components for lunch – Grains, Meat/Meat alternates, Fruits, Vegetable, and Milk OR Grains, Meat/Meat alternates, 2 different types of vegetables, and Milk
2 of 5 Components for snack

Provided Updated CACFP Infant Meal pattern and Child/Adult Meal pattern flyers.

The Crediting Handbook for the CACFP can be located on DECAL and USDA's website:
DECAL
http://decal.ga.gov/CACFP/Handbook.aspx
USDA
http://www.fns.usda.gov/cacfp/cacfp-handbooks

591-1-1-.18 Kitchen Operations **Met**

Comment
Kitchen appeared clean and well organized on this date.

Health and Hygiene

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

Comment
Staff stated proper knowledge of diapering procedures.

591-1-1-.17 Hygiene(CR) **Not Met**

Comment
Please ensure lids remain on trash containing organic waste.

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

Finding
591-1-1-17(7) requires that children wash their hands with liquid soap and warm running water upon arrival for care, when moving from one child care group to another, upon re-entering the child care area after outside play, before and after eating meals and snacks, handling or touching food, playing in water; after toileting and diapering, playing in sand, touching animals or pets, and contact with bodily fluids and after contamination by any other means. It was determined based on observation that in room B-Left side 2R, staff failed to wash a child's hands upon arrival.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
The Center will train Staff on required handwashing for children and Staff will ensure children's hands are washed when required. The Director will monitor for compliance.

Correction Deadline: 4/2/2026

Recited on 4/2/2026

591-1-1-.20 Medications(CR) **N/A**

Comment
The Provider currently does not dispense/administer medication.

Policies and Procedures

591-1-1-.21 Operational Policies & Procedures **Met**

Comment
Program observed complete emergency drills

Safety

591-1-1-.05 Animals **N/A**

Comment
Center does not keep animals on premises.

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

Correction Deadline: 10/15/2025

Corrected on 4/2/2026
.11(2) - Previous citation observed corrected on this date. Consultant observed age appropriate discipline at the time of the visit.

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) **Not Met**

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

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

Finding
591-1-1-.36(7)(c)2. requires that the driver or other designated person shall immediately document in writing, with a check or other mark/symbol to account for each child listed on the passenger transportation checklist each time a child enters and exits the vehicle. The driver or other designated staff person shall document in writing with a different mark/symbol to account for each child listed on the passenger transportation checklist who was not present on the vehicle for any reason. An explanation shall be documented in writing whenever a child is transported to a field trip site but is not present on the return trip to the Center. It was determined based on review of records that the afternoon transportation route for Panter Elementary School was missing a mark, to account for two children, on March 31, 2026 and April 1, 2026. It was further observed that the afternoon transportation route for McGarity Elementary School was missing a mark to account for one child on March 31, 2026.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
The driver/other designated person will immediately document in writing with a check/mark/symbol each time a child gets on and off the vehicle.

Correction Deadline: 4/3/2026

Sleeping & Resting Equipment

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

Comment
Discussed SIDS and infant sleeping position.

Comment
The correct number of cots, sheets and blankets were observed on this date. Cleaning and disinfecting of cots was discussed with the staff on this date.

Technical Assistance
591-1-1-.30(4) - Discussed with the Director to ensure cots stored in the classrooms are covered when they are not in use.

Correction Deadline: 4/2/2026

Staff Records

591-1-1-.09 Criminal Records and Comprehensive Background Checks(CR) **Met**

Comment
Director provided eight files for employees hired since last visit.

Correction Deadline: 10/3/2025

Corrected on 4/2/2026
.09(1)(c) - Previous citation observed corrected on this date. Consultant observed each staff to have a completed background check during the time of the visit.

Correction Deadline: 10/3/2025

Corrected on 4/2/2026
.09(1)(l)3. - Previous citation observed corrected on this date. Consultant observed each staff to have completed their fingerprints.

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

Comment
Complete first aid kits observed in center and on vehicles on this date.

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-.33 Staff Training **Met**

Comment
Documentation observed of required staff annual training for 2025.

Comment
Health and Safety Training Orientation completed as required for each staff member with direct care responsibilities within 90 calendar days of their hire date.

Comment
Complete documentation of transportation observed. 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**

Correction Deadline: 10/3/2025

Corrected on 4/2/2026
.32(2) - Previous citation observed corrected on this date. The appropriate ratios were observed at the time of the visit.

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

Comment
Adequate supervision observed on this date.