**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:** 7/15/2026 **VisitType:** Licensing Study **Arrival:** 11:30 AM **Departure:** 1:45 PM

**CCLC-57228**
**Honors Academy Incorporated**
2295 Lake Harbin Road Morrow, GA 30260 Clayton County
(470) 726-1113

Regional Consultant
Nadia Bernard
Phone: (470) 512-2177
Fax:
nadia.bernard@decal.ga.gov

**Mailing Address**
Same

**Quality Rated:**

| Compliance Zone Designation | | |
|---|---|---|
| 07/15/2026 | Licensing Study | Good Standing |
| 04/24/2026 | POI Follow Up | Good Standing |
| 04/02/2026 | Complaint Investigation Follow Up | 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 Building | A - 1st Right | | 0 | 0 | C | 8 | C | NA | NA | Not In Use |
| Main Building | B - Back Center | Six Year Olds and Over | 2 | 12 | C | 23 | C | NA | NA | Outside |
| Main Building | C - 1st Left | Two Year Olds | 1 | 3 | C | 8 | C | NA | NA | Lunch |
| | | Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 39 | | | Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0 | | | | | |
| Total # Children this Date: 15 | | Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 39 | | | Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0 | | | | | |

| Building | Playground | Playground Occupancy | Playground Compliance |
|---|---|---|---|
| Main Building | Playground A | 10 | C |

**Enrolled Children**

| Under 1 years | 1 years | 2 years | 3 years | 4 years | 5 years (Prekonly) | 5 years and older |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 0 | 0 | 3 | 2 | 3 | 0 | 28 |

**Comments**
The report was reviewed and emailed to the owner/director.

Plan of Improvement: Developed This Date

**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.

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

**Summary Report**

**Date:** 7/15/2026 **VisitType:** Licensing Study **Arrival:** 11:30 AM **Departure:** 1:45 PM

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**The following information is associated with a Licensing Study:**

## Activities and Equipment

**591-1-1-.03 Activities** **Not Met**

**Finding**
591-1-1-.03(2) requires the Center to keep current lesson plans on site that reflect appropriate instruction practices and activities to support children's development The Center shall have sufficient and varied play and learning equipment and materials to support the above program of activities in all developmental areas. It was determined based on observation that Room B- Back Center did not have a current lesson plan posted.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**
The Center will keep current lesson plans on site that include appropriate instruction practices and activities and will have sufficient and varied play and learning equipment and materials to support the activities.

**Correction Deadline: 7/15/2026**

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

**Finding**
591-1-1-.12(4) requires that equipment and furniture is 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 in Room B - Back Center a wooden plank near the sink was not secured to the counter causing a 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: 7/17/2026**

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

**Comment**
Swimming activities provided off site.

## 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**

**Correction Deadline: 4/30/2026**

**Corrected on 7/15/2026**
**.06(4) - The Consultant observed the citation to be corrected on this date. A working exhaust fan was observed in the bathroom of Room B- Back Center.**

**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**
No hazards observed accessible to children on this date.

**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 that in Room B- Back Center roaches were observed under the wooden beam near the sink.

**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. Please obtain pest control to mitigate the presence of bugs.

**Correction Deadline: 7/17/2026**

**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 that eleven school age children were playing in a unfenced parking lot adjacent to the building.

**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: 7/15/2026**

## Food Service

**591-1-1-.15 Food Service & Nutrition** **Not Met**

**Comment**
Center menu meets USDA guidelines.

**Finding**
591-1-1-.15(2)(f) requires that food for infants or children less than one (1) year of age be cut into pieces one-quarter inch or smaller and food for toddlers shall be cut into pieces one-half inch or smaller to prevent choking. It was determined based on observation in Room C- 1st Left breaded uncut corn dogs were served to three 2-year-old children.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**
The Center will ensure that food for infants and children less than one (1) year of age is cut into pieces one-quarter inch or smaller and food for toddlers is cut into pieces one-half inch or smaller to prevent choking.

**Correction Deadline: 7/15/2026**

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

**Comment**
Kitchen appears 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)** **Met**

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

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

**Comment**
The Provider currently does not dispense/administer medication.

## Organization

**591-1-1-.16 Governing Body & License** **Not Met**

**Finding**
591-1-1-.16(f) requires the Center to submit an application for an amended License at least 30 days prior to a change if there is a change in the name of the program or Center, changes in the ages of the children to be served, an increase in the regular hours of operation such that the Center would be providing evening or night-time care in addition to day-time care, changes in the services provided, or additions to or changes in the use of the building by the licensed Center. If an emergency situation arises which makes it impossible to give thirty (30) days' notice, the management of the Center shall notify the Department by telephone and shall submit an application for an amended License as soon as management becomes aware of the change that will be necessitated by the emergency situation. In no case, however, shall a new owner operate the Center without first securing a new License or Permit from the Department. It was determined based on observation that the center used an unlicensed space for a play area for the enrolled children.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**
An application for amendment and all necessary documentation will be submitted.

**Correction Deadline: 7/17/2026**

## Policies and Procedures

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

**Comment**
Program observed complete emergency drills

**591-1-1-.27 Posted Notices** **Met**

**Comment**
Please make sure that all required signs are posted and up to date.

## Safety

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

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

**Comment**
Field trip documentation observed to be complete on this date.

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

**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 a review of documents that the center did not have a annual safety check for the rental vehicle used to transport children on field trips.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**
The Center will obtain the annual vehicle inspection.

**Correction Deadline: 7/20/2026**

## Sleeping & Resting Equipment

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

**Comment**
Pleasant naptime environment observed.

## Staff Records

**Records Reviewed: 7** **Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 4**

Staff # 1 Not Met

Date of Hire: 05/11/2026 Reminder - Health & Safety training is required within 90 calendar days of hired

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.14(2)-CPR missing,.14(2)-First Aid Missing

Staff # 3 Not Met

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.24(1)-10 Yr. Work History Missing,.24(1)-Address Missing,.24(1)-DOB Missing,.24(1)-Education Experience Missing,.24(1)-Evidence of Orientation Missing,.24(1)-Name Missing,.24(1)-No Record,.24(1)-Phone Number Missing,.24(1)-SSN Missing,.24(1)-Work Experience Missing

Staff # 6 Not Met

Date of Hire: 04/08/2026

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.14(2)-CPR missing,.14(2)-First Aid Missing

Staff # 7 Not Met

Date of Hire: 09/20/2022

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training

**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**
Director provided three file(s) for employees hired since last visit.

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

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

**Finding**
591-1-1-.14(1)(a) requires all Staff who provide direct care to children must obtain certification in a biennial training program in pediatric cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and a triennial training program in pediatric first aid within the first 45 days of employment. Current and valid evidence of the successful completion of such training shall be maintained on the Center’s premises. The hours obtained completing this certification will not count towards the required annual training hours. It was determined based on a review of records that Staff # 1 and Staff # 6 did not obtain certification in a biennial training program in pediatric cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and a triennial training program in pediatric first aid within the first 45 days of employment.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**
All caregiver Staff will complete the required training. The Director will send copies via email verification of completed CPR/First Aid certification to the consultant upon completion and will develop a plan to ensure all caregiver Staff have completed this training within the first 45 days of employment and that evidence of successful completion of the training is on file available for inspection.

**Correction Deadline: 7/31/2026**

**Finding**
591-1-1-.14(2)(b) requires that there must always be one staff person present in each classroom where children are present that has current and valid pediatric cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and pediatric first aid training. It was determined based on observation that the Staff # 1 and Staff # 6 in Room B- Back Center did not have current and valid pediatric cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and pediatric first aid training.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**
The Director will schedule and/or position caregiver Staff throughout the Center to ensure at least one currently pediatric CPR and First Aid trained Staff person is present in each classroom where children are present.

**Correction Deadline: 7/24/2026**

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**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 a review of records that Staff # 3 did not have a personnel file at the center.

**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: 7/20/2026**

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

**Defer**
591-1-1-.33(5)(a)- Evaluation of the previous citation was deferred on this date to the next regulatory visit. The staff have until December 31, 2026 to complete their 10 hours of annual training,

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**
Previously Cited: The Center will plan and schedule the required 10 hours of annual training each year and follow up to ensure the training is completed.

The Center will plan and schedule the required 10 hours of annual training each year and follow up to ensure the training is completed.

**Correction Deadline: 12/31/2026**

**591-1-1-.31 Staff(CR)** **Met**

**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)** **Met**

**Comment**
Center observed to maintain appropriate staff:child ratios.

**591-1-1-.32 Supervision(CR)** **Not Met**

**Finding**
591-1-1-.32(7) requires that children be supervised at all times appropriate to the individual age, needs and capabilities of each child. Such supervision must include, but not be limited to, indoor and outdoor activities, mealtimes, naptime, transportation, field trips, and transitions between activities. "Supervision" means that the appropriate number of Staff members are physically present in the area where children are being cared for and are providing watchful oversight to the children, volunteers and Students-in-Training. The persons supervising in the child care area must be alert, positioned to maximize their ability to hear and see the children at all times, and able to respond promptly to the needs and actions of the children being supervised, as well as the actions of the volunteers and Students-in-Training, and provide timely attention to the children's actions and needs. Staff shall be attentive and participating with all children during mealtimes and shall be seated within an arm’s length away from children thirty-six (36) months of age and younger. It was determined based on observation that in Room B -Back Center a school aged child was left unsupervised for approximately five minutes while the staff walked out of the classroom.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**
The Center will train Staff and monitor to ensure they are providing supervision and watchful oversight to the children at all times.

**Correction Deadline: 7/15/2026**