



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: 4/28/2025 **VisitType:** Monitoring Visit

Arrival: 2:50 PM **Departure:** 5:00 PM

CCLC-45823

Highland Kids Academy (Afterschool)

7300 Whittlesey Boulevard Columbus, GA 31909 Muscogee
County
(706) 221-5947 Linda@highlandkidsacademy.com

Regional Consultant

Penny Svenson

Phone: (470) 346-1037

Fax: (678) 891-5613

penny.svenson@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.
04/28/2025	Monitoring Visit	Good Standing	
10/10/2024	Complaint Closure	Good Standing	
10/10/2024	Complaint Investigation & Monitoring Visit	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
Lodge	H: Special Use		0	0	C	44	C	NA	NA	
Lodge	Room A	Six Year Olds and Over	1	4	C	13	C	NA	NA	Outside
Lodge	Room B		0	0	C	13	C	NA	NA	
Lodge	Room D	Six Year Olds and Over	1	6	C	12	C	NA	NA	Outside
Lodge	Room E		0	0	C	12	C	NA	NA	
Lodge	Room F		0	0	C	11	C	NA	NA	
Lodge	Room G	Six Year Olds and Over	1	15	C	12	NC	NA	NA	Outside
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 0			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 634			Building @35 capacity limited by Insufficient Toilets/Sinks				
Main	G	Six Year Olds and Over	1	15	C	15	C	NA	NA	Story, Homework
Main	H		0	0	C	10	C	14	C	
Main	I		0	0	C	9	C	NA	NA	
Main	Room A	Four Year Olds and Six Year Olds and Over	1	4	C	21	C	NA	NA	Free Play, Centers
Main	Room B	Five Year Olds	1	10	C	16	C	NA	NA	Transitioning
Main	Room C	Five Year Olds and Six Year Olds and Over	1	4	C	15	C	NA	NA	Outside
Main	Room D	Six Year Olds and Over	1	6	C	16	C	NA	NA	Transitioning, Homework, Free Play
Main	Room E	Four Year Olds and Five Year Olds	2	11	C	16	C	NA	NA	Outside, Transitioning

Main	Room F		0	0	C	0	C	NA	NA	
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 118					Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 634					
Total # Children this Date: 75		Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 118			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 634					

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Lodge	Playground	293	C
Main	Playground A	109	C

Enrolled Children						
Under 1 years	1 years	2 years	3 years	4 years	5 years (Prekonly)	5 years and older
0	0	0	0	7	0	90

Comments

April 28, 2025--The Monitoring Visit was conducted on this date. There were no findings.

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:

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 CAPS/ QR Provisional Status, allowing for scholarships while working toward an initial star rating. Provisional Status eligibility will be determined at the time of CAPS enrollment as part of the CAPS application process.

Contact the Quality Rated help desk at 855-800-7747 or 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 Monitoring Visit:

Activities and Equipment

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

Met

Comment

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

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.

591-1-1-25 Physical Plant - Safe Environment(CR)

Technical Assistance

Technical Assistance

The Consultant discussed ensuring trash cans, trash can lids, and walls behind trash cans were cleaned and monitored for cleanliness.

Correction Deadline: 4/28/2025

591-1-1-26 Playgrounds(CR)

Defer

Defer

This rule will be evaluated on the following regulatory visit. The wall had been previously covered and was in the process of being repaired.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will remove any litter and fix or remove hazards from the playground and will routinely monitor the playground and remove litter and hazards.

Correction Deadline: 10/10/2024

Health and Hygiene

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

No children enrolled who require diapering. School age children attend only for after school hours.

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

Proper hand washing observed throughout the center.

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

The Provider currently does not dispense/administer medication.

Safety

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

Age-appropriate discussion and/or redirection observed.

591-1-1-.36 Transportation(CR)**Met****Comment**

Paperwork, checklist, permission forms, annual inspection form and proper check of the vehicle after transportation were discussed with the director.

Sleeping & Resting Equipment

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

Sleeping/Naps are not required for this program. School age children attend only for after school hours.

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-.33 Staff Training**Met**

Correction Deadline: 11/9/2024

Corrected on 4/28/2025

The correction was observed during a review of records.

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**

Center observed to maintain appropriate staff:child ratios.

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

Adequate supervision observed on this date.