



**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

**Cover Sheet**

**Date:** 1/19/2022 **VisitType:** Complaint Investigation Follow Up **Arrival:** 9:40 AM **Departure:** 1:50 PM

**CCLC-1123**

**Happy Kids Learning Center**

7139 Highway 29 South Hull, GA 30646 Madison County  
 (706) 546-8611 justingillespie@bellsouth.net

**Regional Consultant**

Kelly Jones

Phone: (770) 357-7062

Fax: (770) 357-7061

kelly.jones@decal.ga.gov

**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.  <b>Good Standing</b> - Program is demonstrating an acceptable level of performance in meeting the rules. <b>Support</b> - Program performance is demonstrating a need for improvement in meeting rules. <b>Deficient</b> - Program is not demonstrating an acceptable level of performance in meeting the rules.
01/19/2022	Complaint Investigation Follow Up	Support	
11/30/2021	Monitoring Visit	Good Standing	
05/04/2021	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
Main	1R	Three Year Olds	0	0	C	23	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
Main	2L		1	12	C	18	C	NA	NA	Transitioning
Main	2R	Infants and One Year Olds	0	0	C	8	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
Main	3L		1	3	C	12	C	NA	NA	Free Play,Floor Play
Main	3R	One Year Olds and Two Year Olds	0	0	C	10	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
Main	4L		1	5	C	10	C	NA	NA	Free Play
Main	4R		0	0	C	16	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
Main	5L		0	0	C	19	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
Main	A-1L	GA PreK	2	11	C	21	C	NA	NA	Centers
		Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 132			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0			Building @35 capacity limited by Heath Department Limitations		
Total # Children this Date: 31		Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 132			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0					

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	back	107	C
Main	left playground	27	C
Main	right	16	C

### Comments

The purpose of the visit was to complete a complaint investigation and follow-up on the previous visit conducted on November 30, 2021. The visit and complaint investigation were closed on January 25, 2022. Consultant emailed a copy of the report to the director for review via telephone.

Plan of Improvement: To Be Submitted 02/01/2022

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.state.ga.us/CCS/Regulations.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



### Important New Deadlines:

Due to the ongoing COVID restrictions, the deadline to become Quality Rated for programs who want to continue to receive Childcare and Parent Services (CAPS), has been extended to at least December 31, 2021.

Get started today! Sign up by completing a short online application: <https://qualityrated.dec.state.ga.us/>  
Request free technical assistance to help you earn your star rating by contacting the Quality Rated help desk at 855-800-7747 or [qualityrated@dec.state.ga.us](mailto:qualityrated@dec.state.ga.us)

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), e-mail the following information to [CCSRefutations@dec.state.ga.us](mailto:CCSRefutations@dec.state.ga.us).

- 1) Facility name, license number and visit date
- 2) Your name, title/relationship to the facility, e-mail address & up to two phone number(s) where you can be reached
- 3) Specific rule number(s) that you are refuting, along with your concerns or questions regarding the rule citation

Refutations must be submitted to Child Care Services (CCS) within 10 business days of the completion date.

A sample form for submitting a refutation can be found at: <http://dec.state.ga.us/ChildCareServices/RefutationInformation.aspx>

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)

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Justin Gillespie, Program Official

Date

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Kelly Jones, Consultant

Date



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### Findings Report

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The following information is associated with a Complaint Investigation Follow Up:

**Facility**

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

**Not Met**

**Finding**

591-1-1-.26(8) requires climbing and swinging equipment to have a resilient surface beneath the equipment and the fall zone from such equipment must be adequately maintained by the Center to assure continuing resiliency. It was determined based on observation that the middle back playground did not have any resilient surface under or around the black and yellow see saw or the merry go round.

**Correction Deadline: 2/4/2022**

**Recited on 1/19/2022**

**Finding**

591-1-1-.26(9) requires the playground to be kept clean, free from litter and free of hazards, such as but not limited to rocks, exposed tree roots and exposed sharp edges of concrete. It was determined base on observation that the grey siding on the building facing the right playground falling off of the building and a piece of the plastic roof on the wooden structure was missing.

Correction Deadline: 2/4/2022

## Staff Records

Records Reviewed: 9

Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 1

Staff # 1	Met
Date of Hire: 10/11/2009	
Staff # 2	Met
Date of Hire: 09/11/2019	
Staff # 3	Not Met
Date of Hire: 01/19/2022	<u>Reminder - Health &amp; Safety training is required within 90 calendar days of hired</u>
<u>"Missing/Incomplete Components"</u>	
.09-Criminal Records Check Missing	
Staff # 4	Met
Date of Hire: 05/01/2005	
Staff # 5	Met
Date of Hire: 04/25/2019	
Staff # 6	Met
Date of Hire: 02/22/2021	
Staff # 7	Met
Date of Hire: 04/08/2021	
Staff # 8	Met
Date of Hire: 09/01/2016	
Staff # 9	Met
Date of Hire: 01/19/2022	<u>Reminder - Health &amp; Safety training is required within 90 calendar days of hired</u>

Staff Credentials Reviewed: 3

591-1-1-.09 Criminal Records and Comprehensive Background Checks(CR) Not Met

### Comment

Director provided two file(s) for employees hired since last visit on November 30, 2021.

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**Finding**

591-1-1-.09(1)(a) requires that a Center ensure that every actual and potential Director, Employee and Provisional Employee of a Child Care Learning Center submit both a Records Check Application to the Department and Fingerprints to an authorized fingerprinting site. It was determined based on a review of records that staff # 3, hire date January 19, 2022 ,did not have evidence of submitting both a Records Check Application to the Department and Fingerprints to an authorized fingerprinting site as required prior to being present at the Center. Staff member was observed to b present in classroom 1 L Pre- K during the visit.

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**Correction Deadline: 1/19/2022**

**Finding**

591-1-1-.09(1)(c) requires the Center to ensure that every Employee has a valid and current satisfactory Comprehensive Records Check Determination on file prior to being present at the Center while any child is present for care or before an individual age 17 or older resides in the Center. The Comprehensive Records Check Determination must have a Records Check Clearance Date that is no older than the preceding 12 months of the hire date; provided, however, if the Employee has had a lapse of employment from the child care industry that lasted for 180 days (6 months) or longer, a new satisfactory Comprehensive Records Check Determination is required. It was determined based on a review of records that staff # 3, hire date January 19, 2022 ,did not have evidence of a Comprehensive Record Check Determination on file prior to being present at the Center any child is present for care. Staff member was observed to b present in classroom 1 L Pre- K . during a walk through of the facility on this date.

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**Correction Deadline: 1/19/2022**

**Recited on 1/19/2022**

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**Correction Deadline: 11/30/2021**

**Corrected on 1/19/2022**

.09(1)(l)3. - The previous citation was corrected on this date. Staff member # 8, hire date September 1, 2016 received a new satisfactory criminal record check on November 15, 2021.

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**591-1-1-.33 Staff Training****Met****Correction Deadline: 12/31/2021****Corrected on 1/19/2022****.33(5) - The previous citation was observed to be corrected on this date. Staff had evidence of completing the required annual training for 2021 on file.**

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

Staff observed to be compliant with applicable laws and regulations.