



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: 9/2/2025 **VisitType:** Monitoring Visit

Arrival: 1:05 PM **Departure:** 3:45 PM

CCLC-33726

The Highlander School

1212 McPherson Ave. Atlanta, GA 30316 DeKalb County
(404) 221-2420 admin@thehighlanderschool.com

Regional Consultant

Jessica Johnson

Phone: (770) 357-5090

Fax:

jessica.johnson@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.
09/02/2025	Monitoring Visit	Good Standing	
08/12/2025	TA Follow Up	NA	
06/10/2025	TA Follow Up	NA	

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	A1- 1st right		0	0	C	8	C	NA	NA	
Main	A2 - 1R - Napping	Infants	2	5	C	5	C	NA	NA	Nap
Main	B - 2nd right	Two Year Olds and Three Year Olds	3	12	C	18	C	NA	NA	Nap
Main	Back Left	One Year Olds	1	2	C	20	C	NA	NA	Nap
Main	C - 1st Left	Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds	2	15	C	14	NC	NA	NA	Nap
		Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 65			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0					
Total # Children this Date: 34		Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 65			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0					

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	Deck Play Area	3	C
Main	Front/Side	14	C
Main	Playground	83	C

Enrolled Children						
Under 1 years	1 years	2 years	3 years	4 years	5 years (Prekonly)	5 years and older
6	10	14	12	4	0	0

Comments

On this date, Jessica Johnson (JJ), Consultant, reviewed the visit report with Assistant Director Nicole Johnson. The CCS Consultant discussed and left a copy of the updated Child Care Weather watch Chart with the program today. Weather does not permit outdoor play when there is active precipitation or when weather advisories are in effect. Consult the Child Care Weather Watch Chart resource for further guidance, considering specific weather conditions.

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:

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



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

(Findings Report)

Date: 9/2/2025 **VisitType:** Monitoring Visit

Arrival: 1:05 PM **Departure:** 3:45 PM

CCLC-33726

The Highlander School

1212 McPherson Ave. Atlanta, GA 30316 DeKalb County
(404) 221-2420 admin@thehighlanderschool.com

Regional Consultant

Jessica Johnson

Phone: (770) 357-5090

Fax:

jessica.johnson@decal.ga.gov

Mailing Address

Same

The following information is associated with a MV:

Activities and Equipment

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

Met

Comment

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

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

Met

Comment

Center does not provide swimming activities.

Children's Records

591-1-1-.08 Children's Records

Technical Assistance

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.08(1) - Please ensure that parents work telephone numbers are updated in children records.

Correction Deadline: 9/2/2025

Prior Visits: 12/06/2023

Facility

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

Please be mindful to keep items that pose a hazard inaccessible to children.

Finding

591-1-1-.25(12) requires heating and cooling equipment to be protected to prevent children from touching it. Fans, space heaters, etc. shall be positioned or installed so as to be inaccessible to the children. It was determined based on observation that a fan was observed accessible to children in care in classroom C-1st Left.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will re-position or re-install equipment, as needed, and will make all such equipment inaccessible to children.

Correction Deadline: 9/2/2025

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 the following hazards were observed:

B-2nd Right

- Push pins and safety pins were observed in an unlocked cabinet near the diapering table.

Back Left

- Adult scissors were observed in an unlocked drawer under the diapering table.

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: 9/2/2025

Prior Visits: 06/01/2022

Recited on 9/2/2025

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

Not Met

Correction Deadline: 2/10/2025

Prior Visits: 02/22/2023

Corrected on 9/2/2025

.26(4) - The previous citation was observed corrected on this date as nails were not observed on the fence.

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 based on observation that the following hazards were observed:

Playground

- High grass was observed throughout the playground.
- A wheelbarrow on the right side of the playground near the fence.
- Tree roots were observed throughout the playground.

Front/side Playground:

- A weed with thorns was observed on the side of building.

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: 10/2/2025

Prior Visits: 06/01/2022

Recited on 9/2/2025

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

Proper hand washing of children and staff was discussed with the director on this date.

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

Not Evaluated

Comment

The Provider currently does not dispense/administer medication.

591-1-1-.21 Operational Policies & Procedures**Technical Assistance****Technical Assistance**

591-1-1-.21(3) - Please ensure that the Center conducts drills for fire, tornado and other emergency situations. The fire drills will be conducted monthly and tornado and other emergency situation drills will be conducted every six months.

Correction Deadline: 9/7/2025

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.21(4) - Discussed updating the Center's policies and procedures to include the program's practices regarding the expulsion and suspension of children enrolled for care within the description of behavior management and discipline actions used by the Center.

Also discussed to ensure a description of the practices followed by the Center to prevent shaken baby syndrome and abusive head trauma in children up to five years of age that includes the following information: how to recognize, respond to, and report the signs and symptoms of shaken baby syndrome and abusive head trauma; strategies to assist staff members in understanding how to care for infants and how to cope with a crying, fussing, or distraught child; strategies to ensure staff members understand the brain development of children up to five years of age; and a list of prohibited behaviors when dealing with children.

Additional information can be found in the CCLC Indicator Manual found on DECAL's website at:

<https://www.dec.state.ga.us/CCS/RuleAndRegulations.aspx> or through the Center on Shaken Baby Syndrome found at: <https://dontshake.org/>.

Correction Deadline: 9/7/2025

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

Age-appropriate discussion and/or redirection observed.

591-1-1-.13 Field Trips(CR)**Not Evaluated****Comment**

Center does not participate in field trips at this time.

591-1-1-.36 Transportation(CR)**N/A****Comment**

Center does not provide routine transportation.

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

Discussed SIDS and infant sleeping position.

Correction Deadline: 2/10/2025

Prior Visits: 01/27/2025

Corrected on 9/2/2025

.30(1)(a)3 - The previous citation was observed corrected on this date as crib sheets were observed tight fitting.

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

Director provided three files for employees hired since last visit.

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 #6 hired on July 15, 2015 did not complete the satisfactory Comprehensive Records Check Determination prior to being present at the Center while children were present for care.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

IMMEDIATE CORRECTION - The Center will review 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. The program's owner or an officer/member of the corporation must view the A to Z Background Check video units pertaining to this records check rule and return the signed affidavit within one week from this visit date. The center will review to ensure the CRC rules are maintained.

Correction Deadline: 9/2/2025

Prior Visits: 07/10/2024

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

Technical Assistance

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.14(1)(a) - Discussed that effective July 1, 2025, new staff are required to obtain pediatric First Aid and pediatric CPR training within 45 days of employment. It was further discussed that programs must have at least one person with current pediatric First Aid and pediatric CPR training in each classroom at all times. Discussed that the training must be done by certified or licensed health care professionals or trainers and must deal with the provision of emergency care to infants and children.

Correction Deadline: 10/2/2025

Correction Deadline: 2/27/2025

Corrected on 9/2/2025

.14(2) - The previous citation was observed corrected on this date as Staff # 12 completed the first aid and CPR certification.

591-1-1-.33 Staff Training

Technical Assistance

Comment

591-1-1-.33(4) - Please ensure that within the first year of employment, the person with primary responsibility for food preparation shall have four clock hours of training in food nutrition planning, preparation, serving, proper dish washing and food storage.

Correction Deadline: 10/2/2025

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.33(5)(a) - Discussed that effective July 1, 2025, all staff are required to obtain at least two hours in evidence based, developmentally appropriate language and literacy practices and at least two hours in on-going child development and health and safety related topics as part of their 10 hours of annual training.

Correction Deadline: 10/2/2025

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.33(6) - Discussed that all Employees, including volunteers, independent contractors, students-in-training, etc. should have a completed initial program orientation form on file.

Correction Deadline: 9/12/2025

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

Met

Comment

Staff observed to be compliant with applicable laws and regulations.

Correction Deadline: 2/27/2025

Prior Visits: 01/27/2025

Corrected on 9/2/2025

.31(2)(b)2. - The previous citation was observed corrected on this date as Staff #11 is not listed as the lead teacher.

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

Discussed a supervision plan for classroom C-1st left during naptime.