



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: 5/7/2025 **VisitType:** Monitoring Visit

Arrival: 12:45 PM **Departure:** 3:30 PM

CCLC-27902

Lowndes I Head Start Center

1613 Ulmer Avenue Valdosta, GA 31601 Lowndes County
(229) 244-6300 vwilliams@cpheadstart.org

Regional Consultant

Kayla Coats

Phone: ()

Fax:

kayla.coats@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.
05/07/2025	Monitoring Visit	Good Standing	
10/10/2024	Complaint Closure	Good Standing	
09/24/2024	Complaint Investigation & Licensing Study	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	3 years- Rm G		0	0	C	15	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
Main	Rm A	Three Year Olds	2	10	C	15	C	NA	NA	Nap
Main	Rm B	Four Year Olds and Five Year Olds	2	12	C	17	C	NA	NA	Nap
Main	Rm C	Three Year Olds	2	9	C	16	C	NA	NA	Nap
Main	Rm D	Four Year Olds	2	16	C	16	C	NA	NA	Nap
Main	Rm E	Five Year Olds	2	12	C	17	C	NA	NA	Nap
Main	Rm F	Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds	2	12	C	16	C	NA	NA	Nap
Main	Rm H	Four Year Olds	2	4	C	16	C	NA	NA	Nap
Main	Rm I	Four Year Olds and Five Year Olds	2	12	C	16	C	NA	NA	Nap, Transitioning
Main	Rm J	Four Year Olds and Five Year Olds	2	9	C	16	C	NA	NA	Transitioning, Nap
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 160					Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0					
Total # Children this Date: 96					Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0					

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	Playground	155	C

Enrolled Children						
Under 1 years	1 years	2 years	3 years	4 years	5 years (Prekonly)	5 years and older
0	0	0	21	70	41	0

Comments

A copy of the visit report was left with the provider on this date.

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.decga.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@decga.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)

Not Met

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 that the bathroom attached to Classroom H had a filing cabinet that had rust towards the bottom of the cabinet and was a hazard for the children in care.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will ensure that equipment and furniture are used by the age-appropriate group of children.

Correction Deadline: 5/7/2025

Recited on 5/7/2025

Correction Deadline: 9/24/2024

Corrected on 5/7/2025

.12(4) - This citation was observed to be corrected on this date. The fish tank sitting on the edge of the sink in classroom I had been removed.

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

N/A

Comment

Center does not provide swimming activities.

Facility

591-1-1-.06 Bathrooms

Met

Correction Deadline: 10/24/2024

Corrected on 5/7/2025

.06(4) - This citation was observed to be corrected on this date. All bathrooms located in classrooms in use by the children had functioning exhaust fans as required by The Department.

591-1-1-.19 License Capacity(CR)

Met

Comment

Licensed capacity observed to be routinely met by center.

Finding

591-1-1-.25(11) requires that floor coverings be tight, smooth, free of odors and washable or cleanable. It was determined based on observation that in the bathrooms adjoining all of the classrooms had linoleum flooring that was raised and pulling away from the toilets, leaving it in a condition that was not tight, smooth, and cleanable.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

Floors will be maintained to be safe and sanitary.

Correction Deadline: 6/9/2025

Recited on 5/7/2025

Correction Deadline: 9/24/2024

Corrected on 5/7/2025

.25(13) - This citation was observed to be corrected on this date. All observable hazards in each classroom had been corrected and had no other hazards present.

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

Met

Correction Deadline: 10/4/2024

Corrected on 5/7/2025

.26(6) - This citation was observed to be corrected on this date. The easel with rust located on the playground next to the air conditioner unit had been removed.

Correction Deadline: 9/24/2024

Corrected on 5/7/2025

.26(9) - This citation was observed to be corrected on this date. Exposed wiring had been removed, and there were no other playground hazards observed on this date.

Health and Hygiene**591-1-1-.10 Diapering Areas & Practices(CR)**

N/A

Comment

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

591-1-1-.17 Hygiene(CR)

Met

Comment

Staff were observed to remind children to wash hands.

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

N/A

Comment

The Provider currently does not dispense/administer medication.

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.

Comment

Staff were observed to maintain a positive learning environment on this date.

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)**Met****Comment**

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

Comment

Complete documentation of transportation observed.

Sleeping & Resting Equipment

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

Pleasant naptime environment observed.

Comment

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

Staff Records

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

Criminal record checks were observed to be complete.

Comment

Director provided 2 files for employees hired since last visit.

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**

Staff observed to provide direct supervision and be attentive to children's needs.