



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: 2/2/2026 **VisitType:** Licensing Study

Arrival: 9:40 AM **Departure:** 1:00 PM

CCLC-33726

The Highlander School

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

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.
02/02/2026	Licensing Study	Good Standing	
01/08/2026	TA Follow Up	NA	
11/03/2025	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	One Year Olds	1	5	C	8	C	NA	NA	Transitioning
Main	A2 - 1R - Napping	Infants	1	3	C	5	C	NA	NA	Nap
Main	B - 2nd right	Two Year Olds and Three Year Olds	2	13	C	18	C	NA	NA	Centers
Main	Back Left	Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds	2	17	C	20	C	NA	NA	Centers
Main	C - 1st Left	One Year Olds and Two Year Olds	2	11	C	14	C	NA	NA	Transitioning
			Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 65			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0				
Total # Children this Date: 49			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
4	12	16	11	6	0	0

Comments

On this date, Jessica Johnson (JJ), Consultant, reviewed the visit report with Administrator Nicole Johnson.

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!



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Summary Report

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The following information is associated with a Licensing Study:

Activities and Equipment

591-1-1-.03 Activities

Met

Comment

Lesson Plans were observed to be posted and reflected the current weeks activities in each classroom.

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

Met

Comment

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

Comment

Equipment and furniture observed to be properly secured, as applicable.

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

Met

Comment

Center does not provide swimming activities.

Children's Records

Records Reviewed: 5

Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 1

Child # 2

Not Met

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.08(1)(a)-Work Number Missing

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

Met

Comment

Parent agreements observed obtained/completed.

Comment

Records were observed to be complete and well organized.

Facility

591-1-1-.06 Bathrooms

Met

Comment

Bathrooms observed to be clean and well maintained.

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.

Correction Deadline: 9/2/2025

Corrected on 2/2/2026

.25(12) - The previous citation was observed corrected on this date as no fan was observed in the classrooms.

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

- Lysol cleaner was observed in an unlocked cabinet under the diapering table.

C-1st Left

- Diaper wipes were observed in the cubbies near the white cabinet.

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: 2/2/2026

Recited on 2/2/2026

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.25(17) - Discussed that the Center premises must be free of plants and shrubs which are poisonous or hazardous.

Correction Deadline: 2/2/2026

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.25(8) - Discussed placing protective caps on all unused electrical outlets within children's reach in classroom A1-1st right.

Correction Deadline: 2/2/2026

591-1-1-.26 Playgrounds(CR)**Not Met****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

- A deteriorating tree stump was observed on the left side of the playground.
- Protruding nails were observed on a hanging cords near the deck by classroom Back Left.
- Rust was observed on the railing near classroom C-1st Left

Front/side Playground:

- Weeds 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: 3/16/2026

Recited on 2/2/2026

Food Service

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.15(3) - Please ensure that baby bottles and formula are labeled with the individual child's name.

Correction Deadline: 2/2/2026

591-1-1-.18 Kitchen Operations

Technical Assistance

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.18(5) - Please ensure the refrigeration of all perishable and potentially hazardous foods are stored at 40 degrees Fahrenheit or below.

Correction Deadline: 2/2/2026

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.

Safety**591-1-1-.05 Animals**

Not Evaluated

Comment

Center does not keep animals on premises.

591-1-1-.11 Discipline(CR)

Met

Comment

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

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)

Not Evaluated

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.

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**Records Reviewed: 15****Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 2**

Staff # 9

Not Met

Date of Hire: 04/20/2024

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.31(2)(b)2.-Staff Qualifications-Education Missing

Staff # 13

Not Met

Date of Hire: 09/23/2025

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

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

591-1-1-.09 Criminal Records and Comprehensive Background Checks(CR)**Met****Correction Deadline: 9/2/2025****Corrected on 2/2/2026****.09(1)(c) - The previous citation was observed corrected on this date as criminal records checks were observed completed.****591-1-1-.14 First Aid & CPR(CR)****Not Met****Comment**

Complete first aid kits observed in the center.

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 # 13 hired on September 23, 2025, did not complete the 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: 3/2/2026**591-1-1-.33 Staff Training****Technical Assistance****Technical Assistance**

591-1-1-.33(4) - Discussed 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: 3/4/2026**Technical Assistance**

591-1-1-.33(5)(b)1. - Discussed that at least 2 hours in evidence based, developmentally appropriate language and literacy practices must be completed yearly.

Correction Deadline: 3/4/2026**591-1-1-.31 Staff(CR)****Not Met****Finding**

591-1-1-.31(2)(b)2. requires teachers and lead caregivers to meet minimum academic requirements and qualifying experience at the time of employment. It was determined based on a review of records that Staff #9, hired on April 8, 2024 did not meet the minimum academic requirements as the lead teacher on this date.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

A teacher/lead caregiver will be hired that meets the minimum academic requirements and qualifying work experience.

Correction Deadline: 3/3/2026

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.