



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: 11/5/2025 **VisitType:** Licensing Study

Arrival: 11:05 AM **Departure:** 2:30 PM

CCLC-25064
Higher Calling Christian Academy
2901 Wesley Chapel Road Decatur, GA 30034 DeKalb County
(404) 288-2494

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.
11/05/2025	Licensing Study	Good Standing	
07/19/2024	LS POI Follow Up	Good Standing	
06/20/2024	MV POI Follow Up	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	201	Infants	1	2	C	10	C	NA	NA	Floor Play
Main	203	One Year Olds	1	5	C	12	C	NA	NA	Nap, Transitioning
Main	204		0	0	C	20	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
Main	205	Two Year Olds	1	7	C	14	C	NA	NA	Transitioning, Nap
Main	208		0	0	C	20	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
Main	210		0	0	C	20	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
Main	G	Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds and Five Year Olds	1	10	C	20	C	NA	NA	Transitioning, Lunch
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 116			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0							
Total # Children this Date: 24			Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 116			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0				

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	A Outside	15	C
Main	B Outside	29	C

Enrolled Children						
Under 1 years	1 years	2 years	3 years	4 years	5 years (Prekonly)	5 years and older
2	6	8	8	9	0	26

Comments

On this date, Jessica Johnson (JJ), Consultant, reviewed the visit report with Director Breana 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.dec.al.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@dec.al.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

Technical Assistance

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.03(2) - Please ensure that a lesson plan is posted in classroom G (202).

Correction Deadline: 11/5/2025

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.

Facility

591-1-1-.06 Bathrooms

Met

Comment

Bathrooms observed to be clean and well maintained.

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

Technical Assistance

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.19(1) - Discussed submitting an Amendment for the cafeteria space. Discussed with the Director that an application for a license amendment is required prior to children's use of the cafeteria space. The application can be completed through DECAL KOALA found at: <https://www.decalkoala.com/Default>.

Correction Deadline: 11/5/2025

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

Met

Comment

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

Comment

Please secure cleaning tools (i.e., broom, plunger) out of reach of children.

Correction Deadline: 7/19/2024

Corrected on 11/5/2025

.25(13) - The previous citation was observed corrected on this date as no hazards were observed.

Correction Deadline: 8/2/2024

Corrected on 11/5/2025

.25(3) - The previous citation was observed corrected on this date as no hazards were observed.

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

Technical Assistance

Comment

Discussed maintenance of resilient surface. Please fluff and redistribute.

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.26(9) - Please ensure to remove the plastic trash bag hanging on the fence on Playground A Outside.

Correction Deadline: 11/5/2025

Food Service

591-1-1-.15 Food Service & Nutrition

Met

Correction Deadline: 7/19/2024

Corrected on 11/5/2025

.15(4) - The previous citation was observed corrected on this date as no hazards were observed.

591-1-1-.18 Kitchen Operations

Met

Comment

Kitchen appears clean and well organized on this date.

Health and Hygiene

591-1-1-.07 Children's Health

Met

Correction Deadline: 7/19/2024

Corrected on 11/5/2025

.07(5) - The previous citation was observed corrected on this date as no hazards were observed.

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

Met

Comment

Staff stated proper knowledge of diapering procedures.

Correction Deadline: 7/19/2024

Corrected on 11/5/2025

.10(5) - The previous citation was observed corrected on this date as no hazards were observed.

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

Technical Assistance

Comment

Staff were observed to remind children to wash hands on this date.

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.17(2) - Please ensure that children's shoes are tied in classroom G (202).

Correction Deadline: 11/5/2025

Correction Deadline: 7/19/2024

Corrected on 11/5/2025

.17(7) - The previous citation was observed corrected on this date as children were observed washing hands.

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

Met

Comment

The Provider currently does not dispense/administer medication.

Policies and Procedures

Comment

Program observed complete emergency drills

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/Regulations.aspx> or through the Center on Shaken Baby Syndrome found at: <https://dontshake.org/>.

Correction Deadline: 11/10/2025

591-1-1-.27 Posted Notices**Technical Assistance****Technical Assistance**

591-1-1-.27 - Please update the names of persons responsible for the administration of the Center in the administrator's absence on the posted items board.

Correction Deadline: 11/5/2025

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

Center does not keep animals on premises.

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

Age-appropriate discussion and/or redirection observed.

591-1-1-.13 Field Trips(CR)**Met****Comment**

Center does not participate in field trips at this time.

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

Center does not provide routine transportation.

Correction Deadline: 7/20/2024

Corrected on 11/5/2025

.36(7)(c)2. - The previous citation was corrected on this date. Per the Director the program does not provide routine transportation.

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

Correction Deadline: 8/2/2024

Corrected on 11/5/2025

.30(1)(b)1 - The previous citation was observed corrected on this date as the mats were observed in good repair.

Staff Records

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

Criminal record checks were observed to be complete.

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

Evidence observed of 100% of center Staff certified in First Aid and CPR containing emergency care for infants and children on this date.

Correction Deadline: 8/9/2024

Corrected on 11/5/2025

.14(1) - The previous citation was observed corrected on this date as staff members were observed with a current first aid and CPR certification.

Correction Deadline: 8/9/2024

Corrected on 11/5/2025

.14(2) - The previous citation was observed corrected on this date as staff members were observed with a current first aid and CPR certification.

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

Discussed that all lead staff must enroll in an approved education program within 6 months of hire and complete degree within 18 months.

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.