



**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:** 6/21/2023    **VisitType:** Monitoring Visit    **Arrival:** 8:10 AM    **Departure:** 11:05 AM

**CCLC-24470**

**Gateway Academy & Childcare Center**

745 Six Flags Dr. Austell, GA 30168 Cobb County  
 (770) 948-7201 helengwude@yahoo.com

**Regional Consultant**

Tomekia Hudson

Phone: (770) 544-5978

Fax: (770) 544-5980

tomekia.hudson@dec.al.ga.gov

**Mailing Address**

1147 Lakefield Walk  
 Marietta, GA 30064

**Quality Rated:** ★ ★

<b>Compliance Zone Designation</b>		
06/21/2023	Monitoring Visit	Good Standing
10/12/2022	Licensing Study	Good Standing
01/18/2022	Monitoring Visit	Good Standing

**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.

**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	A-first left		0	0	C	12	C	NA	NA	
Main	B Second Left	Infants and One Year Olds	2	9	C	12	C	NA	NA	Floor Play
Main	C-3 year old (3rd left)		0	0	C	23	C	NA	NA	
Main	E (first right)	One Year Olds	2	11	C	20	C	NA	NA	Snack, Transitioning
Main	Fdownstairs (3rd right)		0	0	C	14	C	NA	NA	
Main	G downstairs second right	Six Year Olds and Over	2	16	C	18	C	NA	NA	Field Trip, Transitioning
Main	H (dwnsrs first right)	Four Year Olds and Five Year Olds	1	10	C	19	C	NA	NA	Outside
Main	I dwnstrs first left	Four Year Olds and Five Year Olds	1	11	C	20	C	NA	NA	Centers
Main	J downstairs 2nd left	Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds	1	15	C	25	C	NA	NA	Outside
Main	Room D (second right)	Two Year Olds	1	10	C	20	C	NA	NA	Free Play
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 183						Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0				
Total # Children this Date: 82			Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 183			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0				


Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	Infant Playground	7	C
Main	Middle Toddler Playground	15	C
Main	Right Older Playground	35	C

**Comments**

Director provided nine files for employees hired since last visit.

Plan of Improvement: Developed This Date 06/21/2023

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](http://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](mailto:qualityrated@dec.al.ga.gov) for more information. Free technical assistance is available!**

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Deborah Okoi, Program Official

Date

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Tomekia Hudson, Regional Consultant

Date



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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)**

**Met**

**Comment**

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

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

**Met**

**Comment**

Center does not provide swimming activities.

**Evening Care**

**591-1-1-.32 Staffing/Supervision(CR)**

**Met**

**Comment**

No evening care hours provided. Director stated that facility closes at 6:30pm daily.

**Facility**

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

**Met**

**Comment**

Licensed capacity observed to be routinely met by center.

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

**Met**

**Comment**

Center appears clean and well maintained.

**Comment**

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

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**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 swinging equipment had one inch of resilient surface in the fall zone where six inches is required.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

The Center will add additional resilient surfacing to the fall zones where needed and check daily, adding resilient surfacing as needed to maintain adequate resiliency.

**Correction Deadline: 7/1/2023**

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**Health and Hygiene**

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

Staff state proper knowledge of diapering procedures.

**591-1-1-.17 Hygiene(CR)****Met****Comment**

Proper hand washing observed throughout the center.

**591-1-1-.20 Medications(CR)****Met****Comment**

The Provider currently does not dispense/administer medication.

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**Safety**

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

Age-appropriate discussion and/or redirection observed.

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

A current/completed inspection was observed for vehicle WKX206 used in transporting children this date.

**Comment**

Complete documentation of transportation observed.

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**Sleeping & Resting Equipment**

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

Discussed SIDS and infant sleeping position.

**Comment**

Pleasant naptime environment observed.

**Technical Assistance**

591-1-1-.30(4) - The Center will store cots and mats so children do not have access to them and they don't take up play space and will store them so each child's bedding is separate from the others.

**Correction Deadline: 6/21/2023**

## Staff Records

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

**Comment**

Director provided nine files for employees hired since last visit.

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**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

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**591-1-1-.32 Staff:Child Ratios and Group Size(CR)** **Met**

**Comment**

Center observed to maintain appropriate staff:child ratios.

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**591-1-1-.32 Supervision(CR)** **Met**

**Comment**

Adequate supervision observed on this date.