



**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

**Cover Sheet**

**Date:** 1/27/2022    **VisitType:** Monitoring Visit    **Arrival:** 9:45 AM    **Departure:** 12:00 PM

**CCLC-53086**

**Start Bright Academy Hiram**

64 Greystone Pkwy Hiram, GA 30141 Paulding County  
 (770) 943-0058 startbrightinc@gmail.com

**Mailing Address**  
 Same

**Regional Consultant**

Brionne Higgins

Phone: (404) 232-1903  
 Fax: (770) 359-5819  
 brionne.higgins@decal.ga.gov

Joint with: Jennifer Bailey

**Quality Rated:** ★

<b>Compliance Zone Designation</b>			<b>Compliance Zone Designation</b> - 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.
01/27/2022	Monitoring Visit	Good Standing	
11/22/2021	Incident Investigation Closure	Good Standing	
10/14/2021	Incident Investigation & Follow Up	Good Standing	

**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- Left Side 1L	Infants	2	6	C	21	C	NA	NA	Floor Play
Main	B- Left side 2R	One Year Olds	2	9	C	17	C	NA	NA	Free Play
Main	C- Left side 1R	Two Year Olds	2	17	C	18	C	NA	NA	Circle Time
Main	D- Back center		0	0	C	22	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
Main	E- Right Side 2R	GA PreK	2	20	C	37	C	NA	NA	Centers
Main	F- Right side 1R	Three Year Olds	2	16	C	29	C	NA	NA	TV

Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 144

Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0

Total # Children this Date: 68

Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 144

Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	Back side of Bldg	64	C
Main	Left side of Bldg	23	C
Main	Right side of Bldg	114	C

**Comments**

The purpose of the visit was to follow up on the visit conducted on October 14, 2021. The walkthrough was conducted on January 27, 2022 and the administrative review February 3, 2022. The administrative review was completed on February 8, 2022. The visit report was completed on February 10, 2022 and a copy was sent to the center.

Plan of Improvement: Developed This Date 01/27/2022

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.state.ga.us/CCS/Regulations.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



### Important New Deadlines:

Due to the ongoing COVID restrictions, the deadline to become Quality Rated for programs who want to continue to receive Childcare and Parent Services (CAPS), has been extended to at least December 31, 2021.

Get started today! Sign up by completing a short online application: <https://qualityrated.dec.state.ga.us/>  
Request free technical assistance to help you earn your star rating by contacting the Quality Rated help desk at 855-800-7747 or [qualityrated@dec.state.ga.us](mailto:qualityrated@dec.state.ga.us)

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.

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#### 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), e-mail the following information to [CCSRefutations@dec.state.ga.us](mailto:CCSRefutations@dec.state.ga.us).

- 1) Facility name, license number and visit date
- 2) Your name, title/relationship to the facility, e-mail address & up to two phone number(s) where you can be reached
- 3) Specific rule number(s) that you are refuting, along with your concerns or questions regarding the rule citation

Refutations must be submitted to Child Care Services (CCS) within 10 business days of the completion date.

A sample form for submitting a refutation can be found at: <http://dec.state.ga.us/ChildCareServices/RefutationInformation.aspx>

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.

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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)

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Deslee Lentz, Program Official

Date

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Brionne Higgins, Consultant

Date

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Jennifer Bailey, Consultant

Date



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**Findings Report**

**Date:** 1/27/2022 **VisitType:** Monitoring Visit

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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.

**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)**

**Technical Assistance**

**Technical Assistance**

591-1-1-.25 - Discussed placing a covering on the back of the broken toilet in room 1R until the top for the toilet tank is repaired.

**Correction Deadline: 7/15/2021**

**Corrected on 1/27/2022**

.25(13) - Previous citation observed corrected on this date. Consultant observed no major hazards accessible on this date.

**Correction Deadline: 7/15/2021**

**Corrected on 1/27/2022**

.25(17) - Previous citation observed correction on this date. Consultant observed the playground to be free of overgrown vines and thorns.

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

591-1-1-.26(4) requires that playgrounds be protected from traffic or other hazards by a (4) four foot high fence or other barrier approved by this Department. Fencing material shall not present a hazard to children and shall be maintained so as to prevent children from leaving the playground area by any means other than through an approved access route. Fence gates shall be kept closed except when persons are entering or exiting the area. It was determined based on observation that the green chain link fence on the right side playground was buckled and leaning into the playground. Additionally, the green paint was observed to be chipped on the fence on all three playgrounds.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

The Center will routinely check the fence to determine if it is in good repair and remains at least 4 feet high, and will repair any hazards. The Center will train Staff to identify and report any fence hazards and to keep the fence gates closed when not in use.

**Correction Deadline: 2/28/2022****Correction Deadline: 9/1/2021****Corrected on 1/27/2022**

**.26(8) - Previous citation observed corrected on this date. Consultant observed swings inaccessible to children due no resilient surface beneath the equipment. The director stated resilient surface was purchased and that the swings will be kept inaccessible until resilient surface is placed beneath the swings. Consultant observed appropriate amount of resilient surface on all three playgrounds and discussed fluffing and redistributing mulch with the provider.**

**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 a large pile of litter and trash, including an aluminum can was observed in the front left corner of the playground located on the right side of the building. Additionally, on the right side playground, consultant observed the PVC pipe around the large play structure which was used as a barrier for the fall zones was not connected causing it to be a potential tripping hazard.

**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: 2/10/2022****Recited on 1/27/2022**

<b>Health and Hygiene</b>
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**591-1-1-.10 Diapering Areas & Practices(CR)****Met****Comment**

Staff state proper knowledge of diapering procedures.

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

Proper hand washing observed throughout the center.

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

Discussed proper medication documentation and procedures. The Director stated that they do not currently dispensed medications but may in the future.

<b>Safety</b>
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**Comment**

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

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**591-1-1-.36 Transportation(CR)****Not Met****Finding**

591-1-1-.36(4)(b) requires that the interior of a transportation vehicle be clean, in safe repair and free of hazardous items, objects and/or other non-essential items which could cause injury. It was determined based on observation that all three vehicles used for transportation were observed to contain to have a large amount of litter and debris. Additionally, consultant observed vehicle with tag number RXC1293 to have no rear view mirror.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

The center will maintain that all transportation vehicles are clean, in safe repair, and free from hazards. The center will reattach the rear view mirror.

**Correction Deadline: 2/10/2022****Finding**

591-1-1-.36(4)(c) requires that each vehicle be equipped with a fire extinguisher maintained in working order and kept inaccessible to children. It was determined based on observation that the vehicle with tag number TAX6469 was not equipped with a fire extinguisher.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

The center will ensure that each vehicle has a working fire extinguisher and that the fire extinguisher is kept out of reach of children.

**Correction Deadline: 2/10/2022****Finding**

591-1-1-.36(7)(c)2. requires that the driver or other designated person shall immediately document in writing, with a check or other mark/symbol to account for each child listed on the passenger transportation checklist each time a child enters and exits the vehicle. The driver or other designated staff person shall document in writing with a different mark/symbol to account for each child listed on the passenger transportation checklist who was not present on the vehicle for any reason. An explanation shall be documented in writing whenever a child is transported to a field trip site but is not present on the return trip to the Center. It was determined based on a review of records that the center failed to write a mark or symbol for several children present on the vehicle during morning and afternoon transportation routes:

- January 24, 2022 route from Hiram Elementary to Start Bright was missing one unload mark for one child for afternoon transportation
- January 24-25, 28, 2022 route to All Good Elementary was missing one load and unload marks for two children morning and afternoon transportation
- January 25, 2022 route from Hiram Elementary to Start Bright was missing an unload mark for one child for afternoon transportation
- January 27, 2022 route from Hiram Elementary to the Start Bright was missing an unload mark missing for nine children for afternoon transportation
- January 26-28, 2022 route from Dobbins Elementary to Start Bright was missing a load and unload mark for four children for afternoon transportation
- February 4, 2022 route from Panter Elementary to Start Bright was missing a load and unload mark for one child for afternoon transportation
- February 4, 2022 route from Panter Elementary to Start Bright was missing a load and unload mark for eight children for afternoon transportation

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

The driver/other designated person will immediately document in writing with a check/mark/symbol each time a child gets on and off the vehicle.

**Correction Deadline: 2/1/2022**

**Finding**

591-1-1-.36(7)(d)2. requires that the second designated Staff person conduct a check of the vehicle immediately upon the completion of the first check of the vehicle. The responsible person shall physically walk through the entire vehicle; visually inspect all seat surfaces, under all seats and in all compartments or recesses in the vehicle's interior; and sign the passenger transportation checklist(s), indicating all of the children have exited the vehicle. There shall be continuous watchful oversight of the vehicle between the first check and second check. It was determined based on a review of records that a second check and signature was incomplete for PM route from Hiram Elementary to Start Bright Academy on February 4, 2022.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

The Center will train Staff who are or may be involved in transporting children in how to thoroughly inspect a vehicle and properly complete transportation documentation. The Center will review and monitor.

**Correction Deadline: 2/10/2022**

**Sleeping & Resting Equipment**

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

**Technical Assistance**

**Technical Assistance**

591-1-1-.30(1)(a)2 - Discussed with teachers and the director to ensure that each mattress is firm and tight fitting in the crib so that there is no gaps or potential hazards. Consultant observed the name on the crib and recommended them to use one of the unoccupied cribs until a new mattress was obtained.

**Correction Deadline: 1/27/2022**

**Staff Records**

**Records Reviewed: 18**

**Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 0**

Staff # 1	Met
Date of Hire: 12/07/2021	
Staff # 2	Met
Date of Hire: 09/06/2021	
Staff # 3	Met
Date of Hire: 11/15/2021	
Staff # 4	Met
Date of Hire: 11/15/2021	
Staff # 5	Met
Date of Hire: 12/07/2021	
Staff # 6	Met
Date of Hire: 05/10/2021	
Staff # 7	Met
Date of Hire: 09/28/2021	

Staff # 8 Date of Hire: 01/10/2019	Met
Staff # 9 Date of Hire: 03/10/2021	Met
Staff # 10 Date of Hire: 08/06/2018	Met
Staff # 11 Date of Hire: 09/06/2021	Met
Staff # 12 Date of Hire: 05/02/2010	Met
Staff # 13 Date of Hire: 01/04/2021	Met
Staff # 14 Date of Hire: 10/20/2021	Met
Staff # 15 Date of Hire: 10/27/2021	Met
Staff # 16 Date of Hire: 12/13/2021	Met
Staff # 17 Date of Hire: 08/02/2021	Met
Staff # 18 Date of Hire: 05/10/2021	Met

**Staff Credentials Reviewed: 1**

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

Criminal record checks were observed to be complete.

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<b>591-1-1-.14 First Aid &amp; CPR</b>	<b>Not Met</b>
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**Finding**

591-1-1-.14(3) requires the Center to have a first aid kit in each building of the Center and in any vehicle used by the Center for transportation of children, that contains scissors, tweezers, gauze pads, adhesive tape, thermometer, band-aids, assorted sizes, antibacterial ointment, insect-sting preparation, an antiseptic cleansing solution, triangular bandages, rubber gloves, protective eye wear, a protective face mask, and a cold pack. The first aid kit, together with a first aid instruction manual which must be kept with the kit at all times, shall be stored so that it is not accessible to children but is easily accessible to Staff. It was determined based on observation that the vehicle with tag number TAX6469 was missing a first aid kit.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

Center Staff will provide any missing first aid kits, add any missing items to each first aid kit and will develop and use a plan for checking the kits and replacing missing items in each kit in the future. First aid kits and instruction manuals will be stored so that they kits are not accessible to children but are easily accessible to Center Staff.

**Correction Deadline: 2/10/2022**

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

**Met**

**Comment**

Staff observed to be compliant with applicable laws and regulations.

<b>Staffing and Supervision</b>
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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.