



**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:** 10/7/2019 **VisitType:** Licensing Study **Arrival:** 9:40 AM **Departure:** 3:50 PM

**CCLC-10816**

**LITTLE PEOPLE'S LEARNING PLACE**

5853 VICKERY STREET Lavonia, GA 30553 Franklin County  
 (706) 356-8803 tonniemerritt@yahoo.com

**Regional Consultant**

Kelly Jones

Phone: (770) 357-7062

Fax: (770) 357-7061

kelly.jones@dec.al.ga.gov

**Mailing Address**

P.O. BOX 39, 912 RED HOLLOW RD  
 Martin, GA 30557

**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.  <b>Good Standing</b> - Program is demonstrating an acceptable level of performance in meeting the rules. <b>Support</b> - Program performance is demonstrating a need for improvement in meeting rules. <b>Deficient</b> - Program is not demonstrating an acceptable level of performance in meeting the rules.
10/07/2019	Licensing Study	Support	
04/03/2019	Complaint Closure	Good Standing	
04/03/2019	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	A-front left	Two Year Olds	1	9	C	12	C	NA	NA	Free Play, Floor Play, Transitioning
Main	B-1R	Infants and One Year Olds	1	5	C	10	C	NA	NA	Free Play, Diapering, Floor Play
Main	C-Back	Three Year Olds	2	7	C	22	C	30	C	Transitioning, Free Play
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 44					Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 52					
Total # Children this Date: 21					Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 52					

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	Playground-Back	102	C
Main	Playground-left	71	C

**Comments**

The purpose for this visit was to conduct a licensing study visit and to follow-up on the previous visit conducted on April 3, 2019.

Plan of Improvement: To Be Submitted 10/24/2019

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/RuleAndRegulations.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.

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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)



#### Important New Deadlines:

Your program must be Quality Rated by December 31, 2020 in order to continue to receive Childcare and Parent Services (CAPS).

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)

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Tonnie Merritt, Program Official

Date

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Kelly Jones, Consultant

Date



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### Findings Report

**Date:** 10/7/2019 **VisitType:** Licensing Study

**Arrival:** 9:40 AM

**Departure:** 3:50 PM

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The following information is associated with a Licensing Study:

### Activities and Equipment

#### 591-1-1-.03 Activities

**Not Met**

**Finding**

591-1-1-.03(2) requires the Center to keep current lesson plans on site that reflect appropriate instruction practices and activities to support children's development The Center shall have sufficient and varied play and learning equipment and materials to support the above program of activities in all developmental areas. It was determined based on observation that three of the three classrooms did not have current lesson plans available for review.

**Correction Deadline: 10/7/2019**

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

**Not Met**

**Finding**

591-1-1-.12(4) requires that equipment and furniture is secured if it is of a weight or mass that could cause injury from tipping, falling, or being pulled or pushed over. It was determined based on observation that a television was not secured to the brown desk top located on the back left side of classroom A-Front Left. The television sitting on a blue grey shelf located in classroom C- back was not secured to the shelf creating a potential tipping hazard.

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**Correction Deadline: 10/7/2019**

**Recited on 10/7/2019**

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

**Comment**

Center does not provide swimming activities.

<b>Facility</b>
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**591-1-1-.06 Bathrooms**

**Not Met**

**Finding**

591-1-1-.06(1) requires the center to provide a specified minimum number of flush toilets and hand washing sinks with running water for the use of all children, at least one flush toilet for children being potty-trained and to not substitute nursery potty chairs for a required flush toilet. It was determined based on observation that the back right restroom did not have an working toilet.

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**Correction Deadline: 11/6/2019**

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**Correction Deadline: 10/21/2019**

**Corrected on 10/7/2019**

.06(4) -The previous citation was observed to be corrected on this date. The consultant observed that all vents in the restrooms were covered and operational.

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

**Comment**

Licensed capacity observed to be routinely met by center.

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

**Correction Deadline: 4/3/2019**

**Corrected on 10/7/2019**

.25(3) - The previous citation was observed to be corrected on this date. The consultant observed the sink located on the front right entrance of classroom A- Front Left front to be operating and the cold water knob to be working and in good repair.

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**Correction Deadline: 4/4/2019**

**Corrected on 10/7/2019**

**.26(4) - The previous citation was observed to be corrected on this date. The consultant observed the fence to be in good repair on this date.**

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**Correction Deadline: 4/13/2019**

**Corrected on 10/7/2019**

**.26(6) - The previous citation was observed to be corrected on this date. The consultant observed the playground equipment to be clean and in good repair on this date..**

**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 that the fall zones surrounding the yellow and blue swing sets and red and blue swing sets on playground-Left and playground-Back contained approximately one inch of resilient surface on this date. The consultant also observed the fall zones surrounding the black, yellow and wooden sliding structure to have approximately zero inches of resilient surface on this date. At least six inches of resilient surface were required on this date.

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**Correction Deadline: 10/21/2019**

**Recited on 10/7/2019**

**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 two trees had been removed from the back playground, which resulted in two tree stumps being accessible to the children. The stumps were observed to be splitting and jagged on this date.

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**Correction Deadline: 10/21/2019**

**Recited on 10/7/2019**

<b>Food Service</b>
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**591-1-1-.15 Food Service & Nutrition**

**Met**

**Comment**

Center menu meets USDA guidelines.

<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**

**Correction Deadline: 4/3/2019**

**Corrected on 10/7/2019**

.20(3) - The previous citation was observed to be corrected on this date. The consultant observed proper documentation and storage of medication.

<b>Policies and Procedures</b>
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**591-1-1-.21 Operational Policies & Procedures**

**Not Met**

**Finding**

591-1-1-.21(3) requires that the Center conduct drills for fire, tornado and other emergency situations. The fire drills will be conducted monthly and tornado and other emergency situation drills will be conducted every six months. The Center shall maintain documentation of the dates and times of these drills for two years. It was determined based on a review of records that the center did not complete two lock down drills for 2018.

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Correction Deadline: 10/14/2019

Recited on 10/7/2019

## 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.

## Sleeping & Resting Equipment

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

Met

Correction Deadline: 4/13/2019

Corrected on 10/7/2019

.30(1)(a) - The previous citation has been corrected on this date. The consultant observed the center to have five cribs for the five infants present that day.

## Staff Records

Records Reviewed: 4

Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 2

Staff # 1

Met

Date of Hire: 09/03/2019

Staff # 2

Not Met

Date of Hire: 08/16/2007

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training

Staff # 3

Not Met

Date of Hire: 06/16/2003

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training,.33(4)-Food Prep Training Missing 4 hrs.

Staff # 4

Met

Date of Hire: 07/15/2019



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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.

**Comment**

Director provided 3 file(s) for employees hired since last visit.

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<b>591-1-1-.14 First Aid &amp; CPR</b>	<b>Met</b>
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**Comment**

Complete first aid kit observed in the center on this date.

**Comment**

Evidence observed of 50% of center staff certified in First Aid and CPR.

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<b>591-1-1-.33 Staff Training</b>	<b>Defer</b>
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**Defer**

591-1-1-.33(6)-This was deferred due to the calendar year not being over and training for 2019 cannot be reviewed at this time.

**Correction Deadline: 5/3/2019**

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<b>591-1-1-.31 Staff(CR)</b>	<b>Not Met</b>
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**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 one of three lead teachers did not have evidence of an education credential on file.

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**Correction Deadline: 10/7/2019**

**Recited on 10/7/2019**

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**Correction Deadline: 4/3/2019**

**Corrected on 10/7/2019**

.31(2)(b)3.(i) - The previous citation was observed to be corrected on this date. The consultant observed that the staff member had evidence of an education credential required of a lead teacher on this date.

<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.