



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: 11/19/2020 **VisitType:** Licensing Study

Arrival: 9:30 AM

Departure: 11:00 AM

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

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Mailing Address

P.O. BOX 39
 MARTIN, GA 30557

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.
11/19/2020	Licensing Study	Good Standing	
08/21/2020	Complaint Investigation by Phone	Good Standing	
10/22/2019	POI 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-front left	Two Year Olds	1	8	C	12	C	NA	NA	Transitioning, Free Play
Main	B-1R	Infants and One Year Olds	1	4	C	10	C	NA	NA	Nap, Transitioning, Breakfast
Main	C-Back	Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds	1	8	C	22	C	30	C	Centers
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 44						Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 52				
Total # Children this Date: 20			Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 44			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 52				

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

Comments

A virtual inspection was conducted on November 19, 2020 with the Director. An in-person visit was not conducted due to the COVID-19 pandemic. An Administrative Review was conducted on November 18, 2020 staff records, children's files, training and background checks were all reviewed. The program was in compliance with the Executive Order issued on September 30, 2020 was reviewed during the virtual inspection.

Plan of Improvement: Developed This Date 11/19/2020

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.

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.

- 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.

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

Tonnie Merritt, Program Official

Date

Kelly Jones, Consultant

Date



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Findings Report

Date: 11/19/2020 **VisitType:** Licensing Study

Arrival: 9:30 AM

Departure: 11:00 AM

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The following information is associated with a Licensing Study:

Activities and Equipment

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

Met

Comment

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

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: 0

Child # 1	Met
Child # 2	Met
Child # 3	Met
Child # 4	Met
Child # 5	Met

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

Technical Assistance

Comment

Records were observed to be complete and well organized.

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.08(6) - Consultant discussed with the director to ensure all children are signed in/out as required by the depart. Consultant recommended the director mark child as absent instead of leaving blank.

Correction Deadline: 11/19/2020

Facility

591-1-1-.06 Bathrooms	Met
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Comment

Bathrooms observed to be clean and well maintained.

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

Licensed capacity observed to be routinely met by center.

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

No hazards observed accessible to children on this date.

591-1-1-.26 Playgrounds(CR)	Not Met
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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 resilient surface measured three inches under the swings not the required six inches under the swings and fall zone on the Back playground.

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: 12/4/2020

Food Service

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

Center menu meets USDA guidelines.

591-1-1-.18 Kitchen Operations	Met
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Comment

Kitchen appears clean and well organized.

Health and Hygiene

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

A Virtual Visit was conducted due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Diapering was not directly observed during the virtual walk through on this date. Staff state proper knowledge of diapering procedures.

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

Proper hand washing observed throughout the center.

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.20 - Documentation for medication dispensing observed complete. Consultant discussed with the director to dispense medication at specified time on form unless written permission is given by the parent for an alternate time.

Policies and Procedures**591-1-1-.21 Operational Policies & Procedures****Met****Comment**

A Virtual Visit was conducted due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This rule was unable to be evaluated and will be reviewed during the next regulatory visit. Consultant discussed with provider to ensure to maintain records as required by the department.

591-1-1-.22 Parental Access**Met****Comment**

591-1-1-.22 - Parental access requirements are met per current COVID-19 guidelines.

Correction Deadline: 11/19/2020

591-1-1-.27 Posted Notices**Met****Comment**

Observed all required posted notices.

591-1-1-.29 Required Reporting**Met****Comment**

Discussed reporting requirements.

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

Center does not keep animals on premises.

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

A Virtual Visit was conducted due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Discipline was not directly observed during the virtual walk through on this date. Staff stated knowledge of appropriate discipline procedures.

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**

591-1-1-.36 - Center does not provide routine transportation.

Sleeping & Resting Equipment

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.30 - 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. Consultant discussed covering mats to ensure they are no accessible to the children.

Comment

Discussed SIDS and infant sleeping position.

Finding

591-1-1-.30(2) requires the Center to provide a safe sleep environment in accordance with American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) and American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) recommendations as listed in these rules for all infants. Center Staff shall place an infant to sleep on the infant's back in a crib unless the Center has been provided a physician's written statement authorizing another sleep position for that particular infant that includes how the infant shall be placed to sleep and a time frame that the instructions are to be followed. When an infant can easily turn over from back to front and back again, Staff shall continue to put the infant to sleep initially on the infant's back but allow the infant to roll over into his or her preferred position and not re-position the infant. Sleepers, sleep sacks and wearable blankets that fit according to the commercial manufacturer's guidelines and will not slide up around the infant's face may be used when necessary for the comfort of the sleeping infant. Swaddling shall not be used unless the Center has been provided a physician's written statement authorizing its use for a particular infant that includes instructions and a time frame for swaddling the infant. Center Staff shall not place objects or allow objects to be placed in or on the crib with an infant such as but not limited to toys, pillows, quilts, comforters, bumper pads, sheepskins, stuffed toys, or other soft items and shall not attach objects or allow objects to be attached to a crib with a sleeping infant, such as, but not limited to, crib gyms, toys, mirrors and mobiles. It was determined based on observation that an infant in classroom was asleep in the crib with a pacifier clip and a blue and pink infant play gym. The director removed the pacifier clip and play gym from the crib.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will take all steps necessary to provide a safe sleep environment for infants as listed in these rules; will train Staff to follow these rules; and will monitor for compliance.

Correction Deadline: 11/19/2020

Staff Records

Records Reviewed: 7

Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 1

Staff # 1	Met
Date of Hire: 09/03/2019	
Staff # 2	Met
Staff # 3	Met
Date of Hire: 08/14/2020	
Staff # 4	Met
Date of Hire: 12/31/2020	
Staff # 5	Not Met
Date of Hire: 06/16/2003	
<u>"Missing/Incomplete Components"</u>	
.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training	

Staff # 6 Met
Date of Hire: 06/24/2018

Staff # 7 Met
Date of Hire: 07/15/2019

Staff Credentials Reviewed: 5**591-1-1-.09 Criminal Records and Comprehensive Background Checks(CR) Met****Comment**

Criminal record checks were observed to be complete.

Comment

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

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

CPR and First Aid requirements are met per current COVID-19 guidelines.

Comment

Virtual Visit was conducted due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This rule was unable to be evaluated and will be reviewed during the next regulatory visit. Consultant discussed with provider to ensure to maintain Materials and supplies as required by the department.

591-1-1-.33 Staff Training Not Met**Finding**

Previously Cited: 591-1-1-.33(6) requires, in the first year of employment and then by calendar year thereafter, all supervisory and caregiver Personnel, except independent contractors, Students-in-Training and volunteers to attend ten (10) clock hours of training which is task-focused in early childhood education or child development or subjects relating to job assignment and is offered by an accredited college, university or vocational program or other Department-approved source. It was determined based on review of records that three of six staff members did not complete the required 10 hours of annual training for the year 2018.

91-1-1-.33(5) requires that every calendar year after the first year of employment, all supervisory and caregiver Personnel, except independent contractors, Students-in-Training and volunteers shall attend ten (10) clock hours of diverse training which is task-focused in on-going health, safety and early childhood or child development related topics and which is offered by an accredited college, university or vocational program or other Department-approved source. The annual ten (10) clock hours of training shall be chosen from the following fields: child development, including discipline, guidance, nutrition, injury control and safety; health, including sanitation, disease control, cleanliness, detection and disposition of illness; child abuse and neglect, including identification and reporting, and meeting the needs of abused and/or neglected children; and business related topics, including parental communication, recordkeeping, etc.; provided however that such business related training shall be limited to no more than two (2) of the required ten (10) clock hours of training. Records of completion of such training shall be maintained, as required by these rules. It was determined based on a review of records that staff #5, hire date 6/16/2003 did not have evidence of the required 10 hours of annual training for the year 2019.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

Previously Cited: The Center will plan and schedule the required 10 hours of annual training each year and follow up to ensure the training is completed.

The Center will plan and schedule the required 10 hours of annual training each year and follow up to ensure the training is completed.

Correction Deadline: 12/31/2020

Recited on 11/19/2020

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

Met

Comment

Additional cleaning and sanitizing requirements due to the COVID-19 pandemic were discussed and observed during the virtual walk through on this date. The program is in compliance with the Executive Order issued on September 30, 2020.

Comment

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

Correction Deadline: 10/22/2019

Corrected on 11/19/2020

.31(2)(b)2. The previous citation has been corrected on this date. All staff has the required credentials or a professional learning plan on file.-

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.