



**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: 7/11/2019 **VisitType:** Licensing Study **Arrival:** 9:40 AM **Departure:** 3:45 PM

CCLC-33284

The Chestnut Treehouse III

1593 Lawrenceville Hwy Lawrenceville, GA 30044 Gwinnett County
(770) 277-6877 candacechristina@gmail.com

Mailing Address
Same

Regional Consultant

Kelly Jones

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Joint with: Stacy Whitten

Quality Rated: ★

Compliance Zone Designation		
07/11/2019	Licensing Study	Good Standing
02/28/2019	Licensing Study	Good Standing
09/18/2018	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 - 1st Right	One Year Olds	0	4	NC	15	C	NA	NA	Transitioning
Main	B - 2nd Right	Infants	1	4	C	8	C	NA	NA	Floor Play
Main	C - 3rd Right	Two Year Olds and Three Year Olds	7	7	C	11	C	NA	NA	Transitioning
Main	D - Back Right	Five Year Olds and Six Year Olds and Over	1	11	C	20	C	NA	NA	Circle Time
Main	E - Back Left	Six Year Olds and Over	1	13	C	22	C	NA	NA	Music
Main	F - 2nd Left	Four Year Olds and Five Year Olds	1	13	C	22	C	NA	NA	Transitioning
Main	G - 1st Left	Two Year Olds	1	8	C	15	C	NA	NA	Transitioning
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 113						Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0				
Total # Children this Date: 60			Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 113			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0				

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	Playground A - 6wk to 23mth	7	C
Main	Playground B - School Age	22	C
Main	Playground C - Preschool	36	C
Main	Playground D - 2's	23	C

Comments

The purpose of this visit was to conduct a licensing study

Plan of Improvement: Developed This Date 07/11/2019

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/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

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

Candace Christina, Program Official

Date

Kelly Jones, Consultant

Date

Stacy Whitten, Consultant

Date



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Findings Report

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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(1) requires the Center to provide a daily planned program of varied and developmentally appropriate activities to promote social, emotional, physical, cognitive, language and literacy growth. Center Staff shall use a variety of teaching methods to accommodate the needs of the children's different learning styles. It was determined based on observation that lesson plan were not developed in classrooms 2 L, back left, back right, 3R and 4R on this date.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will plan a program that includes a variety of developmentally appropriate activities that are provided daily, train Staff to use various teaching methods, and monitor both.

Correction Deadline: 7/11/2019

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

Not Met

Finding

591-1-1-.12(2) requires that all equipment and furniture be free from hazardous conditions such as, but not limited to, sharp rough edges or toxic paint; and be kept clean. It was determined based on observation that the in the back left classroom red handle on the dramatic play stove was broken, the red bookshelf in the entrance area had material that was becoming separated from the shelf and the bookshelf in 1R was broken.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will ensure that equipment and furniture are used by the age-appropriate group of children.

Correction Deadline: 7/11/2019

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 the follow items were not secure an posed a tipping hazard on this date.

* 1 Computers monitor in classroom back right and TV in back right classroom, 2 Computers monitor in classroom back left and TV in classroom 2L

* Cots sacked more than 6 tall in classroom 2L

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will ensure that the identified equipment or furniture and any other such existing or future items are secured adequately and will have a system for checking these for stability.

Correction Deadline: 7/11/2019

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

N/A

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)

Not Met

Finding

591-1-1-.25(13) requires that potentially hazardous equipment, materials and supplies be stored in a locked area inaccessible to children. It was determined based on observation that the following hazards were observed accessible to children on this day.

- *Back Right classroom the laundry room door was unlocked.
- *Back Left classroom cabinet storing cleaning supplies was left unlocked 1 bottle of Lysol, 1 unmarked spray bottle of cleaner and 1 bottle of Clorox bleach.
- *Propped Kitchen door.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will identify all hazardous items and keep them in a locked area inaccessible to children. The Center will inform all Staff about hazardous items and the safe storage of those items.

Correction Deadline: 7/11/2019

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.25(3) - Consultant discussed with provider to monitor the vents throughout the center for dust accumulation and clean, repair or remove as needed.

Correction Deadline: 7/11/2019

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

Not Met

Comment

Discussed maintenance of resilient surface. Please fluff and redistribute.

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 following areas of the fence were not in good repair on this date.

- *There was a gap between the gate and the fencing measuring 4 inches between the first left and second left playground.
- *The fence was separating from the ground on the fencing from the first left and the second left playground and the back second left playground
- * The fencing from the back right playground was separating from the bottom of fence.
- *There was a 5 inch gap at the fence gate between the back left and right playground
- * 4 pole caps detached from the fence on the first right playground.

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: 7/25/2019

Finding

591-1-1-.26(6) requires that playground equipment provide an opportunity for the children to engage in a variety of experiences and shall be age-appropriate. For example, toddlers shall not be permitted to swing in swings designed for School-age Children. The outdoor equipment shall be free of lead-based paint, sharp corners and shall be regularly maintained in such a way as to be free of rust and splinters that could pose significant safety hazard to the children. All equipment shall be arranged so as not to obstruct supervision of children. It was determined based on observation that the following equipment was not in good repair on this date.

*The structure on the second left playground had a hole in the platform and string was tied around the steps.

*Cracked chair on the second left and a broken chair on the first right.

*Bye Bye Buggy with six seats missing safety straps

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will provide a variety of age-appropriate equipment that is arranged so as not to obstruct supervision of children. Staff will check the equipment daily to ensure that the equipment is free of hazards, rust and splinters.

Correction Deadline: 7/21/2019

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 the following hazards were present.

* exposed concrete and the ground was uneven on the first and second right playground

*The exposed nail protruding from the utility barrier first right

*Weeds were observed to be present through out the playground

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: 7/18/2019

Food Service

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

Not Met

Comment

Center menu meets USDA guidelines.

Finding

591-1-1-.15(2) requires that a signed written feeding plan for children less than one (1) year of age shall be obtained from Parent(s) and that instructions from the Parent(s) shall be updated regularly as new foods are added or other dietary changes are made. The feeding plan shall be posted in the child's assigned room and must include the child's feeding schedule, the amount of formula or breast milk to be given, instructions for the introduction of solid foods, the amount of food to be given and notation of any type(s) of commercially premixed formula which may not be used in an emergency because of food allergies. It was determined based on observation that three infants did not evidence of up to date feeding plans on this date in classroom 2R.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center Director will develop and implement a plan to obtain and post the completed feeding plan as part of the enrollment process and to have parents update the plans on a regular basis that will include center staff involved with enrollment and those working in the infant classrooms.

Correction Deadline: 7/11/2019

Finding

591-1-1-.15(4) requires that a feeding chair or similar equipment designed for feeding children shall be provided for the use of each child being fed who is capable of sitting up but who is unable to sit unassisted at a table and must be cleaned with a disinfectant after each use. Such chair or similar equipment shall have a broad base to prevent tipping, a surface that the child cannot raise, a strap or other device which prevents the child from sliding out of the chair, and a feeding surface free of cracks. It was determined [based on observation that one feeding chair was missing the safety straps in classroom 2R.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will inspect feeding equipment to ensure it meets each of the listed criteria and to verify a feeding chair or equipment is provided for each child who requires one. The Center will train staff and monitor to ensure that the feeding equipment is cleaned with a disinfectant after each use.

Correction Deadline: 7/11/2019

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

Kitchen appears clean and well organized.

Health and Hygiene**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**

Staff were observed to remind children to wash hands.

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

Discussed proper medication documentation and procedures.

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

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

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

A current/completed inspection was observed for all vehicles used in transporting children this date.

Comment

Complete documentation of transportation observed.

Sleeping & Resting Equipment**591-1-1-.30 Safe Sleeping and Resting Requirements(CR)****Not Met****Finding**

591-1-1-.30(1)(b)3 requires that sheets or similar coverings for cots or mats shall either be marked for individual use or laundered daily. If marked for individual use, they must be laundered weekly or more frequently if needed. It was determined based on observation that in back right and back left classrooms blankets were stored and stacked touching other children's bedding.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will ensure that sheets are marked for individual use or washed daily and that marked sheets are washed at least weekly.

Correction Deadline: 7/11/2019

Staff Records

Records Reviewed: 7

Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 0

Staff # 1	Met
Date of Hire: 05/17/2017	
Staff # 2	Met
Date of Hire: 08/20/2014	
Staff # 3	Met
Date of Hire: 02/01/2013	
Staff # 4	Met
Date of Hire: 05/07/2018	
Staff # 5	Met
Date of Hire: 08/25/2014	
Staff # 6	Met
Date of Hire: 03/19/2018	
Staff # 7	Met
Date of Hire: 02/23/2008	

Staff Credentials Reviewed: 5

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

Comment

Consultant requested to view all Criminal Record checks for employees hired after last visit. Director stated that there have been no new hires since last visit

Comment

Criminal record checks were observed to be complete.

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

Comment

Staff observed to be compliant with applicable laws and regulations.

Staffing and Supervision

Finding

591-1-1-.32(1) requires the Center to maintain the required Staff:child ratios as follows: under 1 year or under 18 months if not walking = 1:6; 1 year and walking = 1:8; 2 years = 1:10; 3 years = 1:15; 4 years = 1:18; 5 years = 1:20; and 6 years and older = 1:25. A Center must establish groupings of children for care with maximum group sizes as follows: under 1 year = 12; under 18 months/not walking = 12; 1 year and walking = 16; 2 years = 20; 3 years = 30; 4 years = 36; 5 years = 40; and 6 years and older = 50. It was determined based on observation that there was one staff member standing in between the door of 1R and 2 R creating a ratio of 1:8 infants and one year old.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will hire additional Staff or reschedule current Staff to meet required Staff:child ratios and will organize children into groups that meet requirements.

Correction Deadline: 7/11/2019

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

591-1-1-.32(7) requires that children be supervised at all times and that the persons supervising in the child care area be alert, able to respond promptly to the needs and actions of the children being supervised, as well as the actions of the chaperones and Students-in-Training, and provide timely attention to the children's actions and needs. It was determined based on observation that one staff member from 2R was observed to be standing in the doorway and supervising children in classrooms 1R and 2R. It was observed that a after school age child came into the classroom without supervision of a staff member.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will train Staff and monitor to ensure they are providing supervision and watchful oversight to the children at all times.

Correction Deadline: 7/11/2019