



**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:** 12/3/2021 **VisitType:** Licensing Study

**Arrival:** 9:30 AM

**Departure:** 11:45 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, 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.
12/03/2021	Licensing Study	Good Standing	
05/27/2021	Monitoring Visit	Good Standing	
02/04/2021	Complaint Investigation by Phone	Good Standing	
			<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.

**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	Story
Main	B-1R	Infants and One Year Olds	1	4	C	10	C	NA	NA	Floor Play
Main	C-Back	Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds	2	8	C	22	C	30	C	Circle Time
			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**

An Administrative Review was conducted on December 2, 2021. Staff files, children's files, training, and background checks were all reviewed. A virtual inspection was conducted on December 3, 2021, with the Provider. An in- person visit was not conducted due to the COVID- 19 pandemic.

Plan of Improvement: Developed This Date 12/03/2021

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.decal.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



### 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.decal.ga.gov/>  
Request free technical assistance to help you earn your star rating by contacting the Quality Rated help desk at 855-800-7747 or [qualityrated@decal.ga.gov](mailto:qualityrated@decal.ga.gov)

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@decal.ga.gov](mailto:CCSRefutations@decal.ga.gov).

- 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://decal.ga.gov/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)

Tonnie Merritt, Program Official

Date

Kelly Jones, Consultant

Date



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### Findings Report

**Date:** 12/3/2021 **VisitType:** Licensing Study

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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**

Discussed rotating toys to support the procedures of daily disinfecting.

**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

**Technical Assistance**

591-1-1-.08(1) - Consultant discussed with the Director to ensure to use the correct enrollment application format. Consultant discussed with the director to use the child care enrollment instead of the Pre- K enrollment.

**Correction Deadline: 12/3/2021**

**Finding**

591-1-1-.08(1)(b) requires Center Staff to maintain a file for each child that includes parental authorizations, including, but not limited to, written authorization for the Center to obtain emergency medical care for the child when the Parent is not available. It was determined based on a review of records that two of five children's records did not have evidence of the completed parental authorization on file.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

The Center will develop and follow a system to place and maintain all types of parental authorizations in these files.

**Correction Deadline: 12/3/2021**

**Technical Assistance**

591-1-1-.08(6) - Consultant discussed with the Director to ensure parents sign in and out upon arrival and departure. Consultant discussed with the Director absent children should be denoted with "absent" or "A".

**Correction Deadline: 12/3/2021**

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

Please monitor bathrooms for necessary supplies.

**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**

No hazards observed accessible to children on this date.

**591-1-1-.26 Playgrounds(CR)****Met****Comment**

The outside area appears clean and well maintained. Consultant discussed monitoring the playground and fence surrounding the playground area for normal wear and tear (i.e. exposed roots, active ant beds, resilient surface levels, entrapment hazards, etc.) with the director on this date.

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

Center menu meets USDA guidelines.

**Comment**

Please ensure that infant feeding forms are updated regularly.

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

Kitchen appears clean and well organized.

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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. Hand washing and sanitizing requirements for diapering were discussed with the staff.

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

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

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

The Provider currently does not dispense/administer medication.

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**Policies and Procedures**

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

Program observed complete emergency drills

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

Observed all required posted notices.

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

Thank you for reporting as required.

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**Safety**

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

Center does not keep animals on premises.

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

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**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****Comment**

Discussed SIDS and infant sleeping position.

**Comment**

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.

**Staff Records****Records Reviewed: 6****Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 1**

Staff # 1

Not Met

Date of Hire: 02/17/2021

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.31(2)(b)2.-Staff Qualifications-Education Missing

Staff # 2

Met

Date of Hire: 08/16/2017

Staff # 3

Met

Date of Hire: 02/04/2021

Staff # 4

Met

Date of Hire: 10/25/2021

Reminder - Health & Safety training is required within 90 calendar days of hired

Staff # 5

Met

Date of Hire: 06/16/2003

Staff # 6

Met

Date of Hire: 07/15/2019

**Staff Credentials Reviewed: 6****591-1-1-.09 Criminal Records and Comprehensive Background Checks(CR)****Met****Comment**

Director provided three file(s) for employees hired since last visit 5/27/2021.

**Comment**

Six of six Criminal record checks were observed to be complete.

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

100% of qualifying staff have evidence of current CPR/first aid training on file.

**Comment**

Please replace/add missing/expired item(s) in first aid kit(s).

**Correction Deadline: 6/26/2021**

**Corrected on 12/3/2021**

**.14(2) - The previous citation was observed to be corrected on this date. 100% of qualifying staff have evidence of current CPR/first aid training on file.**

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**591-1-1-.33 Staff Training** **Met**

**Comment**

Documentation observed of required staff training.

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**591-1-1-.31 Staff(CR)** **Not Met**

**Finding**

591-1-1-.31(2)(b)3.(i) requires that newly hired teachers who do not possess the educational and qualifying child care experience requirements must enroll in a program of study to obtain one of the educational credentials and qualifying experience requirements as required by these rules within six months after employment at the Center and complete the credential or degree within 18 months after enrollment. It was determined based on a review of records that staff member # 1, hire date 2/17/2021 has not enrolled in a program to earn credentials.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

The Center will ensure that all teachers will comply with the educational and qualifying child care experience requirements. Director stated that staff # will enroll in a program in January to earn a CDA.

**Correction Deadline: 12/3/2021**

<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**

Staff observed to provide direct supervision and be attentive to children's needs. Discussed new revision to the supervision rule which states: Staff shall be attentive and participating with all children during meal times and shall be seated within an arm's length away from children thirty-six (36) months of age and younger.