



**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:** 5/27/2021    **VisitType:** Monitoring Visit    **Arrival:** 9:00 AM    **Departure:** 10:00 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

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.
05/27/2021	Monitoring Visit	Good Standing	
02/04/2021	Complaint Investigation by Phone	Good Standing	
11/19/2020	Licensing Study	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	6	C	12	C	NA	NA	Circle Time
Main	B-1R	Infants and One Year Olds	1	3	C	10	C	NA	NA	Floor Play, Free Play
Main	C-Back	Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds and Five Year Olds and Six Year Olds and Over	1	13	C	22	C	30	C	Transitioning, Centers
			Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 44			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 52				
Total # Children this Date: 22			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 May 27, 2021 with the Director. An in-person visit was not conducted due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The program was in compliance with the Executive Order issued on May 1, 2021 and was reviewed during the virtual inspection.

Plan of Improvement: Developed This Date 05/27/2021

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



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

### Findings Report

**Date:** 5/27/2021 **VisitType:** Monitoring Visit **Arrival:** 9:00 AM **Departure:** 10:00 AM

**CCLC-10816**

#### **LITTLE PEOPLE'S LEARNING PLACE**

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

#### **Mailing Address**

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

#### **Regional Consultant**

Kelly Jones

Phone: (770) 357-7062

Fax: (770) 357-7061

kelly.jones@decal.ga.gov

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.

##### **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.

### 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)**

**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.

**Correction Deadline: 12/4/2020**

**Corrected on 5/27/2021**

**.26(8) - The previous citation was observed to be corrected on this date. Playground -Back and Playground -Left had evidence of the required six inches of resilient surface beneath the equipment and the fall zones and was adequately maintained.**

## **Food Service**

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

**Met**

**Comment**

Discussed Center menu meets USDA guidelines with the director.

## **Health and Hygiene**

### **591-1-1-.10 Diapering Areas & Practices(CR)**

**Met**

**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 stated knowledge of proper diapering procedures.

### **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.

### **591-1-1-.20 Medications(CR)**

**Met**

**Comment**

The Provider currently does not dispense/administer medication.

## **Safety**

### **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.

### **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.

**Correction Deadline: 11/19/2020**

Corrected on 5/27/2021

.30(2) - The previous citation has been corrected on this date. Consultant observed evidence that staff are implementing and following Safe Sleep procedures.

## Staff Records

Records Reviewed: 6

Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 1

Staff # 1	Met
Date of Hire: 02/17/2021	
Staff # 2	Met
Date of Hire: 08/16/2017	
Staff # 3	Met
Date of Hire: 08/14/2020	
Staff # 4	Not Met
Date of Hire: 02/03/2021	
<u>"Missing/Incomplete Components"</u>	
.14(2)-CPR missing,.14(2)-First Aid Missing	
Staff # 5	Met
Date of Hire: 06/16/2003	
Staff # 6	Met
Date of Hire: 07/15/2019	

### Staff Credentials Reviewed: 5

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

Met

##### Comment

Director provided two file(s) for employees hired since last visit 2/4/201.

##### Comment

Six of Six Criminal record checks were observed to be complete 2/4/2021.

#### 591-1-1-.14 First Aid & CPR

Not Met

##### Comment

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

##### Finding

591-1-1-.14(2) requires a Staff member who is trained in CPR and first aid to be on the premises and on any field trip whenever any child is present. In addition, Staff who provide direct care to children must satisfactorily obtain certification in first aid and CPR by December 29, 2016 if employed prior to September 30, 2016 and within 90 days of their hire date if employed after September 30, 2016. It was determined based on a review of records that staff #4 , hire date February 3, 2021 completed online CPR/first aid training within 90 days of their hire date ,however online training is not accepted by the department.

##### POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will develop a schedule to ensure there is always a staff person with current first aid and CPR training present and will develop and implement a plan to ensure all staff members have satisfactorily completed first aid and CPR training by the specified date.

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

---

**591-1-1-.33 Staff Training****Met****Correction Deadline: 12/31/2020****Corrected on 5/27/2021****.33(5) - The previous citation was observed to be corrected on this date. Consultant reviewed documentation of annual training for the year 2020 on file.**

---

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

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

**Comment**

Staff observed to be compliant with applicable laws and regulations. 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 May 1, 2021.

<b>Staffing and Supervision</b>
---------------------------------

---

**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**

Staff observed to provide direct supervision and be attentive to children's needs. Consultant discussed with the director the 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.