



**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:** 6/23/2023    **VisitType:** Licensing Study    **Arrival:** 12:50 PM    **Departure:** 2:45 PM

**CCLC-10816**

**LITTLE PEOPLE'S LEARNING PLACE**

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

**Regional Consultant**

Leena Mitchell

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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.  <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.
06/23/2023	Licensing Study	Good Standing	
04/27/2022	Monitoring Visit	Good Standing	
12/03/2021	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	6	C	12	C	NA	NA	Nap
Main	B-1R	Infants and One Year Olds	1	6	C	10	C	NA	NA	Nap, Feeding, Free Play
Main	C-Back	Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds	1	10	C	22	C	30	C	Nap
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 44					Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 44					
Total # Children this Date: 22					Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 44					

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

**Comments**

The purpose of this visit was to conduct a licensing study.

Plan of Improvement: Developed This Date 06/23/2023

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), do the following:

- 1) Log into DECAL KOALA [www.decalkoala.com](http://www.decalkoala.com) with the userid for your program
- 2) On the home page scroll down to the Inspection Reports and select 'Refute Citation' for the visit report in dispute
- 3) Select the specific rule number(s) that you are refuting, add the reason for disagreement regarding the rule citation, and upload supporting documentation
- 4) Submit the refutation in DECAL KOALA to Child Care Services (CCS) within 10 business days of the completion date.

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 Quality Rated/CAPS Update:

As January 1, 2022, child care providers must be Quality Rated to receive Childcare and Parent Services (CAPS). Newly licensed, or new to CAPS providers may be eligible for the new CAPS/QR Provisional Status, allowing for scholarships while working toward a star rating.

**Contact the Quality Rated help desk at 855-800-7747 or [qualityrated@dec.state.ga.us](mailto:qualityrated@dec.state.ga.us) for more information. Free technical assistance is available!**

Tonnie Merritt, Program Official

Date

Leena Mitchell, Regional Consultant

Date



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(Findings Report)

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The following information is associated with a Licensing Study:

**Activities and Equipment**

**591-1-1.12 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. Please ensure the brown bookshelf in classroom C is secured to the wall.

**591-1-1.35 Swimming Pools & Water-related Activities(CR)**

Met

**Comment**

Center does not provide swimming activities.

**Children's Records**

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

Technical Assistance

**Technical Assistance**

591-1-1-.08 - Please ensure that parents provide and/or update the following information as needed: release to persons' name, phone number, full address and relationship to the child.

**Evening Care**

**591-1-1.32 Staffing/Supervision(CR)**

Met

**Comment**

No evening care hours provided

**Facility**

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**591-1-1-.06 Bathrooms****Met****Comment**

Bathrooms observed to be clean and well maintained.

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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)****Technical Assistance****Technical Assistance**

591-1-1-.25 - Please secure cleaning tools (i.e., broom, plunger) out of reach of children.

**Comment**

Center appears clean and well maintained.

**Comment**

Please be mindful to keep items that pose a hazard inaccessible to children.

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**591-1-1-.26 Playgrounds(CR)****Technical Assistance****Technical Assistance**

591-1-1-.26 - Please ensure to monitor the playground areas for the following hazards:

- Normal wear and tear of playground equipment and toys. Please ensure the brown climber on left playground is repainted.
- Potential entrapment hazards in the fence surrounding the playground area.
- Biting and/or stinging insects (i.e. ants, bees, etc.).
- Loose and/or weak tree branches surrounding the playground area.
- Standing water in and around playground equipment after inclement weather.
- Fall zones and resilient surface.

**Comment**

Trees located on the site or that encroach onto the site from adjacent properties may have structural issues that present an elevated level of risk. Consider having these trees inspected by a certified arborist to determine their structural integrity and associated levels of risk.

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**Food Service**

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**591-1-1-.15 Food Service & Nutrition****Not Met****Comment**

Consultant discussed with the provider about replacing all 2% milk with 1% milk for children over two-years-old and adding whole grain options to the menu to meet current USDA requirements. Consultant also discussed new rules and regulations effective on October 1, 2020.

**Comment**

Please ensure that bottles are covered and fully labeled with child's full name.

**Comment**

Please ensure to use the revised feeding plan.

**Finding**

591-1-1-.15(1) requires that meals and snacks are served, with serving sizes dependent upon the age of the child, that meet nutritional guidelines as established by the United States Department of Agriculture Child and Adult Care Food Program. Meals and snacks shall be varied daily, and additional servings of nutritious food shall be offered to children over and above the required daily minimum, if not contraindicated by special diets. It was determined based on review of records that the snack menu dated for June 19 - 23, 2023 only listed one of two required components. 2 of 5 Components for are required for AM and PM snack.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

Center Staff will prepare menus and/or serve foods that meet the USDA guidelines and will offer and serve seconds to children.

**Correction Deadline: 6/23/2023**

**Comment**

CACFP Meal Pattern Requirements effective October 1, 2017 will be implemented October 1, 2018: 3 Components for breakfast: Grains, Vegetables, Fruits or both, Milk  
5 Components for lunch – Grains, Meat/Meat alternates, Fruits, Vegetable, and Milk OR Grains, Meat/Meat alternates, 2 different types of vegetables, and Milk  
2 of 5 Components for snack

Provided Updated CACFP Infant Meal pattern and Child/Adult Meal pattern flyers.

The Crediting Handbook for the CACFP can be located on DECAL and USDA's website:

DECAL

<http://decalfga.gov/CACFP/Handbook.aspx>

USDA

<http://www.fns.usda.gov/cacfp/cacfp-handbooks>

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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**

Hand washing requirements for diapering were discussed with the staff on this date.

**Comment**

Staff state proper knowledge of diapering procedures. Consultant discussed with director that changing tables should not face the wall unless a written supervision plan is in place. Changing tables were turned away from the wall in classroom A on this date.

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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**

**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**

Please make sure that all required signs are posted and up to date.

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

**Met**

**Comment**

Discussed reporting requirements.

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**Safety**

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<b>591-1-1-.05 Animals</b>	<b>Met</b>
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**Comment**

Center does not keep animals on premises.

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<b>591-1-1-.11 Discipline(CR)</b>	<b>Met</b>
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**Comment**

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

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<b>591-1-1-.13 Field Trips(CR)</b>	<b>Met</b>
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**Comment**

Center does not participate in field trips at this time.

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<b>591-1-1-.36 Transportation(CR)</b>	<b>Met</b>
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**Comment**

Center does not provide routine transportation.

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<b>Sleeping &amp; Resting Equipment</b>
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<b>591-1-1-.30 Safe Sleeping and Resting Requirements(CR)</b>	<b>Met</b>
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**Comment**

Discussed SIDS and infant sleeping position.

**Comment**

Pleasant naptime environment observed.

**Comment**

Please ensure that cribs/cots are labeled for individual use.

**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.

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<b>Staff Records</b>
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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**

The director provided three files for staff members hired since the previous visit conducted on April 27, 2022. The consultant observed three of three newly hired staff members to have evidence of a satisfactory criminal record check letter on file.

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<b>591-1-1-.09 Criminal Records Check(CR)</b>	<b>Met</b>
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**Comment**

Criminal records checks were observed to be complete.

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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 center.

**Comment**

Evidence observed of 100% of center staff certified in First Aid and CPR.

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<b>591-1-1-.33 Staff Training</b>	<b>Not Met</b>
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**Finding**

591-1-1-.33(3) requires each Staff member with direct care responsibilities to complete health and safety orientation training within the first 90 days of employment. The state-approved training hours obtained will count toward required first year training hours. The training must address the following health and safety topics: prevention and control of infectious diseases (including immunizations); prevention of sudden infant death syndrome and use of safe sleeping practices; administration of medication, consistent with standards for parental consent; prevention of and response to emergencies due to food and allergic reactions; building and physical premises safety, including identification of and protection from hazards that can cause bodily injury such as electrical hazards, bodies of water, and vehicular traffic; prevention of shaken baby syndrome, abusive head trauma and child maltreatment; emergency preparedness and response planning for emergencies resulting from a natural disaster or a human-caused event (such as violence at a child care facility); handling and storage of hazardous materials and the appropriate disposal of bio contaminants; precautions in transporting children; recognition and reporting of child abuse and neglect; and child development. It was determined based on review of records that the following staff member #6 with a documented date of hire of December 12, 2022 did not complete health and safety orientation training within their first 90 days of employment. The certificate was completed on June 12, 2023 which is past 90 days of hire.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

The Center will develop and implement a plan to schedule and track this training for all employees based on their hire dates and will ensure that the training includes all required components as required.

**Correction Deadline: 7/23/2023**

**Finding**

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 review of records that staff member #5, with a date of hire of June 16, 2002, did not complete the required 10 hours of annual training for the year of 2022.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

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: 7/23/2023**

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

**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 #6, hire date January 11, 2023, has not enrolled in a program to earn credentials. Provider stated the staff member will in enroll in a CDA program in August 2023.

**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: 8/31/2023**

**Recited on 6/23/2023**

<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.