



**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:** 9/25/2020    **VisitType:** Licensing Study    **Arrival:** 4:00 PM    **Departure:** 5:00 PM

**CCLC-37871**

**Lemon Tree Academy**

1290 N Cherokee Road Social Circle, GA 30052 Walton County  
 (770) 464-0768 teninalemon@yahoo.com

**Regional Consultant**

Kesha McNeal  
 Phone: (866) 359-1672  
 Fax: (866) 359-7490  
 kesha.mcneal@decal.ga.gov

**Mailing Address**  
 Same

**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.
09/25/2020	Licensing Study	Good Standing	
10/03/2019	Licensing Study	Good Standing	
04/29/2019	Monitoring Visit	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
Building II	Left		0	0	C	22	C	NA	NA	
Building II	Right	Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds and Five Year Olds	1	13	C	22	C	NA	NA	Transitioning, Centers
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 44			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 94							
Main	A/Front	Two Year Olds	2	16	C	28	C	39	C	Transitioning, Art
Main	B/1R	One Year Olds	2	9	C	17	C	NA	NA	Art, Transitioning
Main	C Back R	Infants	1	5	C	5	C	NA	NA	Floor Play, Nap
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 50			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 94							
Total # Children this Date: 43			Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 94							
			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 94							

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	PG/A/Right	79	C
Main	PG/B/Left	34	C

**Comments**

An Administrative Review was conducted on September 25, 2020. Staff files, children's files, training, and background checks were all reviewed. A virtual inspection was conducted on September 28, 2020 with the Director. An in-person visit was not conducted due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Compliance with the Executive Order issued on August 15, 2020 was reviewed during the virtual inspection.

Plan of Improvement: Developed This Date 09/25/2020

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](mailto: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](mailto:qualityrated@dec.state.ga.us)



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### Findings Report

**Date:** 9/25/2020 **VisitType:** Licensing Study

**Arrival:** 4:00 PM

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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.

**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**

**Met**

**Comment**

Parent agreements observed obtained/completed.

**Comment**

Parent authorizations obtained/completed.

**Comment**

Records were observed to be complete and well organized.

### Facility

**591-1-1-.06 Bathrooms**

**Met**

**Comment**

Bathrooms observed to be clean and well maintained.

**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**

No hazards observed accessible to children on this date.

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

Playground not observed on this date due to inclement weather.

**Defer**

591-1-1-.26(4)-A Virtual Visit was conducted due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This citation is deferred until the next regulatory visit when the rule correction can be observed in person.

**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: 10/18/2019**

**Food Service****591-1-1-.15 Food Service & Nutrition****Defer****Comment**

Center menu meets USDA guidelines.

**Defer**

591-1-1-.15(2)- A Virtual Visit was conducted due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This citation is deferred until the next regulatory visit when the rule correction can be observed in person.

**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: 10/4/2019**

**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**

Proper hand washing observed throughout the center.

**Comment**

Staff were observed to remind children to wash hands.

**591-1-1-.20 Medications(CR)****N/A****Comment**

The Provider currently does not dispense/administer medication.

**Safety**

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<b>591-1-1-.05 Animals</b>	<b>N/A</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**

Age-appropriate discussion and/or redirection observed.

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<b>591-1-1-.13 Field Trips(CR)</b>	<b>N/A</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**

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

**Comment**

Complete documentation of transportation observed.

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

Discussed SIDS and infant sleeping position.

**Comment**

Pleasant naptime environment observed.

**Comment**

The correct number of mats, cots, sheets and blankets were observed on this date. Cleaning and disinfecting of mats and cots was discussed with the director and center staff on this date.

**Technical Assistance**

591-1-1-.30(4) - Please ensure that if cots are stored in the children's activity room or area, they shall be stored to prevent children's access to them and to allow maximum use of play space in classroom B- one-year-old classroom. Also any bedding is to be stored without touching any other cots in classroom B- one-year-old classroom.

**Correction Deadline: 9/25/2020**

<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**

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

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<b>591-1-1-.14 First Aid &amp; CPR</b>	<b>Met</b>
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**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>Met</b>
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**Comment**

Documentation observed of required staff training.

**Correction Deadline: 12/31/2019**

Corrected on 9/25/2020

.33(5) - Previous citation observed corrected in that annual ten hours of training were obtained and completed for 2019.

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

Met

**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 a virtual walk through on this date. The program was in compliance with the Executive Order issued on August 15, 2020.

**Correction Deadline: 12/31/2019**

Corrected on 9/25/2020

.31(2)(b)2. - Previous citation observed corrected in that all current staff are enrolled or obtained a credential as required.

<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.

**Correction Deadline: 10/3/2019**

Corrected on 9/25/2020

.32(1) - Previous citation observed corrected in that staff child ratios were met on this date.

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

Met

**Comment**

Adequate supervision observed on this date.