



**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:** 3/5/2019    **VisitType:** Licensing Study    **Arrival:** 1:00 PM    **Departure:** 3:30 PM

**CCLC-27756**

**Echols Learning Academy**

3900 Bakers Ferry Road Atlanta, GA 30331 Fulton County  
(404) 696-5009 jamesjechols@yahoo.com

**Regional Consultant**

Michelle Smith

Phone: (404) 478-8183  
Fax: (678) 717-5636  
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**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.
03/05/2019	Licensing Study	Support	
12/19/2018	Complaint Closure	Good Standing	
12/17/2018	Complaint Investigation Follow Up	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- Far Left	Two Year Olds and Four Year Olds and Five Year Olds	1	9	C	14	C	19	C	Nap
Main	B (first left)	Infants and One Year Olds	1	5	C	11	C	NA	NA	Nap
Main	C (First Right)		0	0	C	15	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 40						Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 45				
Total # Children this Date: 14			Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 40			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 45				

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	Outside	48	C

**Comments**

The purpose of this visit was to conduct a Licensing Study as follow up to the visit conducted on September 27, 2018. Consultant discussed and reviewed report with Administrator on this date.

Plan of Improvement: Developed This Date 03/05/2019

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](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)

ebony robbs, Program Official

Date

Michelle Smith, Consultant

Date



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### Findings Report

**Date:** 3/5/2019    **VisitType:** Licensing Study    **Arrival:** 1:00 PM    **Departure:** 3:30 PM

**CCLC-27756**

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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**

Equipment and furniture observed to be properly secured, as applicable.

**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(11) requires that floor coverings be tight, smooth, free of odors and washable or cleanable. It was determined based on Consultant observation that the carpet is not clean, and stretched tight across the floor in the A-Far Left, B-First Left, and C-First Right Classrooms which poses hazards to children in care

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

Floors will be maintained to be safe and sanitary.

**Correction Deadline: 4/5/2019**

**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 Consultant observation that one storage closet was open and unlocked containing Lysol wipes, bleach solution, and soap and water solution in the C-First Right Classroom which posed hazards to children.

**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: 3/5/2019**

**Finding**

591-1-1-.25(17) requires that the Center premises be free of plants and shrubs which are poisonous or hazardous. It was determined based on Consultant observation that mushrooms are growing on the main playground near the red, yellow, and blue large play equipment.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

The harmful item will be removed.

**Correction Deadline: 3/6/2019**

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

**Not Met**

**Finding**

591-1-1-.26(7) requires that climbing and swinging equipment be anchored. It was determined based on Consultant observation that red slide on the large play equipment is not completely attached to the foundation of the entire equipment which poses hazards to children.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

The Center will remove or repair equipment that is not anchored and will regularly inspect the equipment to ensure it remains anchored.

**Correction Deadline: 3/8/2019**

**Food Service**

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

**Technical Assistance**

**Technical Assistance**

591-1-1-.18(8) - Consultant discussed with Center Director to ensure that food are labeled when food items are not stored in the original package.

**Correction Deadline: 3/5/2019**

**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.

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

**N/A**

**Comment**

The Provider currently does not dispense/administer medication.

**Safety**

**591-1-1-.05 Animals**

**N/A**

**Comment**

Center does not keep animals on premises.

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

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.

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**591-1-1-.36 Transportation(CR)****Not Met****Comment**

A completed inspection dated 11.21.2018 was observed for all vehicles used in transporting children this date.

**Finding**

591-1-1-.36(7)(c)2. requires that the driver or other designated person shall immediately document in writing, with a check or other mark/symbol to account for each child listed on the passenger transportation checklist each time a child enters and exits the vehicle. The driver or other designated staff person shall document in writing with a different mark/symbol to account for each child listed on the passenger transportation checklist who was not present on the vehicle for any reason. An explanation shall be documented in writing whenever a child is transported to a field trip site but is not present on the return trip to the Center. It was determined based on review of transportation checklist for the week of March 4- March 8 that on the morning of March 5, 2019 the driver did not account for one child with a mark or symbol for transportation to Atlanta Heights Charter School from Echols Learning Academy.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

The driver/other designated person will immediately document in writing with a check/mark/symbol each time a child gets on and off the vehicle or if a child is absent.

**Correction Deadline: 3/5/2019**

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**Sleeping & Resting Equipment**

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**591-1-1-.30 Safe Sleeping and Resting Requirements(CR)****Met****Comment**

Consultant observed 11 cribs to meet the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC), and the American Society for Testing Materials International (ASTM) on this date.

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**Staff Records**

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**Records Reviewed: 4****Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 1**

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Staff # 1

Met

Date of Hire: 08/14/2017

Staff # 2

Not Met

Date of Hire: 03/08/2017

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training,.31(2)(b)2.-Staff Qualifications-Education Missing

Staff # 3

Met

Date of Hire: 11/05/2018

Staff # 4

Met

Date of Hire: 04/02/2018

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

**Comment**

Consultant observed four of four Center Staff to have Satisfactory Comprehensive Criminal Records Check Determination letters issued by the Department on this date.

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

**Comment**

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

**Comment**

Please replace missing antibacterial ointment in the first aid kit.

**591-1-1-.33 Staff Training Not Met**

**Finding**

591-1-1-.33(6) requires, in the first year of employment and then by calendar year thereafter, all supervisory and caregiver Personnel, except independent contractors, Students-in-Training and volunteers to attend ten (10) clock hours of training which is task-focused in early childhood education or child development or subjects relating to job assignment and is offered by an accredited college, university or vocational program or other Department-approved source. It was determined based on review of records that one Center Staff did not have evidence of completing the annual 10-hours of training for 2018 as required by the Department on this date.

**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: 4/5/2019**

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

**Finding**

591-1-1-.31(2)(b)2. requires teachers and lead caregivers to meet minimum academic requirements and qualifying experience at the time of employment. It was determined based on a review of staff records that one lead teacher did not have an updated and renewed CDA credential as required or a Educational Plan of Improvement on file this date.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

A teacher/lead caregiver will be hired that meets the minimum academic requirements and qualifying work experience.

**Correction Deadline: 3/8/2019**

**Recited on 3/5/2019**

<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.

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

**Comment**

Staff observed to provide direct supervision and be attentive to children's needs.