



**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: 8/12/2019 **VisitType:** Monitoring Visit **Arrival:** 9:30 AM **Departure:** 11:30 AM

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
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michelle.smith@decal.ga.gov

Mailing Address
Same

Quality Rated: ★

Compliance Zone Designation		
08/12/2019	Monitoring Visit	Good Standing
04/23/2019	POI Follow Up	Good Standing
03/05/2019	Licensing Study	Support

Compliance Zone Designation - 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.

Good Standing - Program is demonstrating an acceptable level of performance in meeting the rules.

Support - Program performance is demonstrating a need for improvement in meeting rules.

Deficient - 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- Far Left	Three Year Olds	1	3	C	14	C	19	C	Story
Main	B (first left)	One Year Olds	1	1	C	11	C	NA	NA	Floor Play
Main	C (First Right)	One Year Olds and Two Year Olds	1	8	C	15	C	NA	NA	Centers
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 40						Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 45				
Total # Children this Date: 12			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 Monitoring Visit. Consultant discussed the Criminal Records rules and regulations with Center Director. Consultant left a one-day letter, and a Criminal Records Video affidavit to be completed and signed by Center Owner and Director. A Plan of Improvement was issued to the Center regarding Criminal Records and hiring new staff. A revised copy was emailed on 8.15.19.

Plan of Improvement: To Be Submitted 09/02/2019

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.

- 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

ebony robbs, Program Official

Date

Michelle Smith, Consultant

Date



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Findings Report

Date: 8/12/2019 **VisitType:** Monitoring Visit **Arrival:** 9:30 AM **Departure:** 11:30 AM

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The following information is associated with a Monitoring Visit:

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) Technical Assistance

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.25(3) - Consultant discussed with Center Director to ensure that minor areas of chipping paint is repaired in the A-Far left Classroom.

Correction Deadline: 8/12/2019

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

Comment

Discussed maintenance of resilient surface. Please fluff and redistribute.

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

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

591-1-1-.11 Discipline(CR)

Met

Comment

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

591-1-1-.36 Transportation(CR)

Not Met

Finding

591-1-1-.36(1)(a) requires that transportation rules apply to all transportation provided by the licensee or on behalf of the licensee, regardless of whether the person is employed by the licensee or if a fee is charged or not. It was determined based on review of records that one Center Driver did not have valid Driver license on file as required.

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Correction Deadline: 8/12/2019

Finding

591-1-1-.36(3)(a-b) requires any Center that provides any type of transportation to obtain two (2) hours of state-approved or state-accepted transportation training, biannually, for the Director and for each person responsible for or who participates in the transportation of children. The training shall include, but is not limited to, a review of the transportation rules, a review of approved transportation forms and procedures, and instruction on the usage and completion of the forms and procedures. This training may be counted as part of the annual training requirements for Staff. It was determined based on review of records that one Center Driver did not have valid evidence of completing the transportation training as required by the Department on this date.

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Correction Deadline: 8/16/2019

Finding

591-1-1-.36(7)(c)3. requires that the driver or other designated person document in writing the time of arrival and departure each time the vehicle departs from the Center, is loaded or unloaded at each school and when the vehicle returns to the Center; each time the vehicle departs from the Center, arrives at the location where any child is picked up or dropped off and when the vehicle returns to the Center; each time the vehicle leaves the Center, arrives at a field trip destination, leaves a field trip destination, and returns to the Center. It was determined based on review of records that Center Staff failed to document a return time for transportation provided the morning of August 12, 2019.

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Correction Deadline: 8/13/2019

Sleeping & Resting Equipment

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

Comment

Discussed SIDS and infant sleeping position.

Staff Records

Records Reviewed: 4

Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 2

Staff # 1 Met
Date of Hire: 11/05/2018

Staff # 2 Met
Date of Hire: 08/14/2017

Staff # 3 Not Met

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.24(1)-No Record,.36(3)(a-b)-2 hrs. Transportation Training missing,.36(5)-Drivers License Missing,.09-Criminal Records Check Missing,.33(6)-Training Documentation Missing

Staff # 4 Not Met
Date of Hire: 03/11/2019

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

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

Staff Credentials Reviewed: 0

Finding

591-1-1-.09(1)(a) requires that a Center ensure that every actual and potential Director, Employee and Provisional Employee of a Child Care Learning Center submit both a Records Check Application to the Department and Fingerprints to an authorized fingerprinting site. It was determined based on review of records that one Center Driver did not submit application to the Department as required to obtain a Criminal Records Determination issued by the Department.

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Correction Deadline: 8/12/2019

Finding

591-1-1-.09(1)(c) requires the Center to ensure that every Employee has a valid and current satisfactory Comprehensive Records Check Determination on file prior to being present at the Center while any child is present for care or before an individual age 17 or older resides in the Center. The Comprehensive Records Check Determination must have a Records Check Clearance Date that is no older than the preceding 12 months of the hire date; provided, however, if the Employee has had a lapse of employment from the child care industry that lasted for 180 days (6 months) or longer, a new satisfactory Comprehensive Records Check Determination is required. It was determined based on review of records that one Center Driver did not have a valid Satisfactory Comprehensive Criminal Records Check Determination letter issued by the Department on this date.

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Correction Deadline: 8/12/2019

Finding

591-1-1-.09(1)(j) requires that for portability for Directors, Employees and Provisional Employees, excluding Students-in-Training, only the most recently issued determination letter is eligible for portability and must be ported electronically. A Center may accept a satisfactory Fingerprint Records Check Determination letter or a satisfactory Comprehensive Records Check Determination letter issued by the Department if the Records Check Clearance Date is within the preceding 12 months from the hire date, the individual has not had a lapse of employment from the child care industry that lasted for 180 days (6 months) or longer, and the Center does not know or reasonably should not know that the individual's satisfactory status has changed. It was determined based on review of records that one Center Staff hired August 14, 2017 did not have a ported criminal records check determination letter issued to current employer as required by the Department on this date.

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Correction Deadline: 8/12/2019

591-1-1-.24 Personnel Records

Not Met

Finding

591-1-1-.24(1) requires the center to maintain a personnel file on the Director, all Employees, Provisional Employees, Personnel, Staff, Students-in-Training, Volunteers, Clerical, Housekeeping, Maintenance, and other Support Staff for the duration of the term of employment plus one calendar year, and it shall contain the following: identifying information to include: name, date of birth, social security number, current address and current telephone number; employment history; as applicable to the position held: evidence of education and qualifying work experience; evidence of all training required by these rules which shall include: title of training, date of training, trainer's signature, location of training and number of clock hours obtained; a statement completed by the staff member that the information provided is true and accurate; any other records required by these rules; and as applicable to the position held, evidence of required orientation including date and signature of person providing the orientation; It was determined based on review of records that one Center Driver did not have an completed employee file on site during the visit as required.

Correction Deadline: 8/17/2019

591-1-1-.33 Staff Training

Met

Defer

591-1-1-.33(6)-Consultant will evaluate staff 10 hours of training during next scheduled visit.

Correction Deadline: 4/5/2019

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

Not Met

Finding

591-1-1-.31(2)(c) requires the Center to maintain a copy and/or written verification of the credential or degree awarded to the lead teacher that is required by these rules in the lead teacher's file, to make the document available for inspection and to provide the document to Department staff upon request. It was determined based on review of records that one lead teacher hired on March 11, 2019, did not have a valid copy or written verification of an educational credential as required by the Department on this date.

Correction Deadline: 8/12/2019

Staffing and Supervision

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.