



**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:** 3/5/2021    **VisitType:** Monitoring Visit    **Arrival:** 10:00 AM    **Departure:** 10:30 AM

**CCLC-2979**

**The Learning Treehouse**

250 Goshen Rd Rincon, GA 31326 Effingham County  
 (912) 826-2893 info@thelearningtreehouse.net

**Regional Consultant**

Haley Carwile

Phone: (229) 317-9868  
 Fax: (229) 317-9865  
 haley.carwile@decal.ga.gov

**Mailing Address**  
 Same

**Quality Rated:** ★ ★ ★

<b>Compliance Zone Designation</b>		
03/05/2021	Monitoring Visit	Good Standing
10/07/2020	Licensing Study	Good Standing
03/09/2020	Monitoring Visit	Good Standing

**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	Left 1		0	0	C	13	C	NA	NA					
main	Left 2	One Year Olds and Two Year Olds	3	12	C	15	C	21	C	Circle Time,Free Play				
main	Left 3	Two Year Olds	2	8	C	15	C	NA	NA	Centers				
main	Left 4	Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds	2	13	C	15	C	21	C	Outside				
main	Right 1	Infants	3	9	C	11	C	NA	NA	Floor Play,Nap				
main	Right 2		0	0	C	8	C	12	C					
main	Right 3	Three Year Olds	2	13	C	15	C	NA	NA	Circle Time,Art				
main	right 4	Two Year Olds	2	10	C	16	C	NA	NA	Outside				
main	right 5	Four Year Olds	2	9	C	15	C	NA	NA	Centers				
main	Screened porch	One Year Olds	3	8	C	12	C	16	C	Free Play				
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.:			135			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.:			171					
Tanner Hall	1	PreK	2	21	C	36	C	50	C	TV				
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.:			36			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.:			171					
Total # Children this Date: 103			Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.:			171			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.:			171		

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
main	Front PG	19	C
main	PG LEFT	37	C

**Comments**

A virtual inspection was conducted on March 5, 2021 with the Director. An in-person visit was not conducted due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Compliance with the Executive Order issued on February 15, 2021 was reviewed during the virtual inspection.

Plan of Improvement: No Plan Developed

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.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)

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Jana Fox, Program Official

Date

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Haley Carwile, Consultant

Date



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### Findings Report

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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**

A variety of equipment and toys were observed throughout the center.

**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)** **Met**

**Comment**

Center appears clean and well maintained.

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

**Comment**

A Virtual Visit was conducted due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This rule was unable to be evaluated in person and will be reviewed during the next regulatory visit. The consultant discussed daily monitoring of the playground and playground equipment to ensure that hazards are not present while children are present for care.

### Health and Hygiene

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**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. Procedures and sanitation regarding proper diapering were discussed with the Director on this date.

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**591-1-1-.17 Hygiene(CR)****Met****Comment**

A Virtual Visit was conducted due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This rule was unable to be evaluated in person and will be reviewed during the next regulatory visit. Hand washing supplies were observed, and hand washing practices were discussed with the Director on this date.

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

Documentation for medication dispensing observed complete.

**Safety**

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**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. Regulations regarding proper discipline were discussed with the Director on this date.

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**591-1-1-.36 Transportation(CR)****N/A****Comment**

Center does not provide routine transportation.

**Sleeping & Resting Equipment**

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

A Virtual Visit was conducted due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This rule was unable to be evaluated in person and will be reviewed during the next regulatory visit. SIDS and infant sleeping position were discussed with the Director on this date.

**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.

**Staff Records**

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**Records Reviewed: 37****Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 0**

Staff # 1	Met
Staff # 2	Met
Date of Hire: 03/28/2019	
Staff # 3	Met
Staff # 4	Met

Date of Hire: 02/13/2018

Staff # 5 Met

Staff # 6 Met

Staff # 7 Met

Date of Hire: 06/29/2016

Staff # 8 Met

Date of Hire: 07/20/2020

Staff # 9 Met

Date of Hire: 06/04/2018

Staff # 10 Met

Date of Hire: 10/15/2018

Staff # 11 Met

Date of Hire: 05/01/2002

Staff # 12 Met

Date of Hire: 08/02/2017

Staff # 13 Met

Date of Hire: 01/05/2021

Staff # 14 Met

Staff # 15 Met

Date of Hire: 09/21/2018

Staff # 16 Met

Date of Hire: 07/31/2020

Staff # 17 Met

Date of Hire: 04/09/2015

Staff # 18 Met

Date of Hire: 10/15/2018

Staff # 19 Met

Date of Hire: 06/07/2016

Staff # 20 Met

Date of Hire: 10/26/2017

**Records Reviewed: 37**

**Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 0**

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Staff # 21 Date of Hire: 07/02/2018	Met
Staff # 22 Date of Hire: 08/10/2020	Met
Staff # 23 Date of Hire: 01/08/2018	Met
Staff # 24 Date of Hire: 01/13/2020	Met
Staff # 25	Met
Staff # 26 Date of Hire: 01/08/2008	Met
Staff # 27	Met
Staff # 28	Met
Staff # 29	Met
Staff # 30	Met
Staff # 31 Date of Hire: 08/08/2016	Met
Staff # 32	Met
Staff # 33 Date of Hire: 07/24/2009	Met
Staff # 34	Met
Staff # 35 Date of Hire: 11/04/2011	Met
Staff # 36 Date of Hire: 04/17/2015	Met
Staff # 37 Date of Hire: 12/18/2018	Met

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**Staff Credentials Reviewed: 8**

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

**Met**

**Comment**

Criminal record checks were observed to be complete.

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

**Met**

**Comment**

Staff observed to be compliant with applicable laws and regulations.

<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.