



**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: 2/6/2018 **VisitType:** Licensing Study **Arrival:** 9:45 AM **Departure:** 1:15 PM

CCLC-39492

Little Scholars Learning Academy

5536 Flat Shoals Parkway, Suite B Decatur, GA 30034 DeKalb County
(470) 385-6115 littlescholars5536b@gmail.com

Mailing Address
Same

Regional Consultant

Tiffany Whigham
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Joint with: Brandon Cason

Quality Rated: ★ ★

| Compliance Zone Designation | | |
|------------------------------------|------------------|---------------|
| 02/06/2018 | Licensing Study | Good Standing |
| 08/09/2017 | Monitoring Visit | Good Standing |
| 01/18/2017 | Licensing Study | 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 | A - 1R | Infants and One Year Olds | 1 | 5 | C | 8 | C | NA | NA | Free Play, Diapering, Transitioning |
| Main | B - 1L | Two Year Olds | 1 | 7 | C | 8 | C | NA | NA | Circle Time |
| Main | C - 2R | Three Year Olds | 1 | 10 | C | 11 | C | NA | NA | Floor Play |
| Main | D - 3R | | 0 | 0 | C | 8 | C | 11 | C | Not In Use |
| Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 35 | | | | | | Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 38 | | | | |
| Total # Children this Date: 22 | | | Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 35 | | | Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 38 | | | | |

| Building | Playground | Playground Occupancy | Playground Compliance |
|----------|------------|----------------------|-----------------------|
| Main | A - Left | 37 | C |
| Main | B - Right | 34 | C |

Comments

Plan of Improvement: Developed This Date 02/06/2018

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).



Reminder: All employees of child care programs must be fingerprinted before **January 1, 2017**. For instructions and to submit records check applications online, please visit www.decalkoala.com. You are encouraged not to wait and to complete the process as soon as possible.

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.al.ga.gov.

- 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.al.ga.gov/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). Sign up for Quality Rated by June 30, 2018 in order to be eligible to receive a bonus package.

Get started today! Sign up by completing a short online application: <https://qualityrated.dec.al.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@dec.al.ga.gov

Tameka Sims, Program Official _____ Date

Tiffany Whigham, Consultant _____ Date

Brandon Cason, Consultant _____ Date



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Findings Report

Date: 2/6/2018 **VisitType:** Licensing Study **Arrival:** 9:45 AM **Departure:** 1:15 PM

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The following information is associated with a Licensing Study:

Activities and Equipment

591-1-1-.03 Activities

Met

Technical Assistance

Director will ensure that center staff develops a daily schedule for each group to reflect routines and activities that is flexible but routinely followed to provide structure. The schedule must be posted in each group's room or area and made available to Parent(s) upon request.

Correction Deadline: 2/6/2018

591-1-1-.12 Equipment & Toys(CR)

Technical Assistance

Comment

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

Technical Assistance

Director will ensure that equipment and furniture is secured if it is of a weight or mass that could cause injury from tipping, falling, or being pulled or pushed over. The television in the after school and three-year-old classrooms must be secured.

Correction Deadline: 2/6/2018

591-1-1-.35 Swimming Pools & Water-related Activities(CR)

Met

Comment

Center does not provide swimming activities.

Evening Care

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

Met

Comment

No evening care hours observed on this date.

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**

Director will ensure that the center and surrounding premises to be kept clean, free of debris and in good repair. Hygienic measures such as, but not limited to, screened windows and proper waste disposal procedures shall be utilized to minimize the presence of rodents, flies, roaches and other vermin at the Center. Director will ensure that the baseboard paneling be securely attached in the two-year-old and three-year-old classrooms are repaired and in good condition.

Correction Deadline: 2/6/2018

591-1-1-.26 Playgrounds(CR)**Not Met****Finding**

591-1-1-.26(4) requires that playgrounds be protected from traffic or other hazards by a (4) four foot high fence or other barrier approved by this Department. Fencing material shall not present a hazard to children and shall be maintained so as to prevent children from leaving the playground area by any means other than through an approved access route. Fence gates shall be kept closed except when persons are entering or exiting the area. It was determined based upon consultant's observation, that the fencing on the back, left hand side of the playground was leaning and detached from the post on this date.

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: 2/23/2018**Comment**

The outdoor equipment shall be free of lead-based paint, sharp corners and shall be regularly maintained in such a way as to be free of rust and splinters that could pose significant safety hazard to the children. Please ensure that broken inoperable toys are not utilized by children on the playground.

Correction Deadline: 2/16/2018**Correction Deadline: 8/19/2017****Corrected on 2/6/2018****Previous citation corrected in that the playground had the adequate amount of mulch on this date.****Finding**

591-1-1-.26(9) requires the playground to be kept clean, free from litter and free of hazards, such as but not limited to rocks, exposed tree roots and exposed sharp edges of concrete. It was determined based upon consultant's observation, that four active ant beds were located in various places on the playground.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will remove any litter and fix or remove hazards from the playground and will routinely monitor the playground and remove litter and hazards.

Correction Deadline: 2/7/2018

Finding

591-1-1-.15(3) requires baby bottles and formula to be labeled with the individual child's name; supplied by the Parent daily in bottles; and refrigerated at a temperature of forty (40) degrees Fahrenheit or less. Only the current day's formula or breast milk shall be served. If formula must be provided by the Center, only commercially prepared, ready-to-feed formula shall be used. Refrigerated or frozen breast milk shall only be heated or thawed under warm running water or in a container of warm water. It was determined based upon consultant's observation, that three out of three bottles in the infant classroom were not clearly labeled with the child's first and last name on this date.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will train Staff to follow the required procedures, ensure that parents are fully informed, and will review and monitor regularly.

Correction Deadline: 2/6/2018**Finding**

591-1-1-.15(4) requires that a feeding chair or similar equipment designed for feeding children shall be provided for the use of each child being fed who is capable of sitting up but who is unable to sit unassisted at a table and must be cleaned with a disinfectant after each use. Such chair or similar equipment shall have a broad base to prevent tipping, a surface that the child cannot raise, a strap or other device which prevents the child from sliding out of the chair, and a feeding surface free of cracks. It was determined based upon consultant's observation, that four children sitting in high chairs in the infant classroom were not strapped in as required to prevent children from sliding out of the chairs.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will inspect feeding equipment to ensure it meets each of the listed criteria and to verify a feeding chair or equipment is provided for each child who requires one. The Center will train staff and monitor to ensure that the feeding equipment is cleaned with a disinfectant after each use.

Correction Deadline: 2/6/2018

| |
|---------------------------|
| Health and Hygiene |
|---------------------------|

591-1-1-.10 Diapering Areas & Practices(CR)**Met****Comment**

The director will ensure that teachers are trained on the required diapering steps .

591-1-1-.17 Hygiene(CR)**Not Met****Finding**

591-1-1-.17(10) requires that if used potty chairs be emptied in a flush toilet after each use, cleaned with a disinfectant and stored in the bathroom. If a sink is used, the sink shall also be disinfected. It was determined based upon consultant's observation, that in the two-year-old classroom a potty chair located in the bathroom was observed to have urine in it and was not emptied after use as required.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will instruct staff to ensure the sanitary use of potty chairs and sinks.

Correction Deadline: 2/6/2018**Finding**

591-1-1-.17(7) requires that children wash their hands with liquid soap and warm running water upon arrival for care, when moving from one child care group to another, upon re-entering the child care area after outside play, before and after eating meals and snacks, handling or touching food, playing in water; after toileting and diapering, playing in sand, touching animals or pets, and contact with bodily fluids and after contamination by any other means. It was determined based upon consultant observation, that a child arriving for care in the two-year-old classroom did not wash hands upon entering the classroom. In addition, a child did not wash hands after using the bathroom as required.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will train Staff on required handwashing for children and Staff will ensure children's hands are washed when required. The Director will monitor for compliance.

Correction Deadline: 2/6/2018

Finding

)591-1-1-.17(7)(a) requires washcloth handwashing be used only for infants when the infant is too heavy to hold or cannot stand safely and for children with special needs; requires that an individual washcloth be used only once for each child before laundering. It was determined based upon consultant's observation, that staff did not wash an infant hands after completing a diaper change in the infant classroom on this date.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will train Staff on how to correctly use washcloth, handwashing, and will review and monitor.

Correction Deadline: 2/6/2018

Finding

591-1-1-.17(8) requires staff to wash their hands with liquid soap and warm running water upon arrival for the day, when moving from one child care group to another, upon re-entering the child care area after outside play, before and after diapering each child, dispensing medication, applying topical medications, handling and preparing food, eating, drinking, preparing bottles, feeding each child, assisting children with eating and drinking, after toileting or assisting children with toileting, using tobacco products, handling garbage and organic waste, touching animals or pets, handling bodily fluids and after contamination by any means. It was determined based upon consultant's observation, that a teacher in the infant classroom did not wash hands before and after a diaper change on this date.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will ensure liquid soap and warm running water are available for handwashing, train Staff on the handwashing requirements, review the requirements with Staff periodically, and monitor handwashing.

Correction Deadline: 2/6/2018

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

Met

Comment

Discussed proper medication documentation and procedures.

Safety

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

Met

Comment

Age-appropriate discussion and/or redirection observed.

591-1-1-.13 Field Trips(CR)

Met

Comment

Center does not participate in field trips at this time.

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

Met

Comment

Paperwork, checklist, permission forms, annual inspection form and proper check of the vehicle after transportation were discussed with the director.

Sleeping & Resting Equipment

Finding

591-1-1-.30(1)(b)1 requires that cots and mats are of sound construction and of sufficient size to accommodate comfortably the size and weight of the child; and that mats are in good repair, washable, covered with a waterproof material and at least two inches (2") thick. It was determined based upon consultant's observation, that in the two-year-old classroom four out of the six vinyl mats were utilized for napping were torn and not in good condition.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will ensure that cots and mats are of sound construction and of sufficient size to accommodate the size and weight of the child and mats are in good repair, washable, covered with a waterproof material and is at least two inches thick.

Correction Deadline: 2/23/2018**Recited on 2/6/2018****Technical Assistance**

The Center will ensure that cots and mats are used by the same child daily and marked for individual use.

Correction Deadline: 2/6/2018**Finding**

591-1-1-.30(2) requires the Center to provide a safe sleep environment in accordance with American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) and American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) recommendations as listed in these rules for all infants. Center Staff shall place an infant to sleep on the infant's back in a crib unless the Center has been provided a physician's written statement authorizing another sleep position for that particular infant that includes how the infant shall be placed to sleep and a time frame that the instructions are to be followed. When an infant can easily turn over from back to front and back again, Staff shall continue to put the infant to sleep initially on the infant's back but allow the infant to roll over into his or her preferred position and not re-position the infant. Sleepers, sleep sacks and wearable blankets that fit according to the commercial manufacturer's guidelines and will not slide up around the infant's face may be used when necessary for the comfort of the sleeping infant. Swaddling shall not be used unless the Center has been provided a physician's written statement authorizing its use for a particular infant that includes instructions and a time frame for swaddling the infant. Center Staff shall not place objects or allow objects to be placed in or on the crib with an infant such as but not limited to toys, pillows, quilts, comforters, bumper pads, sheepskins, stuffed toys, or other soft items and shall not attach objects or allow objects to be attached to a crib with a sleeping infant, such as, but not limited to, crib gyms, toys, mirrors and mobiles. It was determined based upon consultant's observation, that a seven month old infant was observed to have a blanket and a bib attached around the neck while in the crib.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will take all steps necessary to provide a safe sleep environment for infants as listed in these rules; will train Staff to follow these rules; and will monitor for compliance.

Correction Deadline: 2/6/2018

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| Staff Records |
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Comment

Criminal records checks were observed to be complete.

Finding

591-1-1-.33(5) requires the Director and person with primary responsibility for food preparation to have four clock hours of training in food nutrition planning, preparation, serving, proper dish washing and food storage. It was determined based upon consultant's observation, that the director did not have proof of completing the four clock hours of training in food nutrition planning, preparation, serving, proper dish wash and food storage .

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will schedule food preparation training, as required, and follow up to ensure the training is completed.

Correction Deadline: 3/8/2018**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 upon consultant's observation, that two staff members did not have proof of completing the required ten hours of annual training for 2017.

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: 12/31/2018

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

| |
|---------------------------------|
| 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****Correction Deadline: 8/9/2017****Corrected on 2/6/2018**

Previous citation corrected in that adequate supervision was observed on this date.