



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: 10/2/2018 **VisitType:** Monitoring Visit **Arrival:** 11:30 AM **Departure:** 2:00 PM

CCLC-39492

Little Scholars Learning Academy

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

Regional Consultant

Ashia Jackson

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ashia.jackson@decal.ga.gov

Mailing Address

Same

Quality Rated: ★ ★

Compliance Zone Designation			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.
10/02/2018	Monitoring Visit	Good Standing	
06/25/2018	Complaint Closure	Good Standing	
06/21/2018	Complaint Investigation & 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
Main	A - 1R		0	0	C	8	C	NA	NA	
Main	A - 1R		0	0	C	8	C	NA	NA	
Main	B - 1L	Infants and One Year Olds and Two Year Olds and Three Year Olds	1	9	NC	8	NC	NA	NA	Nap
Main	B - 1L	Infants and One Year Olds and Two Year Olds and Three Year Olds	1	8	NC	8	C	NA	NA	Nap
Main	C - 2R	Three Year Olds	0	9	NC	11	C	NA	NA	Nap
Main	C - 2R	Three Year Olds	0	9	NC	11	C	NA	NA	Nap
Main	D - 3R		0	0	C	8	C	11	C	
Main	D - 3R		0	0	C	8	C	11	C	
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 70						Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 96				
Suite A	1st Left		0	0	C	5	C	NA	NA	
Suite A	Back Center		0	0	C	10	C	NA	NA	
Suite A	Entrance		0	0	C	11	C	NA	NA	
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 26						Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 96				
Total # Children this Date: 35			Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 96			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 96				

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	A - Left	37	C


Main	A - Left	37	C
Main	B - Right	34	C
Main	B - Right	34	C

Comments

A one day letter was left on this date.

Plan of Improvement: Developed This Date 10/02/2018

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).



Please refer to the website, <http://www.decal.ga.gov/CCS/RulesAndRegulations.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@decal.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://decal.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).

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

Tameka Sims, Program Official

Date

Ashia Jackson, 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.

Comment

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

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

Met

Comment

Center does not provide swimming activities.

Facility

591-1-1-.19 License Capacity(CR)

Not Met

Finding

591-1-1-.19(1) requires a Center to provide 35 square feet of usable space per child, which will determine the Center's License capacity. It was determined based the consultant observation that there were nine children in a classroom that is currently licensed for nine children.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will limit the number of children in this space to the licensed capacity.

Correction Deadline: 10/2/2018

591-1-1-.25 Physical Plant - Safe Environment(CR)

Not Met

Comment

Please be mindful to keep items that pose a hazard inaccessible to children.

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 the consultant's observation that hanging cords were accessible to children in the first left classroom where children ages infant- three years old are located,

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: 10/2/2018

Finding

591-1-1-.25(3) requires 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. It was determined based on the consultant's observation that the first left classroom had chipping paint in multiple areas on the walls accessible to children. It was further determined that the fan in the classroom that was hanging from the fan was filled with excess dust.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will have the Center and surrounding areas cleaned, make repairs where needed, and remove all debris is removed. The Center will implement a plan to keep areas clean and in good repair that includes regular monitoring.

Correction Deadline: 10/2/2018

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 on the consultant's observation that fencing on the back right corner had a visible whole measuring approximately six inches in width posing a potential entrapment hazard. It was further determined that a fencing in the front area surrounding the black pavement posing a potential entrapment hazard with a whole in the fencing measuring approximately four inches in depth.

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: 10/2/2018

Finding

591-1-1-.26(8) requires climbing and swinging equipment to have a resilient surface beneath the equipment and the fall zone from such equipment must be adequately maintained by the Center to assure continuing resiliency. It was determined based on the consultant's observation that the resilient surfacing around the climbing structure on the playground measured less than six inches in depth.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will add additional resilient surfacing to the fall zones where needed and check daily, adding resilient surfacing as needed to maintain adequate resiliency.

Correction Deadline: 10/12/2018

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 on the consultant's observation that there are five active ant beds in the playground accessible to children.

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: 10/2/2018

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)**Met****Comment**

Discussed proper medication documentation and procedures.

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****Comment**

Complete documentation of transportation observed.

Finding

591-1-1-.36(6) requires written Parental authorization for routine transportation provided by or on behalf of the Center. Written authorization must include the routine pick-up location, routine pick-up time, routine delivery location, routine delivery times and the name of any person authorized to receive the child. It was determined based on documentation reviewed that the center did not have completed transportation documentation for all children transported for routine school transportation.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will obtain the required written parental authorization.

Correction Deadline: 10/3/2018

Sleeping & Resting Equipment

591-1-1-.30 Safe Sleeping and Resting Requirements(CR)**Not Met****Comment**

Discussed SIDS and infant sleeping position.

Finding

591-1-1-.30(1)(b)3 requires that sheets or similar coverings for cots or mats shall either be marked for individual use or laundered daily. If marked for individual use, they must be laundered weekly or more frequently if needed. It was determined based on the consultant's observation that children who were asleep in the first left classroom were sleep on the mats without a sheet.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will ensure that sheets are marked for individual use or washed daily and that marked sheets are washed at least weekly.

Correction Deadline: 10/2/2018

Staff Records

591-1-1-.09 Criminal Records and Comprehensive Background Checks(CR)**Not Met****Finding**

591-1-1-.09(1)(d) requires the Center to ensure that every Provisional Employee has a valid and current satisfactory Fingerprint 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 and must be supervised at all times by a Director or Employee with a valid and current satisfactory Comprehensive Records Check Determination. The Fingerprint 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 Provisional Employee has had a lapse of employment from the child care industry that lasted for 180 days (6 months) or longer, a new satisfactory Fingerprint Records Check Determination is required. It was determined based on documentation reviewed that one provisional employee hired on September 21, 2018 did not have a comprehensive records check on file at the center. The director stated the provisional employee was present on the previous day and was left alone with children. The provisional employee was not present on this date.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will ensure that every Provisional Employee has a valid and current satisfactory Fingerprint 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 and must be supervised at all times by a Director or Employee with a valid and current satisfactory Comprehensive Records Check Determination. The Fingerprint 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 Provisional Employee has had a lapse of employment from the child care industry that lasted for 180 days (6 months) or longer, a new satisfactory Fingerprint Records Check Determination is required.

Correction Deadline: 10/2/2018

591-1-1-.09 Criminal Records Check(CR)**Met****Comment**

Criminal records checks were observed to be complete.

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

Staff observed to be compliant with applicable laws and regulations.

Staffing and Supervision

591-1-1-.32 Staff:Child Ratios and Group Size(CR)**Not Met****Finding**

591-1-1-.32(2) requires the Center maintain Staff:child ratios in mixed-age groups based on the age of the youngest group of children that includes more than twenty percent of the total number of children in the mixed-age group. It was determined based on the consultant's observation that the first right classroom had a ratio of 1:9 (one infant, two one year old children, five two year old children, and one three year old child). A ratio of 2:9 was required.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will provide adequate staff when there is a mixed-age group.

Correction Deadline: 10/2/2018

591-1-1-.32 Supervision(CR)**Not Met****Finding**

591-1-1-.32(7) requires that children be supervised at all times and that the persons supervising in the child care area be alert, able to respond promptly to the needs and actions of the children being supervised, as well as the actions of the chaperones and Students-in-Training, and provide timely attention to the children's actions and needs. It was determined based on the consultant's observation that one teacher was supervising two classrooms by sitting in the hallway between both classes during nap time.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will train Staff and monitor to ensure they are providing supervision and watchful oversight to the children at all times.

Correction Deadline: 10/2/2018