



**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:** 2/27/2020    **VisitType:** Licensing Study    **Arrival:** 10:00 AM    **Departure:** 1:00 PM

**CCLC-48426**

**Connect Learning Academy**

3915 Old Gordon Road Atlanta, GA 30331 Fulton County  
(404) 691-3456 toshabaker@yahoo.com

**Regional Consultant**

Michelle Smith

Phone: (404) 478-8183  
Fax: (678) 717-5636  
michelle.smith@decal.ga.gov

**Mailing Address**  
Same

**Quality Rated:** No

<b>Compliance Zone Designation</b>		
02/27/2020	Licensing Study	Good Standing
07/17/2019	Monitoring Visit	Good Standing
06/07/2019	Complaint Closure	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	2	9	C	15	C	NA	NA	Story
Main	B - Mid Back		0	0	C	22	C	31	C	Not In Use
Main	C - Mid Front	Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds	2	10	C	20	C	28	C	Story
Main	D - 1L	Two Year Olds	2	12	C	22	C	NA	NA	Lunch
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 79						Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 96				
Total # Children this Date: 31			Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 79			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 96				

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	A - Front	21	C
Main	B - Back	63	C

**Comments**

The purpose of this visit was to conduct a Licensing Study as follow up to the visit conducted 7.17.2019. Consultant discussed and reviewed the report with Clerical Staff on this date.

Plan of Improvement: Developed This Date 02/27/2020

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)

Tosha Baker, Program Official

Date

Michelle Smith, Consultant

Date



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### Findings Report

**Date:** 2/27/2020 **VisitType:** Licensing Study **Arrival:** 10:00 AM **Departure:** 1:00 PM

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The following information is associated with a Licensing Study:

**Activities and Equipment**

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

**Technical Assistance**

**Technical Assistance**

591-1-1-.12(1) - Consultant discussed with Center Staff to ensure that infants all properly strapped in feeding chairs in the A-1Right Classroom as required.

**Correction Deadline: 2/27/2020**

**Technical Assistance**

591-1-1-.12(4) - Consultant discussed with Center Staff to ensure that one 17 inch television is anchored to a base to prevent possible push or pull hazards.

**Correction Deadline: 2/27/2020**

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

**N/A**

**Comment**

Center does not provide swimming activities.

**Facility**

**591-1-1-.06 Bathrooms**

**Technical Assistance**

**Technical Assistance**

591-1-1-.06(1) - Consultant discussed with Center Staff to ensure that one of two toilets in the C- Mid Front Classroom is repaired and able to be used by children. Center Staff stated that the toilet has been out of order for four days.

**Correction Deadline: 3/28/2020**

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

**Met**

**Comment**

Licensed capacity observed to be routinely met by center.

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

**Comment**

No hazards observed accessible to children on this date.

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

**Comment**

Playground observed to be clean and in good repair.

**Health and Hygiene**

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

**Comment**

Staff state proper knowledge of diapering procedures.

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

**Correction Deadline: 7/17/2019**

**Corrected on 2/27/2020**

**.17(7) - Consultant observed staff remind children to wash their hands.**

**Correction Deadline: 7/17/2019**

**Corrected on 2/27/2020**

**.17(8) - Consultant observed staff complete proper hand washing on this date.**

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**591-1-1-.20 Medications(CR)** **N/A**

**Comment**

The Provider currently does not dispense/administer medication.

**Safety**

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

**Comment**

Animals maintained clean and appropriately caged.

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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**

**Finding**

591-1-1-.36(4)(c) requires that each vehicle be equipped with a fire extinguisher maintained in working order and kept inaccessible to children. It was determined based on observation that one black Dodge van used for temporary transportation did not have an operable fire extinguisher as required.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

The center will ensure that each vehicle has a working fire extinguisher and that the fire extinguisher is kept out of reach of children.

**Correction Deadline: 2/27/2020**

**Correction Deadline: 7/17/2019**

**Corrected on 2/27/2020**

**.36(7)(c)2. - Consultant observed transportation documentation to be completed with a mark or symbol for children loading and off loading during transportation.**

**Finding**

591-1-1-.36(7)(d)2. requires that the second designated Staff person conduct a check of the vehicle immediately upon the completion of the first check of the vehicle. The responsible person shall physically walk through the entire vehicle; visually inspect all seat surfaces, under all seats and in all compartments or recesses in the vehicle's interior; and sign the passenger transportation checklist(s), indicating all of the children have exited the vehicle. There shall be continuous watchful oversight of the vehicle between the first check and second check. It was determined based on review of records that second checks were not completed and/or documented for PM transportation provided on February 10, 2020, and February 17, 2020, from L.P. Miles Elementary to Connect Learning Academy.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

The Center will train Staff who are or may be involved in transporting children in how to thoroughly inspect a vehicle and properly complete transportation documentation. The Center will review and monitor.

**Correction Deadline: 2/27/2020**

**Sleeping & Resting Equipment**

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

**Met**

**Correction Deadline: 7/31/2019**

**Corrected on 2/27/2020**

**.30(1)(b)3 - Consultant observed mats and cots to have sheets provided to each child.**

**Staff Records**

**Records Reviewed: 11**

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

Staff # 1	Not Met
Date of Hire: 01/08/2018	
<u>"Missing/Incomplete Components"</u>	
.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training	
Staff # 2	Met
Date of Hire: 02/26/2018	
Staff # 3	Met
Date of Hire: 06/05/2019	
Staff # 4	Met
Date of Hire: 01/07/2019	
Staff # 5	Met
Staff # 6	Met
Date of Hire: 01/03/2019	

Staff # 7 Met  
 Date of Hire: 06/21/2019

Staff # 8 Met  
 Date of Hire: 01/16/2020

Staff # 9 Met  
 Date of Hire: 09/09/2019

Staff # 10 Met  
 Date of Hire: 10/07/2019

Staff # 11 Met  
 Date of Hire: 02/07/2019

**Staff Credentials Reviewed: 2**

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

**Comment**

Criminal record checks were observed to be complete. Consultant observed 13 of 13 Center Staff to have valid Satisfactory Comprehensive Criminal Records Check Determination letters issued by the Department.

**Correction Deadline: 7/17/2019**

**Corrected on 2/27/2020**

**.09(1)(a) - Consultant observed 13 of 13 Center Staff to have valid Satisfactory Comprehensive Criminal Records Check Determination letters issued by the Department.**

**Correction Deadline: 7/17/2019**

**Corrected on 2/27/2020**

**.09(1)(c) - Consultant observed 13 of 13 Center Staff to have valid Satisfactory Comprehensive Criminal Records Check Determination letters issued by the Department.**

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

**Comment**

Evidence observed of 50% of center staff certified in First Aid and CPR.

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

**Finding**

91-1-1-.33(5) requires that every calendar year after the first year of employment, all supervisory and caregiver Personnel, except independent contractors, Students-in-Training and volunteers shall attend ten (10) clock hours of diverse training which is task-focused in on-going health, safety and early childhood or child development related topics and which is offered by an accredited college, university or vocational program or other Department-approved source. The annual ten (10) clock hours of training shall be chosen from the following fields: child development, including discipline, guidance, nutrition, injury control and safety; health, including sanitation, disease control, cleanliness, detection and disposition of illness; child abuse and neglect, including identification and reporting, and meeting the needs of abused and/or neglected children; and business related topics, including parental communication, recordkeeping, etc.; provided however that such business related training shall be limited to no more than two (2) of the required ten (10) clock hours of training. Records of completion of such training shall be maintained, as required by these rules. It was determined based on review of records that one Director did not have valid evidence of completing the 10 clock hours of annual training for 2019 as required.

**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: 3/28/2020**

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**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 review of records that one (1) lead teachers did not have educational credentials on file as required by the Department.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

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

**Correction Deadline: 3/2/2020**

**Recited on 2/27/2020**

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<b>Staffing and Supervision</b>
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**591-1-1-.32 Staff:Child Ratios and Group Size(CR)**

**Met**

**Correction Deadline: 7/17/2019**

**Corrected on 2/27/2020**

**.32(1) - Consultant observed appropriate ratios on this date.**

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**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 observation that one three-year-old child ran out of the C-Mid Front Classroom, into the hallway without any supervision. Consultant observed the child to run down the hallway and be unsupervised for 15- 20 seconds. Consultant observed Center Staff escort the child back into the C-Mid Front Classroom.

**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: 2/27/2020**