



**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: 3/4/2019 **VisitType:** Licensing Study **Arrival:** 8:30 AM **Departure:** 11:45 AM

CCLC-48426

Connect Learning Academy

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

Regional Consultant

Michelle Smith

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michelle.smith@decal.ga.gov

Mailing Address
Same

Quality Rated: No

Compliance Zone Designation		
03/04/2019	Licensing Study	Good Standing
09/07/2018	Monitoring Visit	Good Standing
04/12/2018	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	A - 1R	Infants	1	2	C	15	C	NA	NA	Diapering, Floor Play
Main	B - Mid Back		0	0	C	22	C	31	C	Not In Use
Main	C - Mid Front	Four Year Olds	1	11	C	20	C	28	C	Circle Time
Main	D - 1L	Two Year Olds	1	8	C	22	C	NA	NA	Breakfast
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 79						Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 96				
Total # Children this Date: 21			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 on September 7, 2018. Consultant discussed and reviewed the report with Center Director on this date.

Plan of Improvement: Developed This Date 03/04/2019

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

Tosha Baker, Program Official

Date

Michelle Smith, Consultant

Date



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Findings Report

Date: 3/4/2019 **VisitType:** Licensing Study **Arrival:** 8:30 AM **Departure:** 11:45 AM

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The following information is associated with a Licensing Study:

Activities and Equipment

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

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

591-1-1-.35 Swimming Pools & Water-related Activities(CR)	N/A
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Comment

Center does not provide swimming activities.

Facility

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

Licensed capacity observed to be routinely met by center.

591-1-1-.25 Physical Plant - Safe Environment(CR)	Not Met
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Finding

591-1-1-.25(12) requires heating and cooling equipment to be protected to prevent children from touching it. Fans, space heaters, etc. shall be positioned or installed so as to be inaccessible to the children. It was determined based on Consultant observation that one electrical heater units were on the floor in the 1 Right classroom. In addition one unit heater was on a shelf with the cords hanging posing a potential hazard to children in the 1 Left classroom..

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will re-position or re-install equipment, as needed, and will make all such equipment inaccessible to children.

Correction Deadline: 3/4/2019

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.25(3) - Consultant discussed with Center Director to ensure that the knobs on the drawers used to store infant diapering materials are replaced in the 1st Left classroom. In addition to remove the broken table in the mid front classroom.

Correction Deadline: 3/4/2019

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 Consultant observation that the 3rd toilet in the Mid Front classroom does not flush which poses a potential hazard to children.

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: 3/4/2019

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 Consultant observation that there was a four inch gap in the fence material near the entrance and exit of the the Front Playground which poses a potential entrapment hazard to children.

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: 3/8/2019

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.26(9) - Consultant discussed with Center Director to ensure to level the walkway with the ground to prevent tripping hazards located on the front main playground.

Correction Deadline: 3/4/2019

Health and Hygiene

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

Not Met

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.10(1) - Consultant discussed with Center Director to ensure that the ventilation fan is properly working ,and used while each child is being diapered in the 1R Classroom.

Correction Deadline: 3/4/2019

Finding

591-1-1-.10(4) requires that if diapers are changed on a diaper changing surface, the surface shall be smooth, nonporous, and equipped with a guard or rails to prevent falls. Between each diaper change, the diaper changing surface shall be cleaned with a disinfectant and dried with a single-use disposable towel. It was determined based on consultant's observation that the diaper changing station in the 1R toddler classroom has tears in the lining which does not allow the station to be properly cleaned and disinfectant after each use.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will ensure there is a smooth, nonporous changing surface that has a guard or rails for safety in each classroom that houses children wearing diapers. Center Staff will be trained and have adequate supplies to properly clean the diaper changing surface between each diaper change.

Correction Deadline: 3/18/2019

Recited on 3/4/2019

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

Staff were observed to remind children to wash hands.

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

Discussed proper medication documentation and procedures.

Safety

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

Consultant observed one pet turtle to be properly cleaned and caged to prevent the spread of salmonella.

591-1-1-.11 Discipline(CR)**Technical Assistance****Technical Assistance**

591-1-1-.11 - Consultant discussed with Center Director to ensure that staff uses an appropriate voice tone when redirecting children. In addition to ensure that disciplinary actions does not humiliate children.

591-1-1-.13 Field Trips(CR)**N/A****Comment**

Center does not participate in field trips at this time.

591-1-1-.36 Transportation(CR)**Met****Comment**

An annual inspection was completed on 8.9.2018.

Comment

The vehicle had an approved fire extinguisher and first aid kit on this date.

Correction Deadline: 9/8/2018**Corrected on 3/4/2019****.36(6) - Consultant observed authorization forms for all children that use routine pick up and drop off transportation.**

Sleeping & Resting Equipment

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

591-1-1-.30(1)(a)3 - Consultant discussed with Center Staff to ensure that crib sheets are tight fitting to the mattress.

Correction Deadline: 3/4/2019**Technical Assistance**

591-1-1-.30(2) - Consultant discussed with Center Staff to ensure that toys, or pillows are not placed in cribs assigned or unassigned to children

Correction Deadline: 3/4/2019

Staff Records

Records Reviewed: 8**Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 0**

Staff # 1

Met

Date of Hire: 02/13/2019

Records Reviewed: 8

Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 0

Staff # 2 Date of Hire: 12/04/2018	Met
Staff # 3 Date of Hire: 03/19/2018	Met
Staff # 4 Date of Hire: 01/11/2018	Met
Staff # 5 Date of Hire: 02/26/2018	Met
Staff # 6 Date of Hire: 12/10/2018	Met
Staff # 7 Date of Hire: 01/03/2019	Met
Staff # 8 Date of Hire: 10/17/2017	Met

Staff Credentials Reviewed: 8

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

Comment

Consultant observed eight of eight Center Staff to have Satisfactory Comprehensive Criminal Records Check Determination letters issued by the Department on this date.

591-1-1-.14 First Aid & CPR **Technical Assistance**

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.14(1) - Consultant discussed with Center Director to replace expired antibiotic ointment.

Correction Deadline: 4/3/2019

591-1-1-.33 Staff Training **Met**

Comment

Consultant reviewed records and observed eight of eight staff to have completed the annual 10-hours of training for 2018 as required by the Department.

Correction Deadline: 9/17/2018

Corrected on 3/4/2019

.33(3) - Consultant observed evidence of staff completing health and safety orientation as required by the Department.

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

Correction Deadline: 9/17/2018

Corrected on 3/4/2019

.31(2)(a) - Consultant observed lead teacher credentials on file this date.

Staffing and Supervision

591-1-1-.32 Staff:Child Ratios and Group Size(CR)**Met****Comment**

Adequate supervision observed on this date.

591-1-1-.32 Supervision(CR)**Met****Comment**

Adequate supervision observed on this date.