



**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

**Cover Sheet**

**Date:** 9/30/2021 **VisitType:** Licensing Study

**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>			<b>Compliance Zone Designation</b> - 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.  <b>Good Standing</b> - Program is demonstrating an acceptable level of performance in meeting the rules. <b>Support</b> - Program performance is demonstrating a need for improvement in meeting rules. <b>Deficient</b> - Program is not demonstrating an acceptable level of performance in meeting the rules.
09/30/2021	Licensing Study	Good Standing	
06/28/2021	Complaint Closure	Good Standing	
06/25/2021	Complaint Investigation Follow Up	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	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	Free Play,Circle Time
main	Left 3	Two Year Olds	2	13	C	15	C	NA	NA	Free Play,Circle Time
main	Left 4	Three Year Olds	2	12	C	15	C	21	C	Outside
main	Right 1	Infants	4	10	C	11	C	NA	NA	Nap,Floor Play
main	Right 2		0	0	C	8	C	12	C	
main	Right 3	Two Year Olds and Three Year Olds	2	13	C	15	C	NA	NA	Centers
main	right 4	Two Year Olds	2	12	C	16	C	NA	NA	Outside
main	right 5	Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds	2	13	C	15	C	NA	NA	Centers
main	Screened porch	One Year Olds	3	13	C	12	NC	16	C	Free Play
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 135						Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 171				
Tanner Hall	1	PreK	2	20	C	36	C	50	C	Centers
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 36						Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 171				
Total # Children this Date: 118			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
Tanner Hall	Back PG	81	C

**Comments**

An Administrative Review was conducted on September 27, 2021. Staff files, children's files, training, and background checks were all reviewed. A virtual inspection was conducted on September 30, 2021 with the Director. An in-person visit was not conducted due to the COVID-19 pandemic.



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

**Important New Deadlines:**

Due to the ongoing COVID restrictions, the deadline to become Quality Rated for programs who want to continue to receive Childcare and Parent Services (CAPS), has been extended to at least December 31, 2021.

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)

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)

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Jana Fox, Program Official

Date

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Haley Carwile, Consultant

Date



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### Findings Report

**Date:** 9/30/2021    **VisitType:** Licensing Study    **Arrival:** 10:00 AM    **Departure:** 10:30 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**

#### 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

Playground observed to be clean and in good repair.

### Health and Hygiene

**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**

Hand washing and sanitizing requirements were discussed with the Director on this date.

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**591-1-1-.20 Medications(CR)****Not Evaluated****Comment**

The Provider currently does not dispense/administer medication.

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**Safety**

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**591-1-1-.05 Animals****Not Evaluated****Comment**

Center does not keep animals on premises.

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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-.13 Field Trips(CR)****Not Evaluated****Comment**

Center does not participate in field trips at this time.

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

Center does not provide routine transportation.

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**Sleeping & Resting Equipment**

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

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**Staff Records****Records Reviewed: 30****Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 0**

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Staff # 1	Met
Staff # 2	Met
Staff # 3	Met
Staff # 4	Met
Staff # 5	Met
Staff # 6	Met

Date of Hire: 07/26/2021

Reminder - Health & Safety training is required within 90 calendar days of hired

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Staff # 7 Date of Hire: 06/29/2016	Met
Staff # 8 Date of Hire: 06/04/2018	Met
Staff # 9 Date of Hire: 10/15/2018	Met
Staff # 10	Met
Staff # 11 Date of Hire: 05/01/2002	Met
Staff # 12 Date of Hire: 08/02/2017	Met
Staff # 13	Met
Staff # 14	Met
Staff # 15 Date of Hire: 09/21/2018	Met
Staff # 16 Date of Hire: 04/09/2015	Met
Staff # 17 Date of Hire: 10/15/2018	Met
Staff # 18 Date of Hire: 07/02/2018	Met
Staff # 19 Date of Hire: 07/26/2021	Met <u>Reminder - Health &amp; Safety training is required within 90 calendar days of hired</u>
Staff # 20 Date of Hire: 01/08/2018	Met
Staff # 21 Date of Hire: 01/13/2020	Met
Staff # 22	Met
Staff # 23	Met

**Records Reviewed: 30**

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

Date of Hire: 01/08/2008

Staff # 24 Met

Staff # 25 Met

Date of Hire: 08/08/2016

Staff # 26 Met

Date of Hire: 07/24/2009

Staff # 27 Met

Staff # 28 Met

Date of Hire: 11/04/2011

Staff # 29 Met

Date of Hire: 04/17/2015

Staff # 30 Met

Date of Hire: 12/18/2018

**Staff Credentials Reviewed: 8**

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

**Comment**

Criminal record 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) Met**

**Comment**

Center observed to maintain appropriate staff:child ratios.

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

**Comment**

Adequate supervision observed on this date.