



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: 1/28/2025 **VisitType:** Complaint Investigation & Licensing Study **Arrival:** 8:35 AM **Departure:** 3:45 PM

CCLC-35001
Tara Academy
2326 Bouldercrest Road Atlanta, GA 30316 DeKalb County
(404) 381-9300 melioradirector@gmail.com

Regional Consultant
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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.
01/28/2025	Complaint Investigation & Licensing Study	Support	
11/08/2024	POI Follow Up	Good Standing	
09/11/2024	Monitoring Visit	Deficient	

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 1st Left	Infants	1	2	C	11	C	NA	NA	Floor Play,Diapering
Main	B 1st Right	One Year Olds	1	3	C	13	C	NA	NA	Free Play
Main	C 2nd Left	Two Year Olds	2	10	C	22	C	NA	NA	Free Play,Diapering
Main	D 2nd Right	Five Year Olds and Six Year Olds and Over	1	19	C	20	C	NA	NA	Free Play
Main	E 3rd Left	Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds	2	11	C	22	C	NA	NA	Free Play
Main	F 3rd Right	Six Year Olds and Over	1	12	C	16	C	NA	NA	Free Play
Main	G 4th Left		0	0	C	11	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
Main	H 5th Left		0	0	C	26	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
Main	I 4th Right	GA PreK	2	17	C	26	C	NA	NA	Circle Time
		Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 167			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0					
Total # Children this Date: 74		Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 167			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0					

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	PG Preschool	24	C
Main	PG School Age	125	C
Main	PG Toddler	18	C

Enrolled Children						
Under 1 years	1 years	2 years	3 years	4 years	5 years (Prekonly)	5 years and older
2	4	9	10	12	10	25

Comments

An on-site inspection was conducted on January 28, 2025 with the Director Cynthia Wright. Staff files, children's files, training, and background checks were all reviewed.

Plan of Improvement: To Be Submitted 02/11/2025

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.decgal.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), do the following:

- 1) Log into DECAL KOALA www.decalkoala.com with the userid for your program
- 2) On the home page scroll down to the Inspection Reports and select 'Refute Citation' for the visit report in dispute
- 3) Select the specific rule number(s) that you are refuting, add the reason for disagreement regarding the rule citation, and upload supporting documentation
- 4) Submit the refutation in DECAL KOALA to Child Care Services (CCS) within 10 business days of the completion date.

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 Quality Rated/CAPS Update:

As January 1, 2022, child care providers must be Quality Rated to receive Childcare and Parent Services (CAPS). Newly licensed, or new to CAPS providers may be eligible for the new CAPS/QR Provisional Status, allowing for scholarships while working toward a star rating.

Contact the Quality Rated help desk at 855-800-7747 or qualityrated@decgal.ga.gov for more information. Free technical assistance is available!



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(Findings Report)

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Study

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The following information is associated with a Licensing Study Visit:

Activities and Equipment

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

Not Met

Finding

591-1-1-.12(2) requires that all equipment and furniture be free from hazardous conditions such as, but not limited to, sharp rough edges or toxic paint; and be kept clean. It was determined based on observation that the door on the children's kitchen equipment was broken.

Correction Deadline: 2/12/2025

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)

Met

Comment

Licensed capacity observed to be routinely met by center.

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

Not Met

Comment

Please secure cleaning tools (i.e., broom, plunger) out of reach of 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 observation that the following hazards were observed:

C 2nd Left (104)

- A speaker cord was hanging from the white cubbies on the left side accessible to children in care.

D 2nd Right (110)

- Cleaning solution on the on the back cubbies accessible to children in care.

- Febreze fabric spray on the bookshelf accessible to children in care.

I 4th Right (108)

- Hanging cords from the television accessible to children in care.

Correction Deadline: 1/29/2025

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.25(17) - The Consultant discussed with the Director that the Center premises must be free of plants and shrubs which are poisonous or hazardous.

Correction Deadline: 1/28/2025

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 observation that a four and a half inch gap was observed at the entrance gate on the right side of the Preschool playground. It was further determined that a five and a half inch gap was observed at the bottom of the second fence on the right side of the Preschool playground.

Correction Deadline: 2/12/2025

Finding

591-1-1-.26(6) requires that playground equipment provide an opportunity for the children to engage in a variety of experiences and shall be age-appropriate. For example, toddlers shall not be permitted to swing in swings designed for School-age Children. 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. All equipment shall be arranged so as not to obstruct supervision of children. It was determined based on observation that the following hazards were observed:

PG Preschool

- Rust observed on the blue climbing dome.
- Protruding screws observed under the seats on the yellow spring bouncer.

Correction Deadline: 2/12/2025

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 observation that there was appropriately one inch of resilient surface around the blue climbing dome, when three inches was required.

Correction Deadline: 2/12/2025

Recited on 1/28/2025

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.26(9) - The Consultant discussed with the Director that the playground must 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.

Correction Deadline: 1/28/2025

	Food Service
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Comment

CACFP Meal Pattern Requirements effective October 1, 2017 will be implemented October 1, 2018: 3 Components for breakfast: Grains, Vegetables, Fruits or both, Milk
5 Components for lunch – Grains, Meat/Meat alternates, Fruits, Vegetable, and Milk OR Grains, Meat/Meat alternates, 2 different types of vegetables, and Milk
2 of 5 Components for snack

Provided Updated CACFP Infant Meal pattern and Child/Adult Meal pattern flyers.

The Crediting Handbook for the CACFP can be located on DECAL and USDA's website:

DECAL

<http://dec.al.ga.gov/CACFP/Handbook.aspx>

USDA

<http://www.fns.usda.gov/cacfp/cacfp-handbooks>

591-1-1-.18 Kitchen Operations

Met

Comment

Kitchen appears clean and well organized.

Health and Hygiene**591-1-1-.10 Diapering Areas & Practices(CR)**

Not Met

Comment

Hand washing requirements for diapering were discussed with the director on this date.

Finding

591-1-1-.10(5) requires that Center Staff shall not leave infants or children unattended while being diapered or having their clothes changed on the diaper changing surface. It was determined based on observation that a staff member left a child unattended on the diapering table in classroom C for approximately one minute, when the staff person walked over to the trash can to throw a diaper away.

Correction Deadline: 1/29/2025

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

Not Met

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 on observation that a two-year-old child hands were not washed after diapering.

Correction Deadline: 1/29/2025

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 on observation that a staff person did not wash their hands after diapering a child in care.

Correction Deadline: 1/29/2025

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

Met

Comment

Documentation for medication dispensing observed complete.

Policies and Procedures

591-1-1-.21 Operational Policies & Procedures

Technical Assistance

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.21(3) - The Consultant discussed with the Director that the Center must conduct drills for fire, tornado and other emergency situations. The fire drills will be conducted monthly and tornado and other emergency situation drills will be conducted every six months. The Center shall maintain documentation of the dates and times of these drills for two years.

Correction Deadline: 2/2/2025

Safety

591-1-1-.05 Animals

Met

Comment

Animals maintained clean and appropriately caged.

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.

Comment

A current/completed inspection was observed for all vehicles used in transporting children this date.

Comment

Complete documentation of transportation observed.

Comment

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

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.36(4)(b) - The Consultant discussed with the Director that the interior of a transportation vehicle must be clean, in safe repair and free of hazardous items, objects and/or other non-essential items which could cause injury.

Correction Deadline: 1/29/2025

Sleeping & Resting Equipment**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.

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

Criminal record checks were observed to be complete.

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

Evidence observed of 100% of center staff certified in First Aid and CPR.

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

591-1-1-.33(3) requires each Staff member with direct care responsibilities to complete health and safety orientation training within the first 90 days of employment. The state-approved training hours obtained will count toward required first year training hours. The training must address the following health and safety topics: prevention and control of infectious diseases (including immunizations); prevention of sudden infant death syndrome and use of safe sleeping practices; administration of medication, consistent with standards for parental consent; prevention of and response to emergencies due to food and allergic reactions; building and physical premises safety, including identification of and protection from hazards that can cause bodily injury such as electrical hazards, bodies of water, and vehicular traffic; prevention of shaken baby syndrome, abusive head trauma and child maltreatment; emergency preparedness and response planning for emergencies resulting from a natural disaster or a human-caused event (such as violence at a child care facility); handling and storage of hazardous materials and the appropriate disposal of bio contaminants; precautions in transporting children; recognition and reporting of child abuse and neglect; and child development. It was determined based on a review of records that Staff # 7 (hired on September 29, 2022), Staff # 8 (hired on November 9, 2022), Staff # 10 (hired on February 8, 2024), and Staff # 18 (hired on October 2, 2024) did not complete health and safety orientation training within the first 90 days of employment.

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 a review of records that Staff # 8 (hired on November 9, 2022), Staff # 10 (February 8, 2024), and Staff # 12 (November 9, 2020), did not complete the 10 clock hours of diverse training for 2024 as required.

Correction Deadline: 2/27/2025

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

Comment

Adequate supervision observed on this date.