



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: 10/29/2025 VisitType: Monitoring Visit

Arrival: 10:50 AM Departure: 3:45 PM

CCLC-24637

The Chestnut Treehouse

474 South Deshon Rd. Lithonia, GA 30058 DeKalb County
(770) 879-2021

Regional Consultant

Evon Hewitt

Phone: ()

Fax:

evon.hewitt@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.
10/29/2025	Monitoring Visit	Good Standing	
01/09/2025	Licensing Study	Good Standing	
08/01/2024	Complaint Closure	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-1st Right-	Two Year Olds	2	9	C	16	C	NA	NA	Circle Time,Art
Main	B-2nd rt- 0-12 mos	Infants	1	2	C	11	C	NA	NA	Nap
Main	C- 1st Left -New- 2 y/o	One Year Olds	1	1	C	16	C	NA	NA	Free Play,Diapering
Main	D-3rd right- 3 y/o		0	0	C	14	C	NA	NA	
Main	E-4th Right- 4 y/o	Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds	2	12	C	24	C	NA	NA	Free Play,Music,Story,Lunch
Main	F-3rd Left- End- 5+		0	0	C	33	C	NA	NA	
Main	G- Pre-K	GA PreK	2	15	C	25	C	NA	NA	Transitioning,Music,Lunch,Clean Up
Main	H-new room		0	0	C	9	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
			Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 148			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0				
Total # Children this Date: 39			Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 148			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0				

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	A-6wks-3 years	28	C
Main	B 3-12 years	95	C

Enrolled Children						
Under 1 years	1 years	2 years	3 years	4 years	5 years (Prekonly)	5 years and older
2	5	9	13	15	0	19

Comments

The findings of this report were reviewed with the Provider on this date. Previous rule violations were observed/discussed.

Plan of Improvement: Developed This Date

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.al.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@dec.al.ga.gov for more information. Free technical assistance is available!



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Summary Report

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Arrival: 10:50 AM **Departure:** 3:45 PM

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The following information is associated with a Monitoring Visit:

Activities and Equipment

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

Not Met

Finding

591-1-1-.12(4) requires that equipment and furniture is secured if it is of a weight or mass that could cause injury from tipping, falling, or being pulled or pushed over. It was determined based on observation that there was a white table stacked on top of a plastic storage bin in the hallway outside of classroom G- PreK near the handwashing sinks which posed a potential tipping hazard on this date.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will ensure that the identified equipment or furniture and any other such existing or future items are secured adequately and will have a system for checking these for stability.

Correction Deadline: 10/31/2025

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

N/A

Comment

Center does not provide swimming activities.

Children's Records

591-1-1-.08 Children's Records

Met

Correction Deadline: 1/19/2025

Corrected on 10/29/2025

.08(2) - Previous citation corrected in that the Provider stated that the Center is in 100% compliance with the health department as required.

Facility

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

Met

Comment

Licensed capacity observed to be routinely met by center on this date.

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

Not Met

Correction Deadline: 2/8/2025

Corrected on 10/29/2025

.25(11) - Previous citation corrected in that the Consultant observed the hallway bathroom flooring to be smooth and tight on this date.

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 observation that there was a bladeless fan at the front left of classroom E- 4th Right- 4 y/o accessible to children on this date.

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: 10/31/2025

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 upon observation that the following potential hazards were accessible to children on this date:

Classroom A-1st Right

- There was a clear plastic diaper bag in a child's cubby.
- There was a Pampers Pull Ups plastic bag in a child's cubby.
- There was a pair of adult scissors on top of a shelf at the front right.

Classroom C- 1st Left- New 2 y/o

- There was an unlocked drawer with adult scissors at the back middle.

Classroom D- 3rd Right- 3 y/o

- There was a pack of Parent's Choice baby wipes on the table at the back middle.
- There was a bottle of Lysol multipurpose cleaner on a shelf at the back right.

Back Right Hallway

- There was a broom and dust pan on the left side of the hallway near the handwashing sinks.
- There was a plastic grocery bag on a shelf at the right side of the hallway.

Classroom E- 4th Right- 4 y/o

- There was a Staff purse/bag on a shelf at the back middle.
- There was a bottle of Purell hand sanitizer and a plastic grocery bag on a storage shelf at the front right
- There was a pack of Parent Choice baby wipes in a cubby at the front right.
- There was a ziplock bag inside a cubby at the back right.
- There was a plastic bag with diapers in a child's cubby at the back left.

Classroom F- 3rd Left- End- 5+

- There were two brooms and a dust pan in an unlocked closet at the front right.
- There were four trash bags near the storage cabinet at the back right.
- There was a ziplock bag with a plastic slider near the storage cabinet at the back right.
- There were two plastic grocery bags on top of the trash bags near the storage cabinet at the back right.
- There were two trash bags, one plastic grocery bag, and a dust pan in an unlocked cabinet at the back right.

Classroom G- PreK

- There was a dust pan and broom at the front right.
- There was bottle of Windex spray on a shelf at the back middle
- There were two trash bags on the floor near the children's cubbies at the back left.

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: 10/31/2025

Recited on 10/29/2025

Finding

591-1-1-.25(8) requires protective caps on all unused electrical outlets within children's reach and requires that electrical outlets in use be made inaccessible to children. It was determined based on observation the following potential electrical hazards were accessible to children on this date:

Main hallway Front of Building

-There were electrical cords in a white plastic bin on the floor on the left side of the hallway.

Classroom C- 1st Left- New- 2 y/o

-There was a hanging electrical cord at the back right.

Classroom F- 3rd Left- End- 5+

-The cord from the surge protector was accessible to children in the school age classroom and was missing three protective covers.

-There were two hanging cords from an air purifier and lamp on top of the children's cubbies at the back left.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will train Staff to check outlets and replace protective caps when needed and identify and monitor how outlets in use are inaccessible to children.

Correction Deadline: 10/31/2025

Recited on 10/29/2025

591-1-1-.26 Playgrounds(CR)**Not Met****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 there was a crack measuring approximately 12 inches at the bottom right of the slide on the red, blue, and yellow play structure causing a potential pinching hazard on this date.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will provide a variety of age-appropriate equipment that is arranged so as not to obstruct supervision of children. Staff will check the equipment daily to ensure that the equipment is free of hazards, rust and splinters.

Correction Deadline: 11/28/2025

Recited on 10/29/2025

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

Correction Deadline: 1/9/2025

Corrected on 10/29/2025

.10(2) - Previous citation corrected in that the Consultant observed the Center to have warm running water adjacent to the diapering area as required on this date.

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

Correction Deadline: 1/9/2025

Corrected on 10/29/2025

.17(7) - Previous citation corrected in that the Consultant observed the Center to have warm running water for handwashing as required on this date.

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

The Provider currently does not dispense/administer medication.

591-1-1-.11 Discipline(CR)

Met

Comment

Age-appropriate discussion and/or redirection observed.

591-1-1-.36 Transportation(CR)

Met

Correction Deadline: 1/10/2025

Corrected on 10/29/2025

.36(4)(b) - Previous citation corrected in that the Consultant observed the interior of the vehicle used for transportation to be in good repair as required on this date.

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

Met

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

Records Reviewed: 26

Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 2

Staff # 2

Not Met

Date of Hire: 06/17/2025

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.14(2)-CPR missing,.14(2)-First Aid Missing,.33(3)-Health & Safety Certificate

Staff # 13

Not Met

Date of Hire: 04/17/2025

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.14(2)-First Aid Missing,.14(2)-CPR missing,.33(3)-Health & Safety Certificate

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(CR)

Not Met

Finding

Previously Cited: 591-1-1-.14(1) requires the Center Director and, at any given time, at least fifty percent (50%) of the caregiver Staff to successfully complete a biennial training program in cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and a triennial training program in first aid. The first aid training must be done by certified or licensed health care professionals or trainers and must deal with the provision of emergency care to infants and children. The Center shall maintain current evidence of the successful completion of such training which shall be available to the Department for inspection. It was determined based on review the Center Director and fifty percent (50%) of the caregiver Staff did not have current evidence of biennial training program in cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and a triennial training program in first aid. There was one person with current evidence of the required training.

591-1-1-.14(1)(a) requires all Staff who provide direct care to children must obtain certification in a biennial training program in pediatric cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and a triennial training program in pediatric first aid within the first 45 days of employment. Current and valid evidence of the successful completion of such training shall be maintained on the Center's premises. The hours obtained completing this certification will not count towards the required annual training hours. It was determined based on a review of records that Staff #2, hired on June 17, 2025 ,and Staff #13, hired on April 17, 2025, did not have documentation of a completing First Aid and CPR training within the first 45 days of employment as required on this date.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

Previously Cited: The Center Director and at least 50% of the caregiver Staff will complete the needed training. The Director will send written verification to the consultant upon completion and will develop a plan to ensure that at least 50% of the caregiver Staff have completed this training at any given time and that evidence of successful completion of the training is on file available for inspection. CPR and First aid training scheduled for January 25, 2025.

All caregiver Staff will complete the required training. The Director will send copies via email verification of completed CPR/First Aid certification to the consultant upon completion and will develop a plan to ensure all caregiver Staff have completed this training within the first 45 days of employment and that evidence of successful completion of the training is on file available for inspection.

Correction Deadline: 11/28/2025

Recited on 10/29/2025

Correction Deadline: 1/9/2025

Corrected on 10/29/2025

.14(2)(c) - Previous citation corrected in that the Consultant observed documentation of a current and valid First Aid and CPR certificate for the Staff person responsible for transporting children.

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

591-1-1-.33(5)(b)(2)(i)-(iv) requires the annual ten (10) clock hours of training shall include at least two (2) hours in on-going child development and health and safety related topics, which could include, but not be limited to:

(i) Child development (e.g., developmental domains (cognitive; social and emotional; physical development and motor skills; communication, language, and literacy; approaches to play and learning), discipline and guidance techniques, children with special needs); (ii) Health (e.g., nutrition and the support of breast feeding, physical activity, prevention and control of illnesses and infectious diseases, immunizations, prevention of and response to emergencies due to food and allergic reactions, cleanliness, sanitation, and the appropriate disposal of bio contaminants); (iii) Safety (e.g., prevention of Sudden Unexpected Infant Death (SUID) which includes Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) and the use of safe sleeping practices, medication administration, injury control and prevention, transportation, handling and storage of hazardous materials, identification of and protection from hazards that can cause bodily injury such as electrical hazards, bodies of water, and vehicular traffic, and emergency preparedness planning and response); (iv) Child abuse and neglect (e.g., identification and reporting, meeting the needs of abused and/or neglected children, prevention of shaken baby syndrome, abusive head trauma and child maltreatment). It was determined based on a review of records that Staff #2, hired on June 17, 2025, and Staff #13, hired April 17, 2025, did not have documentation of completing Health and Safety training within the first 90 days of employment as required on this date.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will plan and schedule the required 10 hours of annual training each year to include a least two (2) hours of on-going child development and health and safety related topics and follow up to ensure the training is completed.

Correction Deadline: 11/28/2025

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.

Finding

591-1-1-.32(7) requires that children be supervised at all times appropriate to the individual age, needs and capabilities of each child. Such supervision must include, but not be limited to, indoor and outdoor activities, mealtimes, naptime, transportation, field trips, and transitions between activities. "Supervision" means that the appropriate number of Staff members are physically present in the area where children are being cared for and are providing watchful oversight to the children, volunteers and Students-in-Training. The persons supervising in the child care area must be alert, positioned to maximize their ability to hear and see the children at all times, and able to respond promptly to the needs and actions of the children being supervised, as well as the actions of the volunteers and Students-in-Training, and provide timely attention to the children's actions and needs. Staff shall be attentive and participating with all children during mealtimes and shall be seated within an arm's length away from children thirty-six (36) months of age and younger. It was determined based on observation that Staff in classroom C- 1st Left- New 2 y/o and classroom E-4th Right-4 y/o was not seated within an arm's length away from children thirty-six (36) months of age and younger during meal time as required on this date.

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: 10/29/2025