



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: 9/9/2026

VisitType: Licensing Study

Arrival: 8:00 AM **Departure:** 12:00 PM

CCLC-54841

Learning Tree Academy

1940 Old Hwy 5 Blue Ridge, GA 30513 Fannin County
(706) 633-8198

CCS Coordinator

Yolanda Marable

Phone: (470) 259-0554

Fax:

yolanda.marable@dec.al.ga.gov

Mailing Address

Same

Quality Rated: No

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.
09/09/2026	Licensing Study	Good Standing	
01/09/2026	Licensing Study	Good Standing	
03/13/2025	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 Building	Room A-Toddler	Two Year Olds	1	4	C	14	C	NA	NA	Story
Main Building	Room B-Preschool	Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds	1	4	C	24	C	NA	NA	Art
Main Building	Room C-Preschool	One Year Olds	1	2	C	10	C	NA	NA	Free Play
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 48			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0							
Total # Children this Date: 10			Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 48							
			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0							

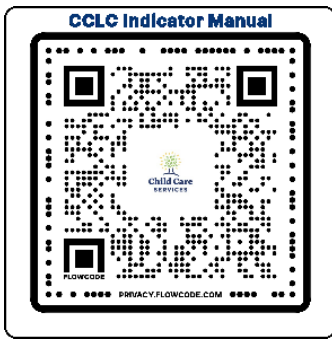
Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main Building	Preschool	24	C
Main Building	Toddler	14	C

Enrolled Children					
Infant (0-12 months)	Toddler (1-2 yrs)	Preschool (3-5yrs/full time care)	School Age (before/after care only)	GA PreK only	Summer Only
0	16	18	0	0	0

Comments

The purpose of this visit was to conduct a licensing study.

Plan of Improvement: Developed This Date



For additional information regarding any licensing topics discussed during this visit, please consult the Rules and Regulations Indicator Manual. This manual provides comprehensive clarification of each rule, including evaluation indicators, related best practices, and relevant considerations to support your program's continued and sustained compliance.

To access the Indicator Manual, please scan the QR code below or visit our website at <https://www.decal.ga.gov/CCS/RulesAndRegulations.aspx>.



For additional information regarding the full compliance inspection results of this program or any licensed program in the state, access the Child Care Services Compliance-at-a Glance website by scanning this QR code or visiting: <https://families.decal.ga.gov>.

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.decal.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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The following information is associated with a Licensing Study:

Activities and Equipment

591-1-1-.03 Activities

Met

Comment

Lesson Plans were observed to be posted and reflected the current weeks activities in each classroom.

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

Met

Comment

A variety of equipment and toys were observed throughout the center on this date.

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

Comment

Records were observed to be complete and well organized.

Facility

591-1-1-.06 Bathrooms

Met

Comment

Bathrooms observed to be clean and hazardous items were discussed with the Director.

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

Met

Comment

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

Correction Deadline: 1/9/2026

Corrected on 9/9/2026

The previous citation was corrected on this date. The consultant observed n observation appropriate license capacity.

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 the following hazards were accessible to children in Room A and Room B.

Room A

The teacher's brown bag and lunch box were on the floor behind the desk and were accessible to children. The bathroom cabinet was unlocked, and a plunger and cleaning spray were stored inside, accessible to children.

Children's bags in the cubbies contained hand sanitizer and a container of baby wipes, which were accessible to children.

The drawers underneath the changing table were not secured with locks while storing baby wipes, making them accessible to children.

Room C

Clorox wipes and a broom were located near the door leading to the playground and were accessible to children.

The teacher's bag was placed on a shelf behind the tan teacher's desk and was accessible to children.

A stapler and drill were located on the teacher's desk and were accessible to children.

A child's bag in the cubby contained a bag of wet wipes that was accessible to children.

The green storage drawers, both on top of and inside the drawers, were not secured with locks while storing baby wipes, making them accessible to children.

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: 9/9/2026

591-1-1-.26 Playgrounds(CR)**Technical Assistance****Technical Assistance**

Please fluff and redistribute the resilient surface around and beneath the fall zone of the gray climbing equipment on the preschool playground.

Correction Deadline: 9/19/2026

Technical Assistance

Please maintain the weeds growing long the fence line of the preschool playground and vines growing over the fence on the toddler playground.

Correction Deadline: 9/9/2026

Food Service**591-1-1-.15 Food Service & Nutrition****Met****Comment**

Please ensure all required meal components are included with all meals served at the center. The center provides breakfast and snack and the parents provide lunch.

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>

Comment

Kitchen appears clean and well organized on this date.

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

Technical Assistance

Technical Assistance

Please ensure there is a smooth, nonporous changing pad in Room A.

Correction Deadline: 9/9/2026

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

Technical Assistance

Technical Assistance

Please ensure that children wash their hands with liquid soap and warm running water upon arrival and returning from outside.

Correction Deadline: 9/9/2026

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

N/A

Comment

The Provider currently does not dispense/administer medication.

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

Technical Assistance

Technical Assistance

Please update the policy and procedures to include shaken baby syndrome and abusive head trauma in children up to five years of age that includes the following information: how to recognize, respond to, and report the signs and symptoms of shaken baby syndrome and abusive head trauma; strategies to assist staff members in understanding how to care for infants and how to cope with a crying, fussing, or distraught child; strategies to ensure staff members understand the brain development of children up to five years of age; and a list of prohibited behaviors when dealing with children.

Correction Deadline: 9/14/2026

Technical Assistance

Please ensure you complete the second place of the emergency drills for fire, tornado and other emergency situations.

Correction Deadline: 9/14/2026

591-1-1-.29 Required Reporting

Met

Comment

Discussed reporting requirements and how to entering closure dates.

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)

N/A

Comment

Center does not participate in field trips at this time.

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

N/A

Comment

Center does not provide routine transportation.

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.

Staff Records

Records Reviewed: 5

Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 1

Staff # 5

Not Met

Date of Hire: 08/14/2024

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.14(2)-CPR missing,.14(2)-First Aid 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-.09 Criminal Records Check(CR)

Met

Comment

Consultant requested to view all Criminal Record checks for employees hired after last visit. Director stated that there have been no new hires since last visit

591-1-1-.14 First Aid & CPR(CR)

Not Met

Comment

Please replace/add missing/expired item(s) in first aid kit(s).

Correction Deadline: 2/8/2026

Corrected on 9/9/2026

The previous citation was corrected on this date.

Finding

591-1-1-.14(2)(b) requires that there must always be one staff person present in each classroom where children are present that has current and valid pediatric cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and pediatric first aid training. It was determined based on a review of records Staff #5 was present without documentation of current First Aid and CPR certification.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Director will schedule and/or position caregiver Staff throughout the Center to ensure at least one currently pediatric CPR and First Aid trained Staff person is present in each classroom where children are present.

Correction Deadline: 9/18/2026

Recited on 9/9/2026

591-1-1-.33 Staff Training

Not Met

Technical Assistance

Please require all staff or person providing direct care to children to complete health and safety orientation training before entering the classroom.

Correction Deadline: 10/9/2026

Finding

591-1-1-.33(5)(a) 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 offered by an accredited college, university or vocational program or other Department-approved source. It was determined based on review of records staff member # 3 provided evidence of 4.5 out of 10 annual training hours for 2025.

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: 10/9/2026

Comment

Staff observed to be compliant with applicable laws and regulations.

Staffing and Supervision

Comment

Center observed to maintain appropriate staff:child ratios.

Comment

Adequate supervision observed on this date.