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: 10/16/2025 **VisitType:** Complaint Investigation & Licensing Study **Arrival:** 1:30 PM **Departure:** 4:00 PM

CCLC-65964
Lakestones Academy - Cartersville
216 E Felton Rd Cartersville, GA 30121 Bartow County
(678) 820-6899

Regional Consultant
Sharnette Glenn
Phone: (404) 651-8365
Fax: (404) 334-4612
sharnette.glenn@decal.ga.gov

Mailing Address
Same

Quality Rated: No

Compliance Zone Designation		
10/16/2025	Complaint Investigation & Licensing Study	Good Standing
04/21/2025	Initial Licensing Study	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	Rm A 6 weeks to 6 months	Infants	1	6	C	6	C	NA	NA	Feeding,Nap
Main	Rm B 6 weeks to 6 months	Infants	1	5	C	5	C	NA	NA	Feeding,Floor Play
Main	RM C 6 month to 13 months	Infants	1	6	C	7	C	NA	NA	Nap,Floor Play
Main	RM D 6 Months to 13 months		0	0	C	6	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
Main	Rm E Four year old		0	0	C	14	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
Main	Rm F three year olds		0	0	C	14	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
Main	RM G Two's and Three's	Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds	1	14	C	14	C	NA	NA	Nap
Main	RM H Two's	Two Year Olds	1	10	C	10	C	NA	NA	Nap
Main	Rm I two's	Two Year Olds	1	9	C	10	C	NA	NA	Nap
Main	Rm J Four year old	Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds	1	20	C	21	C	NA	NA	Nap
Main	RM K 13 to 23 months	One Year Olds	1	5	C	9	C	NA	NA	Nap
Main	Rm L 13 months to 23 months	One Year Olds	1	7	C	9	C	NA	NA	Nap
Main	Special Use Room		0	0	C	0	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
		Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 125			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0					
Total # Children this Date: 82		Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 125			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0					

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	A- three year old and up	70	C
Main	B -Two's	10	C
Main	C-6 weeks to 35 months	22	C
Main	D-6 weeks to 23 months	5	C

Enrolled Children						
Under 1 years	**1 years**	**2 years**	**3 years**	**4 years**	**5 years (Prekonly)**	**5 years and older**
16	20	25	19	9	0	1

Comments
The consultant reviewed the weather chart and new rule changes that took effect on July 1, 2025. The consultant went over the report with the provider.

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.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@decal.ga.gov **for more information. Free techincal assistance is available!**

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Summary Report

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The following information is associated with a Licensing Study Visit:

Activities and Equipment

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

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

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

Correction Deadline: 5/21/2025

Corrected on 10/16/2025
.12(6) - The previous citation was corrected. The consultant observed a variety of toys in each center on today's visit.

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
Parent agreements observed obtained/completed.

Comment
Parent authorizations obtained/completed.

Comment
Records were observed to be complete and well organized.

Facility

591-1-1-.06 Bathrooms **Met**

Comment
Bathrooms observed to be clean and well maintained.

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) **Met**

Comment
No hazards observed accessible to children on this date.

Comment
The Center appeared clean and well maintained on this date.

Correction Deadline: 4/21/2025

Corrected on 10/16/2025
.25(3) - The previous citation was corrected. The consultant observed that the refrigerator has a gate to prevent the children from accessing the area.

591-1-1-.26 Playgrounds(CR) **Not Met**

Finding
591-1-1-.26(3) requires that the playground be adjacent to the Center or in an area which can be reached by a safe route or method approved by the Department. Except in School-age Centers, the playground shall have shaded areas. It was determined based on observation playground D lack shade structures.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
The Center will identify a safe route or method to reach any non-adjacent playground and submit it for approval. The Center will install structures to provide shade if there is not sufficient natural shade on the playground.

Correction Deadline: 12/31/2025

Recited on 10/16/2025

Correction Deadline: 4/21/2025

Corrected on 10/16/2025
.26(4) - The previous citation was corrected. The consultant did not observe on playgrounds C and D with screw protrusion on the fence gate and the corner posts on today's visit.

Correction Deadline: 5/1/2025

Corrected on 10/16/2025
.26(6) - The previous citation was corrected. The consultant observed balls, hula hoops, and trucks on the playgrounds.

Food Service

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

Comment
Center menu meets USDA guidelines.

Comment
Please ensure that bottles are covered and fully labeled with child's full name.

591-1-1-.18 Kitchen Operations **Met**

Comment
Discussed proper steps for dishwashing on this date.

Comment
Kitchen appears clean and well organized on this date.

Health and Hygiene

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

Comment
Staff stated proper knowledge of diapering procedures.

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

Comment
Proper hand washing observed throughout the center on this date.

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

Comment
Discussed proper medication documentation and procedures.

Comment
The Provider currently does not dispense/administer medication.

Policies and Procedures

591-1-1-.21 Operational Policies & Procedures **Technical Assistance**

Technical Assistance
591-1-1-.21(2)(r) - New - The consultant discussed with the provider to make sure the Center policies and procedures include a description of the practices followed by the Center to prevent 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: 10/21/2025

591-1-1-.29 Required Reporting **Met**

Comment
Discussed reporting requirements.

Safety

591-1-1-.05 Animals **N/A**

Comment
Center does not keep animals on premises.

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
Discussed SIDS and infant sleeping position.

Comment
Pleasant naptime environment observed.

Comment
Please ensure that cribs/cots are labeled for individual use.

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: 18 **Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 10**

Staff # 1 Not Met

Date of Hire: 07/02/2025

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.24(1)-Evidence of Orientation Missing,.33(3)-Health & Safety Certificate

Staff # 2 Not Met

Date of Hire: 06/16/2025

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.24(1)-Evidence of Orientation Missing,.33(3)-Health & Safety Certificate

Staff # 3 Not Met

Date of Hire: 05/27/2025

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.24(1)-Evidence of Orientation Missing,.33(3)-Health & Safety Certificate

Staff # 6 Not Met

Date of Hire: 06/16/2025

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.24(1)-Evidence of Orientation Missing,.33(3)-Health & Safety Certificate

Staff # 8 Not Met

Date of Hire: 05/27/2025

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.24(1)-Evidence of Orientation Missing

Staff # 9 Not Met

Date of Hire: 06/16/2025

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.24(1)-Evidence of Orientation Missing,.33(3)-Health & Safety Certificate

Staff # 10 Not Met

Date of Hire: 05/12/2025

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(3)-Health & Safety Certificate

Staff # 11 Not Met

Date of Hire: 07/07/2025

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(3)-Health & Safety Certificate

Staff # 12 Not Met

Date of Hire: 05/21/2025

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(3)-Health & Safety Certificate

Staff # 15 Not Met

Date of Hire: 06/30/2025

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.24(1)-Evidence of Orientation Missing

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) **Met**

Comment
Complete first aid kits observed in center and on vehicles on this date.

Comment
Evidence observed of 50% of center Staff certified in First Aid and CPR.

591-1-1-.24 Personnel Records **Not Met**

Finding
591-1-1-.24(1) requires the center to maintain a personnel file on the Director, all Employees, Provisional Employees, Personnel, Staff, Students-in-Training, Volunteers, Clerical, Housekeeping, Maintenance, and other Support Staff for the duration of the term of employment plus one calendar year, and it shall contain the following: identifying information to include: name, date of birth, social security number, current address and current telephone number; employment history; as applicable to the position held: evidence of education and qualifying work experience; evidence of all training required by these rules which shall include: title of training, date of training, trainer's signature, location of training and number of clock hours obtained; a statement completed by the staff member that the information provided is true and accurate; any other records required by these rules; and as applicable to the position held, evidence of required orientation including date and signature of person providing the orientation; It was determined based on the review of the staff files that staff members #1, #2, #3, #6, #8, #9, and #15 did not have completion of their required orientation, including the date and signature of the person receiving the orientation, and the date the person providing the orientation.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
The Center will secure required information for all Personnel. The Center will ensure that complete information is in the personnel file for all Directors, Employees, Provisional Employees, Personnel, Staff, Students-in-Training, Volunteers, Clerical, Housekeeping, Maintenance and other Support Staff.

Correction Deadline: 10/17/2025

Recited on 10/16/2025

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

Comment
Discussed staff training. Please obtain required documentation.

Comment
Please ensure completed orientation checklists are documented and signed.

Finding
591-1-1-.33(2) requires the initial Center orientation to include the following subjects: the Center's policies and procedures; the portions of these rules dealing with the care, health and safety of children; the Staff person's assigned duties and responsibilities; reporting requirements for suspected cases of child abuse, neglect or deprivation; communicable diseases and serious injuries; emergency weather plans; the program's emergency preparedness plan; childhood injury control; the administration of medicine; reducing the risk of Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS); hand washing; fire safety; water safety; and prevention of HIV/AIDS and blood borne pathogens. It was determined based on a review of staff files that staff members #6, #9, and #15 had not completed their initial center orientation.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
The Center will provide orientation in all missing subjects to the employee(s) and will take steps to provide a complete orientation to new Employees in the future.

Correction Deadline: 10/17/2025

Recited on 10/16/2025

Finding
591-1-1-.33(3)(a)-(k) 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: a)prevention and control of infectious diseases (including immunizations); b) prevention of sudden infant death syndrome and use of safe sleeping practices; c) administration of medication, consistent with standards for parental consent; d) prevention of and response to emergencies due to food and allergic reactions; e) 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; f) prevention of shaken baby syndrome, abusive head trauma and child maltreatment; g) 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); h) handling and storage of hazardous materials and the appropriate disposal of bio contaminants; i) precautions in transporting children; j) recognition and reporting of child abuse and neglect; and k) child development to include all major domains:cognitive; social and emotional; physical development and motor skills; communication, language, and literacy; and approaches to play and learning. It was determined, based on a review of staff files, that staff members #1, #2, #3, #6, #9, #10, #11, and #12 did not have evidence of completing their ten hours of Health and Safety Training.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
The Center will develop and implement a plan to schedule and track this training for all employees based on their hire dates and will ensure that the training includes all required components as required.

Correction Deadline: 11/15/2025

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.

Comment
Staff observed to be compliant with applicable laws and regulations.

Correction Deadline: 4/21/2025

Corrected on 10/16/2025
.31(1)(b)2. - The previous citation was corrected. The consultant reviewed the director's 40 hours of director training.

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.