



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: 4/21/2026 **VisitType:** Monitoring Visit

Arrival: 10:05 AM **Departure:** 3:15 PM

CCLC-63280

Lemon Kids Academy

1032 Bateman Drive Social Circle, GA 30025 Walton County
(675) 575-9816

Regional Consultant

LaTanya Swift

Phone: ()

Fax:

latanya.swift@dec.al.ga.gov

Joint with: Kaycee Purvis

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.
04/21/2026	Monitoring Visit	Good Standing	
11/21/2025	Complaint Closure	Good Standing	
11/19/2025	Complaint Investigation & Licensing Study	Support	

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 - Infants and 1's		0	0	C	6	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
Main	B - Infants and 1's	Infants	1	3	C	7	C	NA	NA	Feeding,Floor Play
Main	C - 1's	One Year Olds and Two Year Olds	1	7	C	8	C	NA	NA	Outside
Main	D - 1's	One Year Olds	1	4	C	8	C	NA	NA	Outside
Main	E - 2's	Two Year Olds	1	10	C	21	C	NA	NA	Free Play
Main	F - 3's		0	0	C	17	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
Main	G - 3's	Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds	1	15	C	17	C	NA	NA	Outside
Main	H - Pre-K	GA PreK	1	9	C	23	C	NA	NA	Centers
Main	I - Pre-K	GA PreK	1	4	C	23	C	NA	NA	Centers
		Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 125			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0		Building @35 capacity limited by Fire Marshall Limitations			
Total # Children this Date: 52		Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 125			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0					

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	A - Infant/toddler	20	C
Main	B - Preschool/School Age	42	C

Enrolled Children						
Under 1 years	1 years	2 years	3 years	4 years	5 years (Prekonly)	5 years and older
7	14	20	32	17	0	27

Comments

All Core Rules were evaluated on this date.

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.dec.state.ga.us/CCS/RulesAndRegulations.aspx>.

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/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 Monitoring Visit:

Activities and Equipment

591-1-1-.03 Activities

Met

Correction Deadline: 11/19/2025

Corrected on 4/21/2026

.03(2) - The previous citation was corrected on this date. The lesson plans were observed posted in the classrooms.

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

Met

Correction Deadline: 11/19/2025

Corrected on 4/21/2026

.12(4) - The previous citation was corrected on this date. The Consultants did not observe stacked chairs in classrooms.

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

Not Evaluated

Comment

Center does not provide swimming activities.

Facility

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

Met

Correction Deadline: 11/19/2025

Corrected on 4/21/2026

.19(1) - The previous citation was corrected on this date. The Center's License capacity was met.

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

Met

Correction Deadline: 11/19/2025

Corrected on 4/21/2026

.25(13) - The previous citation was corrected on this date. There were no potentially hazardous equipment, materials and supplies accessible to children.

591-1-1-.26 Playgrounds(CR)

Not Met

Correction Deadline: 11/19/2025

Corrected on 4/21/2026

.26(4) - The previous citation was corrected on this date. The were protected by traffic or other hazards.

Finding

591-1-1-.26(9) requires the playground to 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. It was determined based on observation that there were exposed tree roots on Playground A. It was further determined that there was exposed weed fabric causing potential tripping hazards under the mulch on Playground A.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will remove any litter and fix or remove hazards from the playground and will routinely monitor the playground and remove litter and hazards.

Correction Deadline: 5/1/2026

Recited on 4/21/2026

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

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

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

Proper hand washing observed throughout the center on this date.

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

The Provider currently does not dispense/administer medication.

Safety**591-1-1-.11 Discipline(CR)****Met**

Correction Deadline: 3/11/2025

Corrected on 4/21/2026

.11(2) - The previous citation was corrected on this date. The Consultants observed appropriate discipline of the children.

591-1-1-.36 Transportation(CR)**Not Met**

Correction Deadline: 11/20/2025

Corrected on 4/21/2026

.36(7)(a) - The previous citation was corrected on this date. A review of records by the Consultants revealed there were complete transportation agreements on file.

Correction Deadline: 11/20/2025

Corrected on 4/21/2026

.36(7)(b) - The previous citation was corrected on this date. A review of records revealed that there were complete vehicle emergency forms on file.

Finding

591-1-1-.36(7)(c)2. requires that the driver or other designated person shall immediately document in writing, with a check or other mark/symbol to account for each child listed on the passenger transportation checklist each time a child enters and exits the vehicle. The driver or other designated staff person shall document in writing with a different mark/symbol to account for each child listed on the passenger transportation checklist who was not present on the vehicle for any reason. An explanation shall be documented in writing whenever a child is transported to a field trip site but is not present on the return trip to the Center. It was determined based on a review of records that Center staff failed to document in writing the load and unload time for one child on the afternoon route from the center to North Cherokee Elementary on April 13, 2026, and April 14, 2026.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The driver/other designated person will immediately document in writing with a check/mark/symbol each time a child gets on and off the vehicle.

Correction Deadline: 4/22/2026

Sleeping & Resting Equipment

Correction Deadline: 11/19/2025

Corrected on 4/21/2026

.30(1)(a)3 - The previous citation was corrected on this date. The crib sheets were observed tight-fitting.

Staff Records**Records Reviewed: 10****Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 2**

Staff # 2

Not Met

Date of Hire: 04/21/2026

Reminder - Health & Safety training is required within 90 calendar days of hired"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.09-Criminal Records Check Missing

Staff # 10

Not Met

Date of Hire: 11/21/2025

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.14(2)-CPR missing,.14(2)-First Aid Missing

591-1-1-.09 Criminal Records and Comprehensive Background Checks(CR)**Not Met****Finding**

591-1-1-.09(1)(a) requires that a Center ensure that every actual and potential Director, Employee and Provisional Employee of a Child Care Learning Center submit both a Records Check Application to the Department and Fingerprints to an authorized fingerprinting site. It was determined based on review of records that staff #2 hired on, April 21, 2026, did not submit a Records Check Application prior to being present at the Center while children were present.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

IMMEDIATE CORRECTION - The Center will watch the videos to ensure that every actual and potential Director, Employee and Provisional Employee of a Child Care Learning Center submit both a Records Check Application to the Department and Fingerprints to an authorized fingerprinting site as required. The program's owner or an officer/member of the corporation must view the A to Z Background Check video units pertaining to this records check rule and return the signed affidavit within one week from this visit date. The Center will watch the videos to ensure the CRC rules are maintained.

Correction Deadline: 4/21/2026**Finding**

591-1-1-.09(1)(c) requires the Center to ensure that every Employee has a valid and current satisfactory Comprehensive Records Check Determination on file prior to being present at the Center while any child is present for care or before an individual age 17 or older resides in the Center. The Comprehensive Records Check Determination must have a Records Check Clearance Date that is no older than the preceding 12 months of the hire date; provided, however, if the Employee has had a lapse of employment from the child care industry that lasted for 180 days (6 months) or longer, a new satisfactory Comprehensive Records Check Determination is required. It was determined based on review of records that staff #2 hired on, April 21, 2026, did not have a valid and current satisfactory Comprehensive Records Check Determination on file prior to being present at the Center while children were present.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

IMMEDIATE CORRECTION - The Center will watch the videos to ensure that every Employee has a valid and current satisfactory Comprehensive Records Check Determination on file prior to being present at the Center while any child is present for care or before an individual age 17 or older resides in the Center. The Comprehensive Records Check Determination must have a Records Check Clearance Date that is no older than the preceding 12 months of the hire date; provided, however, if the Employee has had a lapse of employment from the child care industry that lasted for 180 days (6 months) or longer, a new satisfactory Comprehensive Records Check Determination is required. The program's owner or an officer/member of the corporation must view the A to Z Background Check video units pertaining to this records check rule and return the signed affidavit within one week from this visit date. The center will watch the videos to ensure the CRC rules are maintained.

591-1-1-.14 First Aid & CPR(CR)**Not Met****Finding**

Previously Cited: 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 the following staff did not have evidence of first aid/CPR within 45 days of employment:

- Staff #3 hired on August 22, 2025
- Staff #1 hired on September 11, 2025
- Staff #5 hired on August 11, 2025
- Staff #2 hired on March 3, 2025

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 #10, hired on November 21, 2025, did not have evidence of biennial training in pediatric cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and triennial training in pediatric first aid within the first 45 days of employment as required.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

Previously Cited: 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.

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: 4/28/2026**Recited on 4/21/2026****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****Correction Deadline: 11/4/2025****Corrected on 4/21/2026**

.32(1) - The previous citation was corrected on this date. The appropriate ratio was observed.

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 were not seated within arms reach of children who were thirty-six months or younger during lunch in Classrooms E - 2's and G - 3's.

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: 4/22/2026

Recited on 4/21/2026