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: 4/21/2025 **VisitType:** Initial Licensing Study **Arrival:** 10:00 AM **Departure:** 3:00 PM

CCLC-65964
Lakestones Academy - Cartersville
216 E Felton Rd Cartersville, GA 30121 County
(678) 820-6899 Adrienne.Echols@otterlearning.com

Application Services Unit Consultant
Lateshar Williams
Phone: ()
Fax:
lateshar.williams@decal.ga.gov
Joint with: Margaret Pringle

Mailing Address
Same

Quality Rated: No

Compliance Zone Designation		
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		0	0	C	6	C	NA	NA	
Main	Rm B 6 weeks to 6 months		0	0	C	5	C	NA	NA	
Main	RM C 6 month to 13 months		0	0	C	7	C	NA	NA	
Main	RM D 6 Months to 13 months		0	0	C	6	C	NA	NA	
Main	Rm E Four year old		0	0	C	14	C	NA	NA	
Main	Rm F three year olds		0	0	C	14	C	NA	NA	
Main	RM G Two's and Three's		0	0	C	14	C	NA	NA	
Main	RM H Two's		0	0	C	10	C	NA	NA	
Main	Rm I two's		0	0	C	10	C	NA	NA	
Main	Rm J Four year old		0	0	C	21	C	NA	NA	
Main	RM K 13 to 23 months		0	0	C	9	C	NA	NA	
Main	Rm L 13 months to 23 months		0	0	C	9	C	NA	NA	
Main	Special Use Room		0	0	C	0	C	NA	NA	
		Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 125			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0					
Total # Children this Date: 0		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

Comments
Final license was issues on this date. Congratulations!!!!

Plan of Improvement: No Plan Developed

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

You have received permission to operate and the form received with this report is intended to serve as a temporary license which is **valid for thirty(30) days**. Your actual license/ will be emailed to you upon receipt of the licensing fee. You may pay the licensing fee either online at http://www.decal.ga.gov/ or by certified check or money order mailed to: Bright from the Start, 2 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive SE, Suite 670 East Tower, Atlanta, GA 30334

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:

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 CAPS/ QR Provisional Status, allowing for scholarships while working toward an initial star rating. Provisional Status eligibility will be determined at the time of CAPS enrollment as part of the CAPS application process.

Contact the Quality Rated help desk a1 855-800-7747 or qualityrated@decal.ga.gov **for more information. Free techincal assistance is available!**

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

(Findings Report)

Date: 4/21/2025 **VisitType:** Initial Licensing Study **Arrival:** 10:00 AM **Departure:** 3:00 PM

CCLC-65964
Lakestones Academy - Cartersville
216 E Felton Rd Cartersville, GA 30121 County
(678) 820-6899 Adrienne.Echols@otterlearning.com

Application Services Unit Consultant
Lateshar Williams
Phone: ()
Fax:
lateshar.williams@decal.ga.gov
Joint with: Margaret Pringle

Mailing Address
Same

The following information is associated with a Initial Licensing Study:

Activities and Equipment

591-1-1-.12 Equipment & Toys(CR) **Not Met**

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

Technical Assistance
591-1-1-.12(5) - Please ensure age appropriate tables and chairs are provided in Room H, I, K, and L.

Correction Deadline: 5/21/2025

Finding
591-1-1-.12(6) requires that a variety of age-appropriate toys and play materials be available, stored on low, open shelves accessible to children in each room or assigned area. It was determined based on observation the following rooms lacked:
Room A:Science, dramatic play, and musical instruments.
Room C: Art material, dramatic play, and science.
Room H: Art material, dramatic play, and blocks.
Room K: Dramatic play, food items, and dress up clothes
Room L: Dramatic play, art, and push toys.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
The Center director will ensure there is a variety of age-appropriate toys and play materials in each room for each age group. that are stored on low, open shelves accessible to children.

Correction Deadline: 5/21/2025

591-1-1-.35 Swimming Pools & Water-related Activities(CR) **N/A**

Comment
Center does not provide swimming activities.

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
Final license was granted on this date the overall capacity (161) children.

Correction Deadline: 4/21/2025

591-1-1-.25 Physical Plant - Safe Environment(CR) **Not Met**

Comment
591-1-1-.25(11) - No hazards observed accessible to children on this date.

Correction Deadline: 5/21/2025

Finding
591-1-1-.25(3) requires the Center and surrounding premises to be kept clean, free of debris and in good repair. Hygienic measures such as, but not limited to, screened windows and proper waste disposal procedures shall be utilized to minimize the presence of rodents, flies, roaches and other vermin at the Center. It was determined based on observation the area with the refrigerator lacked a gate/door to prevent children from having access to the area.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
The center will add a door/gate to prevent the children from entering the area.

Correction Deadline: 4/21/2025

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

Comment
Playground observed to be clean and in good repair.

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 playgrounds A, B, C, and D lack shade structures. The center will install 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: 5/21/2025

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 screw protusion on the fence gate and the corner polls on playground C and D.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
The Center will routinely check the fence to determine if it is in good repair and remains at least 4 feet high, and will repair any hazards. The Center will train Staff to identify and report any fence hazards and to keep the fence gates closed when not in use. Screw protusions will be cut back two treads or capped.

Correction Deadline: 4/21/2025

Technical Assistance
591-1-1-.26(6) - Please ensure a shade canopy is provided to protect the overheating of the plastic slides.

Correction Deadline: 5/1/2025

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 playground does not contain climbing equipment/swings. The program also lacked portable equipment, such as hula-hoops, balls, riding cars, bikes, push toys, and trikes for all ages being served.

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: 5/1/2025

Food Service

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

Comment
Center menu meets USDA guidelines.

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) — **Met**

Comment
Staff stated proper procedures. Sinks with warm running water observed adjacent to proper diapering surfaces in all classrooms approved for diapering.

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 of children and staff was discussed with the director on this date.

591-1-1-.20 Medications(CR) — **Met**

Comment
Discussed medication documentation, administration, and storage.

Comment
The Provider currently does not dispense/administer medication.

Safety

591-1-1-.05 Animals — **Met**

Comment
Center does not keep animals on premises.

591-1-1-.11 Discipline(CR) — **Met**

Comment
There were no children enrolled on this date. The center's discipline policy was reviewed on this date. Regulations regarding proper discipline were discussed with the director on this date.

591-1-1-.13 Field Trips(CR) — **Met**

Comment
Center does not participate in field trips at this time.

591-1-1-.36 Transportation(CR) — **Met**

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
Consultant observed eleven (11) of eleven (11) of cribs observed meeting safety compliance with Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) and American Society of Testing and Materials International (ASTM) safety standards manufactured in (2018 and 2020). Consultant discussed safe sleeping requirements with the director during the inspection visit.

Correction Deadline: 5/1/2025

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 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 observation during the reviewing of the files, no evidence of completion of required orientation including date and signature of 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: 4/26/2025

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

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 observation during the reviewing of files, no evidence of initial center orientation completed for ten of ten staff.

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: 4/22/2025

Comment
Health and Safety Training is required for each staff member with direct care responsibilities within 90 calendar days of their hire date.

591-1-1-.31 Staff(CR) **Not Met**

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

Finding
591-1-1-.31(1)(b)2 requires the Director to possess at least one of the sets of minimum academic requirements and qualifying child care experience listed in Rule 591-1-1-.31(1)(b)2.(i-xiii). It was determined based on review of records that the director had not completed the 40 hour director's training which was required.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
The Center will ensure that the Director meets the minimum education and work requirements and secure the necessary documentation.

Correction Deadline: 4/21/2025

Staffing and Supervision

591-1-1-.32 Staff:Child Ratios and Group Size(CR) **Met**

Comment
There were no children enrolled on this date. Proper ratios and classroom capacities were discussed with the director on this date.

591-1-1-.32 Supervision(CR) **Met**

Comment
There were no children enrolled on this date. Proper supervision of children, including being prompt to children's needs, was discussed with the director on this date.