



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: 9/5/2023 **VisitType:** Complaint Investigation & Monitoring Visit **Arrival:** 10:00 AM **Departure:** 3:00 PM

CCLC-54763

Scholars Tech, LLC

1535 Columbia Drive Decatur, GA 30032 DeKalb County
 (404) 549-9058 glenda@scholarstech.org

Regional Consultant

Jessica Johnson

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jessica.johnson@decal.ga.gov

Mailing Address
 Same

Quality Rated: No

<u>Compliance Zone Designation</u>			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.
09/05/2023	Complaint Investigation & Monitoring Visit	Good Standing	
04/27/2023	Complaint Closure	Good Standing	
04/19/2023	Complaint Investigation & Licensing Study	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	Front	One Year Olds	2	14	C	18	C	NA	NA	Diapering,Circle Time
Main Building	Back Left	Two Year Olds	2	14	C	17	C	NA	NA	Transitioning,Outside
Main Building	Back Right	Three Year Olds	1	15	C	17	C	NA	NA	Transitioning
Main Building	Lower Level Left	Four Year Olds and Five Year Olds	1	6	C	11	C	NA	NA	Circle Time
Main Building	Lower Level-Right	GA PreK	4	14	C	21	C	NA	NA	Circle Time
Main Building	Middle	Infants	1	3	C	7	C	NA	NA	Free Play,Nap
Main Building	Middle Cafe-C		0	0	C	14	C	NA	NA	
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 105					Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0					
Total # Children this Date: 66					Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0					

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main Building	Infant/Toddler	76	C
Main Building	Large Playground	63	C
Main Building	Toddler Playground	18	C

Comments

An on-site Complaint Investigation and Monitoring Visit was conducted on September 5, 2023. Background checks were all reviewed on September 5, 2023. Investigative findings were not concluded on September 5, 2023.

Plan of Improvement: To Be Submitted 09/19/2023

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

Glenda Morton, Program Official

Date

Jessica Johnson, Regional Consultant

Date



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(Findings Report)

Date: 9/5/2023 **VisitType:** Complaint Investigation & Monitoring Visit **Arrival:** 10:00 AM **Departure:** 3:00 PM

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The following information is associated with a Monitoring Visit:

Activities and Equipment

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

Comment

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

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

Comment

Center does not provide swimming activities.

Facility

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

Comment

Licensed capacity observed to be routinely met by center.

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

Comment

Please be mindful to keep items that pose a hazard inaccessible to children.

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.25(3) - The Consultant discussed with the Director covering the chipped paint on the right wall near the cardboard blocks and color sign in classroom front.

Correction Deadline: 9/5/2023

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

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 that the air conditioner unit on the deck was not enclosed by a fence.

Correction Deadline: 9/19/2023

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.26(9) - The Consultant discussed with the Director spray painting the tree roots on the toddler playground and removing the thorny vine on the infant playground.

Correction Deadline: 9/5/2023

Health and Hygiene

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

Met

Comment

Staff state proper knowledge of diapering procedures.

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

Met

Comment

Staff were observed to remind children to wash hands.

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

Met

Comment

The Provider currently does not dispense/administer medication.

Policies and Procedures

591-1-1-.22 Parental Access

Met

Comment

591-1-1-.22 - The Consultant discussed with the Director that the Center must permit the custodial Parent(s) of the child access to all child care areas of the Center at any time the child is in attendance. The custodial Parent (s) shall make his or her presence known to Center Staff prior to removing the child from the Center.

Correction Deadline: 9/5/2023

Safety

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

Age-appropriate discussion and/or redirection observed.

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

591-1-1-.36(4)(b) requires that the interior of a transportation vehicle be clean, in safe repair and free of hazardous items, objects and/or other non-essential items which could cause injury. It was determined based on observation that exposed foam was observed on the right side of the first seat in vehicle #SBX6412.

Correction Deadline: 9/19/2023

Recited on 9/5/2023

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.36(7)(c)2. - The Consultant discussed with the Director 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.

Correction Deadline: 9/6/2023

Sleeping & Resting Equipment

591-1-1-.30 Safe Sleeping and Resting Requirements(CR)**Met****Comment**

Discussed SIDS and infant sleeping position.

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**Not Met****Finding**

591-1-1-.14(2) requires a Staff member who is trained in CPR and first aid to be on the premises and on any field trip whenever any child is present. In addition, Staff who provide direct care to children must satisfactorily obtain certification in first aid and CPR by December 29, 2016 if employed prior to September 30, 2016 and within 90 days of their hire date if employed after September 30, 2016. It was determined based on a review of records that staff #16 did not complete the CPR and first aid certification within 90 days of their hire.

Correction Deadline: 10/5/2023

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.

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**

A supervision plan was discussed with the Director on this date regarding the restroom area between the back left and back right classrooms.