



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: 7/23/2026 VisitType: Complaint Investigation & Monitoring Visit

Arrival: 10:50 AM Departure: 4:30 PM

CCLC-38647
Laughter & Lullabies Childcare Academy
413 East Spring Street Monroe, GA 30655 Walton County
(770) 771-4944

Regional Consultant
Jessica Johnson
Phone: (470) 618-9283
Fax:
jessica.johnson@decal.ga.gov

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.
07/23/2026	Complaint Investigation & Monitoring Visit	Good Standing	
10/16/2025	Licensing Study	Good Standing	
05/12/2025	Monitoring Visit	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	A Front	Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds and Five Year Olds and Six Year Olds and Over	2	13	C	19	C	NA	NA	Centers
Main	B: 1R		0	0	C	14	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
Main	C: Back R	One Year Olds and Two Year Olds	2	7	C	24	C	NA	NA	Centers,Music
Main	D: Back Left		0	0	C	25	C	NA	NA	Not In Use

Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 82

Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0

Total # Children this Date: 20

Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 82

Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0

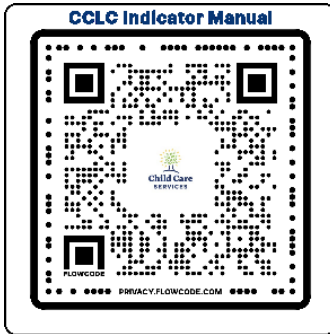
Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	A - Preschool	79	C
Main	B - Infant/Toddler	19	C

Enrolled Children						
Under 1 years	1 years	2 years	3 years	4 years	5 years (Prekonly)	5 years and older
0	5	3	5	1	0	13

Comments

On this date, Jessica Johnson (JJ), Consultant, reviewed the visit report with Director Tyra Scott. The investigative findings were not concluded on this date. The investigation remains open pending additional information. Upon completion, the findings will be reviewed with the child care program and a final copy of the report will be sent.

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-.12 Equipment & Toys(CR) Met

Correction Deadline: 10/16/2025

Corrected on 7/23/2026

.12(2) - The previous citation was corrected on this date as the wobbly shelf was not observed in classroom B:1R.

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 on this date.

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

Comment

Please secure cleaning tools (i.e., broom, plunger) out of reach of children.

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.25(13) - Please ensure storing diaper wipes to be inaccessible to children in care.

Correction Deadline: 7/23/2026

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

Correction Deadline: 10/24/2025

Corrected on 7/23/2026

.26(4) - The previous citation was observed corrected on this date as the fence was observed repaired.

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.26(4) - Please ensure removing the rust from the entrance fence to Playground B Infant/Toddler.

Correction Deadline: 7/23/2026

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.26(6) - Please ensure to monitor the splintering wood on both wooden picnic tables.

Correction Deadline: 8/2/2026

Finding

591-1-1-.26(8) requires climbing and swinging equipment to have a resilient surface beneath the equipment and the fall zone from such equipment must be adequately maintained by the Center to assure continuing resiliency. It was determined based on observation that one inch of resilient surface was observed under the green slide and the twisted green slide attached to the large playground equipment on playground A Preschool when three inches of resilient surface was required. It was further observed that the single green slide on playground A Preschool had one inch of resilient surface when three inches was required.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will add additional resilient surfacing to the fall zones where needed and check daily, adding resilient surfacing as needed to maintain adequate resiliency.

Correction Deadline: 8/6/2026

Recited on 7/23/2026

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 the concrete anchoring the swing structure on playground A Preschool was exposed at the base of the swings. It was further determined that three active ant files were observed on the right side of Playground A-Preschool.

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: 8/6/2026

Recited on 7/23/2026

Health and Hygiene

591-1-1-.10 Diapering Areas & Practices(CR)
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Not Met

Comment

Staff stated proper knowledge of diapering procedures.

Finding

591-1-1-.10(4) requires that if diapers are changed on a diaper changing surface, the surface shall be smooth, nonporous, and equipped with a guard or rails to prevent falls. Between each diaper change, the diaper changing surface shall be cleaned with a disinfectant and dried with a single-use disposable towel. It was determined based on observation that the diapering table did not have railing on both sides of the diapering table on this date.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will ensure there is a smooth, nonporous changing surface that has a guard or rails for safety in each classroom that houses children wearing diapers. Center Staff will be trained and have adequate supplies to properly clean the diaper changing surface between each diaper change.

Correction Deadline: 7/23/2026

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

Met

Comment

Staff were observed to remind children to wash hands on this date.

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

Met

Comment

The Provider currently does not dispense/administer medication.

Safety

591-1-1-.11 Discipline(CR)

Met

Comment

Age-appropriate discussion and/or redirection observed.

591-1-1-.13 Field Trips(CR)

Met

Comment

Field trip documentation observed to be complete on this date.

Comment

A current/completed inspection was observed for all vehicles used in transporting children this date.

Comment

Complete documentation of transportation observed on this date.

Comment

The vehicle had the first aid kit on this date.

Correction Deadline: 10/16/2025

Corrected on 7/23/2026

.36(4)(b) - The previous citation was observed corrected on this date as the cooler was not observed on the vehicle.

Finding

591-1-1-.36(4)(c) requires that each vehicle be equipped with a fire extinguisher maintained in working order and kept inaccessible to children. It was determined based on observation that the fire extinguisher was observed not operable on this date.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The center will ensure that each vehicle has a working fire extinguisher and that the fire extinguisher is kept out of reach of children.

Correction Deadline: 7/24/2026

Sleeping & Resting Equipment

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

Met

Comment

Per the Director, no infants are currently enrolled.

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(CR)

Met

Comment

Evidence observed of 100% of center Staff certified in First Aid and CPR containing emergency care for infants and children on this date.

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

Adequate supervision observed on this date.