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: 6/17/2026 **VisitType:** Licensing Study **Arrival:** 8:00 AM **Departure:** 2:05 PM

CCLC-24637
The Chestnut Treehouse
474 South Deshon Rd. Lithonia, GA 30058 DeKalb County
(770) 879-2021

Regional Consultant
LaTanya Swift
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Joint with: Kaycee Purvis

Mailing Address
Same

Quality Rated:

Compliance Zone Designation		
06/17/2026	Licensing Study	Good Standing
10/29/2025	Monitoring Visit	Good Standing
01/09/2025	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	A-1st Right-	Two Year Olds	4	4	C	16	C	NA	NA	Breakfast,Free Play
Main	B-2nd rt- 0-12 mos		0	0	C	11	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
Main	C- 1st Left -New- 2 y/o		0	0	C	16	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
Main	D-3rd right- 3 y/o		0	0	C	14	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
Main	E-4th Right- 4 y/o	Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds and Five Year Olds	2	6	C	24	C	NA	NA	Homework,Breakfast
Main	F-3rd Left- End- 5+	Six Year Olds and Over	1	0	C	33	C	NA	NA	Breakfast,Homework
Main	G- Pre-K		0	0	C	25	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
Main	H-new room		0	0	C	9	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
		Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 148			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0					
Total # Children this Date: 10		Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 148			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0					

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	A-6wks-3 years	28	C
Main	B 3-12 years	95	C

Enrolled Children						
Under 1 years	1 years	2 years	3 years	4 years	5 years (Prekonly)	5 years and older
0	0	7	11	0	0	6

Comments
Affidavit verifying completion of criminal background check units should be returned completed within five business days and a one-day criminal background check letter was left with the Director/Provider on this date.

Plan of Improvement: Developed This Date

CCLC Indicator Manual

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.decal.ga.gov/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.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 technical assistance is available!**

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Summary Report

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The following information is associated with a Licensing Study:

Activities and Equipment

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

Finding
591-1-1-.12(4) requires that equipment and furniture is secured if it is of a weight or mass that could cause injury from tipping, falling, or being pulled or pushed over. It was determined based on observation that there was a white air purifier that was not secured on the back left cubbie located in Room F-3rd Left-End-5+ which posed a potential tipping hazard on this date.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
The Center will ensure that the identified equipment or furniture and any other such existing or future items are secured adequately and will have a system for checking these for stability.

Correction Deadline: 6/17/2026

Recited on 6/17/2026

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

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) **Not Met**

Correction Deadline: 10/31/2025

Corrected on 6/17/2026
.25(12) - The previous citation was observed corrected on this date. The Consultant observed that the bladeless fan was no longer accessible to the children.

Finding
591-1-1-.25(13) requires that potentially hazardous equipment, materials and supplies be stored in a locked area inaccessible to children. It was determined based on observation that the following potential hazards were accessible to children on this date:

Classroom A-1st Right
-There were two packs of baby wipes in the children's cubbies.
-There were Pampers Pull Ups in plastic bag in a child's cubby.
-There was an unlocked closet with a teacher's bag, a broom, and dust pan.

Back Right Hallway
-There was a broom and dust pan on the left side of the hallway near the handwashing sinks.

Classroom E- 4th Right- 4 y/o
-There were a box of gloves on a storage shelf at the front right

Classroom F- 3rd Left- End- 5+
-There were two brooms and a dust pan in an unlocked closet at the front right.
-There was an unlocked closet that led to the Center's furnace.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
The Center will identify all hazardous items and keep them in a locked area inaccessible to children. The Center will inform all Staff about hazardous items and the safe storage of those items.

Correction Deadline: 6/17/2026

Recited on 6/17/2026

Finding
591-1-1-.25(8) requires protective caps on all unused electrical outlets within children's reach and requires that electrical outlets in use be made inaccessible to children. It was determined based on observation the following potential electrical hazards were accessible to children on this date:

Classroom A-1st Right
-There was a hanging electrical cord at the children's cubbies.

Classroom F- 3rd Left- End- 5+
-The cord from the surge protector was accessible to children in the school age classroom and was missing protective covers.
-There were two hanging cords from an air purifier and lamp on top of the children's cubbies at the back left.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
The Center will train Staff to check outlets and replace protective caps when needed and identify and monitor how outlets in use are inaccessible to children.

Correction Deadline: 6/17/2026

Recited on 6/17/2026

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 right side gate on Playground B had an opening that measured at 4 inches wide which could pose an entrapment or escape hazard to the children. It was further determined that there were bolts throughout the gates of Playground B that measured over 2 threads.

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.

Correction Deadline: 7/1/2026

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 that there were multiple cracks on the slide on the red, blue, and yellow play structure causing a potential pinching hazard.

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: 7/1/2026

Recited on 6/17/2026

Technical Assistance
591-1-1-.26(9) - The Consultant discussed with the Director to ensure that the playground are kept clean, free from litter and free of hazards, such as but not limited exposed tree roots and exposed sharp edges of PVC borders.

Correction Deadline: 6/17/2026

Food Service

591-1-1-.15 Food Service & Nutrition **Technical Assistance**

Technical Assistance
591-1-1-.15(7) - The Consultant discussed with the Director to ensure that the foods are cut in such a way as to minimize choking.

Correction Deadline: 6/17/2026

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

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
The Provider currently does not dispense/administer medication.

Safety

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

Comment
Staff were observed to maintain a positive learning environment on this date.

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

Comment
Field trip documentation observed to be complete on this date.

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

Finding

591-1-1-.36(3)(a-b) requires any Center that provides any type of transportation to obtain two (2) hours of state-approved or state-accepted transportation training, biannually, for the Director and for each person responsible for or who participates in the transportation of children. The training shall include, but is not limited to, a review of the transportation rules, a review of approved transportation forms and procedures, and instruction on the usage and completion of the forms and procedures. This training may be counted as part of the annual training requirements for Staff. It was determined based on a review of records that the Director did not have the two (2) hours of state-approved or state-accepted transportation training,

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will ensure that the Director, Center Staff, and any person responsible for the transportation of children has completed the required transportation training.

Correction Deadline: 6/27/2026

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.36(4)(b) - The Consultant discussed with the Director to ensure that the vehicle is clean, in safe repair and free of hazardous items, objects and/or other non-essential items which could cause injury.

Correction Deadline: 6/18/2026

Sleeping & Resting Equipment

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

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: 10 **Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 8**

Staff # 1 Not Met

Date of Hire: 03/01/2026

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.09-Criminal Records Check Missing

Staff # 3 Not Met

Date of Hire: 01/03/2011

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

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

Staff # 4 Not Met

Date of Hire: 11/01/2025

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(4)-Food Prep Training Missing 4 hrs.,.36(3)(a-b)-2 hrs. Transportation Training missing

Staff # 5 Not Met

Date of Hire: 04/17/2025

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

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

Staff # 7 Not Met

Date of Hire: 03/03/2020

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.14(2)-CPR missing,.14(2)-First Aid Missing,.31(2)(b)2.-Staff Qualifications-Education Missing,.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training

Staff # 8 Not Met

Date of Hire: 06/23/2025

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(4)-Food Prep Training Missing 4 hrs.

Staff # 9 Not Met

Date of Hire: 07/15/2021

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

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

Staff # 10 Not Met

Date of Hire: 03/03/2011

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.14(2)-CPR missing,.14(2)-First Aid Missing,.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training,.31(2)(b)2.-Staff Qualifications-Education Missing

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

Finding

591-1-1-.09(1)(j) requires that for portability for Directors, Employees and Provisional Employees, excluding Students-in-Training, only the most recently issued determination letter is eligible for portability and must be ported electronically. A Center may accept a satisfactory Fingerprint Records Check Determination letter or a satisfactory Comprehensive Records Check Determination letter issued by the Department if the Records Check Clearance Date is within the preceding 12 months from the hire date, the individual has not had a lapse of employment from the child care industry that lasted for 180 days (6 months) or longer, and the Center does not know or reasonably should not know that the individual's satisfactory status has changed. It was determined on a review of records that the Center did not electronically port staff #1, hired on March 1, 2026, did not have the requested portability to work in the facility.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

IMMEDIATE CORRECTION - The Center will watch videos to ensure that only the most recently issued determination letter is electronically ported for Directors, Employees and Provisional Employees, excluding Students-in-Training. A Center may accept a satisfactory Fingerprint Records Check Determination letter or a satisfactory Comprehensive Records Check Determination letter issued by the Department if the Records Check Clearance Date is within the preceding 12 months from the hire date, the individual has not had a lapse of employment from the child care industry that lasted for 180 days (6 months) or longer, and the Center does not know or reasonably should not know that the individual's satisfactory status has changed. 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 videos to ensure CRC rules are maintained.

Correction Deadline: 6/17/2026

591-1-1-.09 Criminal Records Check(CR) **Met**

Comment

Criminal records checks were observed to be complete.

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

Finding
Previously Cited: 591-1-1-.14(1) requires the Center Director and, at any given time, at least fifty percent (50%) of the caregiver Staff to successfully complete a biennial training program in cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and a triennial training program in first aid. The first aid training must be done by certified or licensed health care professionals or trainers and must deal with the provision of emergency care to infants and children. The Center shall maintain current evidence of the successful completion of such training which shall be available to the Department for inspection. It was determined based on review the Center Director and fifty percent (50%) of the caregiver Staff did not have current evidence of biennial training program in cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and a triennial training program in first aid. There was one person with current evidence of the required training.

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 #3, hired on January 3, 2011, Staff #5, hired on April 17, 2025, Staff #7, hired on March 3, 2020, and Staff #9, hired on July 15, 2021, did not have documentation of a completing (CPR) and a triennial training program in first aid as required on this date.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
Previously Cited: The Center Director and at least 50% of the caregiver Staff will complete the needed training. The Director will send written verification to the consultant upon completion and will develop a plan to ensure that at least 50% of the caregiver Staff have completed this training at any given time and that evidence of successful completion of the training is on file available for inspection. CPR and First aid training scheduled for January 25, 2025.

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 employmentvand that evidence of successful completion of the training is on file available for inspection.

Correction Deadline: 7/1/2026

Recited on 6/17/2026

Finding
591-1-1-.14(2)(c) requires that during any field trip or transportation of children, there must always be a staff member present who has current evidence of the successful completion of pediatric cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and pediatric first aid. It was determined based on a review of staff files that staff #10 hired on March 3, 2011, obtained an online-only CPR training which did not meet this rule requirement. "Blended" training (online study plus hands-on skill practice and assessment) is acceptable.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
The Director will schedule and/or position caregiver Staff throughout the Center to ensure at least one currently pediatric CPR and First Aid trained Staff person is present in each classroom where children are present.

Correction Deadline: 6/24/2026

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

Finding
591-1-1-.33(4) requires within the first year of employment, the Director and person with primary responsibility for food preparation shall have four clock hours of training in food nutrition planning, preparation, serving, proper dish washing and food storage. It was determined based on a review of records that the Director and the cook did not have the four clock hours of training in food nutrition planning, preparation, serving, proper dish washing and food storage as required.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
The Center will schedule food preparation training, as required, and follow up to ensure the training is completed.

Correction Deadline: 7/24/2026

Finding
591-1-1-.33(5)(b)(2)(i)-(iv) requires the annual ten (10) clock hours of training shall include at least two (2) hours in on-going child development and health and safety related topics, which could include, but not be limited to:
(i) Child development (e.g., developmental domains (cognitive; social and emotional; physical development and motor skills; communication, language, and literacy; approaches to play and learning), discipline and guidance techniques, children with special needs); (ii) Health (e.g., nutrition and the support of breast feeding, physical activity, prevention and control of illnesses and infectious diseases, immunizations, prevention of and response to emergencies due to food and allergic reactions, cleanliness, sanitation, and the appropriate disposal of bio contaminants); (iii) Safety (e.g., prevention of Sudden Unexpected Infant Death (SUID) which includes Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) and the use of safe sleeping practices, medication administration, injury control and prevention, transportation, handling and storage of hazardous materials, identification of and protection from hazards that can cause bodily injury such as electrical hazards, bodies of water, and vehicular traffic, and emergency preparedness planning and response); (iv) Child abuse and neglect (e.g., identification and reporting, meeting the needs of abused and/or neglected children, prevention of shaken baby syndrome, abusive head trauma and child maltreatment). It was determined based on a review of records that Staff #7, hired on March 3, 2020, did not have documentation of completing the annual ten (10) clock hours of training as required on this date.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
The Center will plan and schedule the required 10 hours of annual training each year to include a least two (2) hours of on-going child development and health and safety related topics and follow up to ensure the training is completed.

Correction Deadline: 6/24/2026

Recited on 6/17/2026

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

Finding
591-1-1-.31(2)(c) requires the Center to maintain a copy and/or written verification of the credential or degree awarded to the lead teacher that is required by these rules in the lead teacher's file, to make the document available for inspection and to provide the document to Department staff upon request. It was determined based on a review of records that Staff #7 and Staff #10, did not have a copy and/or written verification of the credential or degree awarded to the lead teacher on file.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
The Center will review lead teacher records to ensure the required documentation is on file and will obtain and file it if not found.

Correction Deadline: 7/1/2026

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**

Correction Deadline: 10/29/2025

Corrected on 6/17/2026
.32(7) - The previous citation was observed corrected on this date. The Consultant observed that the staff were made aware about being seated within an arm’s length away from children thirty-six (36) months of age and younger during meal time.