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: 8/18/2026 **VisitType:** Monitoring Visit **Arrival:** 10:10 AM **Departure:** 3:15 PM

CCLC-65801
The Learning Tree
443 Airport rd Dublin, GA 31021 Laurens County
(478) 205-5449

Regional Consultant
Emily Patterson
Phone: (470) 532-4434
Fax:
emily.patterson@decal.ga.gov
Joint with: Kristy Turner

Mailing Address
Same

Quality Rated: No

Compliance Zone Designation		
08/18/2026	Monitoring Visit	Support
02/26/2026	Licensing Study	Good Standing
08/20/2025	Monitoring Visit	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- 3 year olds (front room)	Three Year Olds	2	14	C	23	C	NA	NA	Transitioning,TV,Lunch
Main	B- 3 year olds (first right)	Three Year Olds	1	8	C	12	C	NA	NA	TV,Lunch,Outside,Transitioning
Main	C- 2 year olds (far right)	Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds	1	10	C	11	C	NA	NA	Lunch,Art,Transitioning
Main	D- 4 year olds (back right)	Two Year Olds and Three Year Olds	2	14	C	22	C	NA	NA	Transitioning,Outside,Lunch
		Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 68			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0					
Total # Children this Date: 46		Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 68			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0					

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	Playground A (front)	60	C
Main	Playground B (back)	41	C

Enrolled Children

Infant (0-12 months)	Toddler (1-2 yrs)	Preschool (3-5yrs/full time care)	School Age (before/after care only)	GA PreK only	Summer Only
0	16	35	0	0	0

Comments
The Consultant reviewed the visit report with the Director, Hannah Price.

The Consultant issued and read a one-day criminal background check letter to the Director on this date.

An affidavit verifying completion of criminal background check units should be returned completed by August 25, 2026.

Plan of Improvement: To Be Submitted 09/01/2026

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.

Compliance at a Glance

For additional information regarding the full compliance inspection results of this program or any licensed program in the state, access the Child Care Services Compliance-at-a Glance website by scanning this QR code or visiting: https://families.decal.ga.gov.

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 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 on this date.

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**

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 existed:
- Room A: 3 year olds (front room)-
  - two teachers bags located behind the desk
  - one container of Lysol wipes labeled "Keep Out of Reach of Children"
  - two empty trash bags located on the cart by the kitchen window

- Room B: 3 year olds (first right)-
  - broom and dust pan leaning against the wall behind the desk

- Room C: 2 year olds (far right)-
  - broom and dust pan leaning against the wall beside the trash can
  - aerosol room deodorizer labeled "Keep Out of Reach of Children".

- Room D: 4 year olds (back right)-
  - Ziploc bags inside two backpacks located on hooks accessible to children
  - five packs of baby wipes (Huggies, Pampers, Parent's Choice) labeled "Keep Out of Reach of Children" inside five backpacks located on hooks accessible to children
  - one bottle of contact solution labeled "Keep Out of Reach of Children" located on the desk
  - four boxes of Ziploc bags and two packs of baby wipes (Rascals) labeled "Keep Out of Reach of Children" under the unlocked cabinet beside the diaper changing table
  - a dust pan was located on the diaper changing table

- Bathroom-
  - one toilet brush accessible to children in the boys bathroom

Correction Deadline: 8/18/2026

Technical Assistance
591-1-1-.25(8) - Please ensure that children do not have access to electrical cords.

Correction Deadline: 8/18/2026

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 on Playground A (front) there was a 3.5 inch gap in the gate leading to the parking lot which posed a potential entrapment hazard.

Correction Deadline: 8/18/2026

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 the following potential playground hazards existed:
- Playground A (front): The blue merry go round trike had chipping paint and three missing pedals.
- Playground B (back):
    - Two pink plastic cars had missing steering wheels.
    - The green plastic airplane had chipping paint.
    - The yellow plastic car had chipping paint.

Correction Deadline: 8/28/2026

Technical Assistance
591-1-1-.26(9) - Please ensure the playground was kept clean and free from litter.

Correction Deadline: 8/18/2026

Food Service

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

Technical Assistance
591-1-1-.15(2)(f) - The Consultant discussed with the Provider to ensure food for toddlers is cut into pieces one-half inch or smaller to prevent choking.

Correction Deadline: 8/18/2026

Health and Hygiene

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

Finding
591-1-1-.10(6) requires Center Staff to keep any items which might harm a child out of a child's reach. It was determined based on observation in Room D: 4 year olds (back right) the following hazards existed:
- one bag of Huggies baby wipes labeled "Keep Out of Reach of Children"
- one bag of Gentle Steps baby wipes labeled "Keep Out of Reach of Children"
- a spray hand sanitizer labeled "Keep Out of Reach of Children"
- a box of empty trash bags

Correction Deadline: 8/18/2026

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

Comment
Proper hand washing observed throughout the center on this date.

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

Comment
Documentation for medication dispensing observed completed on this date.

Organization

591-1-1-.16 Governing Body & License **Technical Assistance**

Technical Assistance
591-1-1-.16(f) - The Consultant discussed with the Provider to ensure the Center will submit an application for an amended License at least 30 days prior to a change if there is a change in the use of the building by the licensed Center.

Correction Deadline: 8/18/2026

Safety

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

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

591-1-1-.36 Transportation(CR) **N/A**

Comment
Center does not provide routine transportation.

Sleeping & Resting Equipment

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

Comment
Pleasant naptime environment observed.

Staff Records

Records Reviewed: 8 **Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 1**

Staff # 6 Not Met

Date of Hire: 08/04/2026 Reminder - Health & Safety training is required within 90 calendar days of hired

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.09-Criminal Records Check Missing

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

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 a review of records that Staff #6, hired on August 5, 2026, did not have a valid and current satisfactory Comprehensive Records Check Determination on file prior to being present at the Center.

Correction Deadline: 8/18/2026

591-1-1-.14 First Aid & CPR(CR) **Met**

Comment
At least one staff person with current and valid pediatric first aid and pediatric CPR observed in each classroom where children were present.

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**

Comment
Center observed to maintain appropriate staff:child ratios.

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

Comment
Staff observed to provide direct supervision and be attentive to children's needs.