



**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:** 11/19/2025 **VisitType:** Complaint Investigation & Licensing Study **Arrival:** 10:40 AM **Departure:** 5:00 PM

**CCLC-63280**  
**Lemon Kids Academy**  
1032 Bateman Drive Social Circle, GA 30025 Walton County  
(675) 575-9816

Regional Consultant  
Kajora McCoy  
Phone: (678) 239-9361  
Fax:  
kajora.mccoy@dec.al.ga.gov

**Mailing Address**  
Same

**Quality Rated:** ★ ★

| Compliance Zone Designation |                                            |               | <b>Compliance Zone Designation</b> - 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.<br><br><b>Good Standing</b> - Program is demonstrating an acceptable level of performance in meeting the rules.<br><b>Support</b> - Program performance is demonstrating a need for improvement in meeting rules.<br><b>Deficient</b> - Program is not demonstrating an acceptable level of performance in meeting the rules. |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------------------|---------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 11/19/2025                  | Complaint Investigation & Licensing Study  | Support       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| 04/08/2025                  | Complaint Closure                          | Good Standing |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| 03/31/2025                  | Complaint Investigation & 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 - Infants and 1's |                                    | 0                               | 0        | C    | 6                                                          | C            | NA         | NA           | Not In Use                 |
| Main                            | B - Infants and 1's | Infants and One Year Olds          | 1                               | 4        | C    | 7                                                          | C            | NA         | NA           | Floor Play                 |
| Main                            | C - 1's             | One Year Olds                      | 1                               | 7        | C    | 8                                                          | C            | NA         | NA           | Transitioning, Lunch       |
| Main                            | D - 1's             |                                    | 0                               | 0        | C    | 8                                                          | C            | NA         | NA           | Not In Use                 |
| Main                            | E - 2's             | Two Year Olds                      | 2                               | 13       | C    | 21                                                         | C            | NA         | NA           | Transitioning, Lunch       |
| Main                            | F - 3's             | Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds | 2                               | 22       | C    | 17                                                         | NC           | NA         | NA           | Transitioning              |
| Main                            | G - 3's             |                                    | 0                               | 0        | C    | 17                                                         | C            | NA         | NA           |                            |
| Main                            | H - Pre-K           | GA PreK                            | 1                               | 11       | C    | 23                                                         | C            | NA         | NA           | Circle Time, Transitioning |
| Main                            | I - Pre-K           | GA PreK                            | 1                               | 7        | C    | 23                                                         | C            | NA         | NA           | Transitioning, Circle Time |
| Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 125 |                     |                                    | Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0   |          |      | Building @35 capacity limited by Fire Marshall Limitations |              |            |              |                            |
| Total # Children this Date: 64  |                     |                                    | Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 125 |          |      | Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0                              |              |            |              |                            |

| Building | Playground         | Playground Occupancy | Playground Compliance |
|----------|--------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|
| Main     | A - Infant/toddler | 20                   | C                     |

|      |                          |    |   |
|------|--------------------------|----|---|
| Main | B - Preschool/School Age | 42 | C |
|------|--------------------------|----|---|

| Enrolled Children |         |         |         |         |                    |                   |
|-------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|--------------------|-------------------|
| Under 1 years     | 1 years | 2 years | 3 years | 4 years | 5 years (Prekonly) | 5 years and older |
| 4                 | 9       | 19      | 19      | 23      | 5                  | 19                |

#### Comments

The CCS Consultant discussed and left a copy of the updated Child Care Weather Watch Chart with the program today. Weather does not permit outdoor play when there is active precipitation or when weather advisories are in effect. Consult the Child Care Weather Watch Chart resource for further guidance, considering specific weather conditions.

Plan of Improvement: To Be Submitted 12/05/2025

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.al.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.

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#### 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](http://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.

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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](mailto:qualityrated@dec.al.ga.gov) for more information. Free technical assistance is available!**



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**Summary Report**

**Date:** 11/19/2025 **VisitType:** Complaint Investigation & Licensing **Arrival:** 10:40 AM **Departure:** 5:00 PM  
**Study**

**CCLC-63280**

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**Mailing Address**  
Same

The following information is associated with a Licensing Study Visit:

**Activities and Equipment**

**591-1-1-.03 Activities**

**Not Met**

**Finding**

591-1-1-.03(2) requires the Center to keep current lesson plans on site that reflect appropriate instruction practices and activities to support children's development. The Center shall have sufficient and varied play and learning equipment and materials to support the above program of activities in all developmental areas. It was determined based on observation that there were no lesson plans available for the following operating classrooms:

- B- Infants and 1's
- E - 2's
- F - 3's

**Correction Deadline: 11/19/2025**

**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 were stacked chairs in classroom E - 2's.

**Correction Deadline: 11/19/2025**

**Comment**

Center does not provide swimming activities.

**Children's Records****Records Reviewed: 5****Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 2**

Child # 3

Not Met

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.08(1)(a)-Work Address Missing,.08(1)(a)-Work Number Missing

Child # 5

Not Met

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.08(1)(a)-Work Address Missing,.08(1)(a)-Work Number Missing,.08(3)-Address of Release Person Missing,.08(1)-Emergency Contact information Missing

**591-1-1-.08 Children's Records****Met****Comment**

Records were observed to be complete and well organized.

**Facility****591-1-1-.06 Bathrooms****Technical Assistance****Technical Assistance**

591-1-1-.06(4) - Please ensure that bathroom ventilation fans are in working order.

**Correction Deadline: 12/19/2025****591-1-1-.19 License Capacity(CR)****Not Met****Finding**

591-1-1-.19(1) requires a Center to provide 35 square feet of usable space per child, which will determine the Center's License capacity. It was determined based on observation that there were twenty-two children in classroom F - 3's when the licensed capacity required seventeen.

**Correction Deadline: 11/19/2025****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 hazards were observed:

Classroom F:

-There was a stapler on the shelf next to the entrance door.

Classroom I:

-There was a broom and dust pan next to the children's handwashing sink.

-There was a first aid bookbag on the floor next to the back exit door.

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**Correction Deadline: 11/19/2025**

**Recited on 11/19/2025**

**591-1-1-.26 Playgrounds(CR)**

**Not Met**

**Comment**

Discussed maintenance of resilient surface. Please fluff and redistribute.  
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**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 following fencing hazards were observed:

- The bolts across both playgrounds were longer than 2 threads.
  - The front side of the fence on Playground B was not connected to the top post and created an opening that measured over eighteen feet long.
  - There was a five inch gap at the bottom of the back right fence on playground B.
  - The back left corner of the fence on Playground A measured 3 feet and 9 inches when 4 feet was required.
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**Correction Deadline: 11/19/2025**

**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 there were exposed tree roots and exposed netting under the resilient surfacing on Playground A.  
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**Correction Deadline: 11/19/2025**

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|---------------------|
| <b>Food Service</b> |
|---------------------|

**Comment**

CACFP Meal Pattern Requirements effective October 1, 2017 will be implemented October 1, 2018: 3 Components for breakfast: Grains, Vegetables, Fruits or both, Milk  
5 Components for lunch – Grains, Meat/Meat alternates, Fruits, Vegetable, and Milk OR Grains, Meat/Meat alternates, 2 different types of vegetables, and Milk  
2 of 5 Components for snack

Provided Updated CACFP Infant Meal pattern and Child/Adult Meal pattern flyers.

The Crediting Handbook for the CACFP can be located on DECAL and USDA's website:

DECAL

<http://dec.al.ga.gov/CACFP/Handbook.aspx>

USDA

<http://www.fns.usda.gov/cacfp/cacfp-handbooks>

**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**

Proper diapering procedures observed.

**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)**

Met

**Comment**

Please document N/A or none if no adverse reaction is observed.

**Policies and Procedures****591-1-1-.21 Operational Policies & Procedures**

Met

**Comment**

Program observed complete emergency drills

**591-1-1-.27 Posted Notices**

Met

**Comment**

Observed all required posted notices.

**591-1-1-.29 Required Reporting**

Met

**Comment**

Thank you for reporting as required.

**Safety****591-1-1-.05 Animals**

N/A

**Comment**

Center does not keep animals on premises.

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

Met

**Comment**

Age-appropriate discussion and/or redirection observed.

**Comment**

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

**Comment**

Center does not participate in field trips at this time.

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

591-1-1-.36(7)(a) requires that each vehicle contains current information including: the full names of all children to be transported, each child's pick-up location, pick-up time, delivery location, alternate delivery location if a Parent is not at home and name of person authorized to receive each child. In addition, the vehicle shall contain current information identifying the Center's name, telephone number and the name of the driver of the vehicle. It was determined based on a review of records that there were no or incomplete transportation agreements on file for the following:

- Thirteen of thirteen kids transported from Lemon Kids Academy - Bateman Drive to Lemon Kids Academy - North Cherokee
- Seven of fifteen children transported from Social Circle Elementary to Lemon Kids Academy - Bateman Drive
- Three of three children transported from Lemon Kids Academy - Bateman Drive to Home Depot - Monroe

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**Correction Deadline: 11/20/2025**

**Finding**

591-1-1-.36(7)(b) requires that an emergency medical information record be maintained in the vehicle for each child being transported. The emergency medical information record for each child shall include a listing of the child's full name, date of birth, allergies, special medical needs and conditions, current prescribed medications that the child is required to take on a daily basis for a chronic condition, the name and telephone number of the child's doctor, the local medical facility that the Center uses in the area where the Center is located and the telephone numbers where the Parents can be reached. It was determined based on a review of records that there were no or incomplete vehicle emergency forms for the following:

- Thirteen of thirteen kids transported from Lemon Kids Academy - Bateman Drive to Lemon Kids Academy - North Cherokee
- Seven of fifteen children transported from Social Circle Elementary to Lemon Kids Academy - Bateman Drive
- Three of three children transported from Lemon Kids Academy - Bateman Drive to Home Depot - Monroe

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**Correction Deadline: 11/20/2025**

**Technical Assistance**

591-1-1-.36(7)(c)3. - Please ensure that return times indicate when transportation route(s) end.

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**Correction Deadline: 11/20/2025**



## Sleeping & Resting Equipment

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

Not Met

### Finding

591-1-1-.30(1)(a)3 requires that each crib shall have only an individual, tight-fitting sheet which is changed daily or more often as needed and prior to a change of occupant. It was determined based on observation that one of four crib sheets was too tight and created a gap between the crib mattress and crib.

Correction Deadline: 11/19/2025

## Staff Records

Records Reviewed: 5

Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 5

Staff # 1

Not Met

Date of Hire: 09/11/2025

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

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

Staff # 2

Not Met

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

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

Staff # 3

Not Met

Date of Hire: 08/22/2025

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

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

Staff # 4

Not Met

Date of Hire: 11/19/2025

Reminder - Health & Safety training is required within 90 calendar days of hired

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.09-Criminal Records Check Missing

Staff # 5

Not Met

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

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

591-1-1-.09 Criminal Records and Comprehensive Background Checks(CR)

Technical Assistance

### Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.09(1)(c) - Please ensure that every Employee has a valid and current satisfactory Comprehensive Records Check Determination on file prior to being present at the Center. This includes volunteers who are present more than once every 90 days.

Correction Deadline: 11/19/2025

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

Criminal records checks were observed to be complete.

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

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 the following staff did not have evidence of first aid/CPR within 45 days of employment:

- Staff #3 hired on August 22, 2025
  - Staff #1 hired on September 11, 2025
  - Staff #5 hired on August 11, 2025
  - Staff #2 hired on March 3, 2025
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**Correction Deadline: 12/19/2025**

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**591-1-1-.33 Staff Training****Met****Comment**

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

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**591-1-1-.31 Staff(CR)****Met****Comment**

Staff observed to be compliant with applicable laws and regulations.

|                                 |
|---------------------------------|
| <b>Staffing and Supervision</b> |
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**591-1-1-.32 Staff:Child Ratios and Group Size(CR)****Met****Comment**

Center observed to maintain appropriate staff:child ratios.

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**591-1-1-.32 Supervision(CR)****Not Met****Finding**

591-1-1-.32(7) requires that children be supervised at all times appropriate to the individual age, needs and capabilities of each child. Such supervision must include, but not be limited to, indoor and outdoor activities, mealtimes, naptime, transportation, field trips, and transitions between activities. "Supervision" means that the appropriate number of Staff members are physically present in the area where children are being cared for and are providing watchful oversight to the children, volunteers and Students-in-Training. The persons supervising in the child care area must be alert, positioned to maximize their ability to hear and see the children at all times, and able to respond promptly to the needs and actions of the children being supervised, as well as the actions of the volunteers and Students-in-Training, and provide timely attention to the children's actions and needs. Staff shall be attentive and participating with all children during mealtimes and shall be seated within an arm's length away from children thirty-six (36) months of age and younger. It was determined based on observation that staff were not seated within arms reach of children who were thirty-six months or younger during lunch in Classrooms E - 2's and F - 3's.

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**Correction Deadline: 11/19/2025**