



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: 2/13/2026 **VisitType:** Monitoring Visit

Arrival: 11:45 AM **Departure:** 2:45 PM

CCLC-32801
East Lake Early Learning Academy
275 East Lake Blvd. Atlanta, GA 30317 DeKalb County
(404) 373-6561

Regional Consultant
Jessica Johnson
Phone: (770) 357-5090
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.
02/13/2026	Monitoring Visit	Good Standing	
07/15/2025	LS POI Follow Up	Good Standing	
05/05/2025	Complaint Closure	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	1R-Hungry Catpillars	Infants and One Year Olds	3	10	C	16	C	NA	NA	Floor Play,Lunch,Nap
Main	2R-Busy Spiders	One Year Olds and Two Year Olds	3	12	C	17	C	NA	NA	Nap,Transitioning
Main	3R-Curious Crickets	Two Year Olds and Three Year Olds	3	14	C	18	C	NA	NA	Transitioning,Nap
Main	4R-Brown Bears	Two Year Olds and Three Year Olds	3	12	C	18	C	NA	NA	Transitioning,Lunch
Main	5L-1R Green Frogs	Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds	3	16	C	22	C	NA	NA	Circle Time
Main	6L-2R Yellow Ducks	Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds	3	16	C	20	C	NA	NA	Circle Time

Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 111

Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0

Total # Children this Date: 80

Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 111

Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	A	21	C
Main	B	32	C

Enrolled Children						
Under 1 years	1 years	2 years	3 years	4 years	5 years (Prekonly)	5 years and older
5	8	18	34	19	0	0

Comments

On this date, Jessica Johnson (JJ), Consultant, reviewed the visit report with Director Michael Truesdale.

Plan of Improvement: Developed This Date

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.

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)

Technical Assistance

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.12(2) - Discussed removing the peeling red cushion from the book area in classroom 6L- 2R Yellow Ducks.

Correction Deadline: 2/13/2026

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

Met

Comment

Center does not provide swimming activities.

Facility

591-1-1-.06 Bathrooms

Technical Assistance

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.06(4) - Please ensure that the ventilation in the first restroom in classroom 5L-1R Green Frogs is in working order.

Correction Deadline: 3/15/2026

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)

Met

Comment

No hazards observed accessible to children on this date.

Comment

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

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

Not Met

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.26(4) - Please ensure to monitor the 3 and a half inch gap on the bottom of the fence located at the gate of the middle fencing on Playground B.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The program will fill in the space between the ground and the fence to avoid any entrapment hazards.

Correction Deadline: 2/13/2026

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 two four inch gaps were observed on the front right fence near the road on playground A.

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. The Center will ensure that the spaces between the fence measure 3 inches or less.

Correction Deadline: 3/6/2026

Recited on 2/13/2026

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 rust was observed on 2 red tricycles on playground A.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will remove the rust from the red tricycles. Staff will check the equipment daily to ensure that the equipment is free of hazards, rust and splinters.

Correction Deadline: 2/27/2026

Recited on 2/13/2026

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 there was rust on both railing leading down to Playground B.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will remove the rust from the railing and routinely monitor the playground and remove hazards.

Correction Deadline: 2/27/2026

Health and Hygiene

591-1-1-.10 Diapering Areas & Practices(CR)**Not Met****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 pad in classroom 1R- Hungry Catpillers was cracked 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: 2/27/2026

Recited on 2/13/2026

591-1-1-.17 Hygiene(CR)**Technical Assistance****Comment**

There were no children enrolled on this date. Proper hand washing of children and staff was discussed with the director on this date.

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.17(7)(a) - Please ensure that handwashing occurs immediately after diapering in classroom 1R- Catpillers.

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-.36 Transportation(CR) **Met**

Comment

Center does not provide routine transportation.

Sleeping & Resting Equipment

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

Comment

Discussed SIDS and infant sleeping position.

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

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

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

Correction Deadline: 7/29/2025

Corrected on 2/13/2026

.14(2)(d) - The previous citation was observed corrected on this date as Staff #22 first aid and CPR was observed complete.

591-1-1-.33 Staff Training **Technical Assistance**

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.33(2)(a)-(n) - Please ensure that all substitute Staff that provide director care to children have a file on-site with the documentation of orientation form and health and safety orientation training.

Correction Deadline: 2/14/2026

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

Adequate supervision observed on this date.

