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: 1/25/2024 **VisitType:** Licensing Study **Arrival:** 8:45 AM **Departure:** 11:50 AM

CCLC-26490
Tree House Academy

2600 Sugarmill Blvd. St. Marys, GA 31558 Camden County
(912) 576-8697 st.marys@treehouseacademy.org

Regional Consultant
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Mailing Address
Same

Quality Rated: ★

Compliance Zone Designation		
01/25/2024	Licensing Study	Good Standing
08/23/2023	Monitoring Visit	Good Standing
05/24/2023	Complaint Closure	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	1	7	C	16	C	NA	NA	Centers
Main	B - 2nd right	One Year Olds and Two Year Olds	1	6	C	11	C	NA	NA	Diapering,Centers
Main	C - 3rd right	GA PreK	2	18	C	22	C	NA	NA	Centers
Main	D -Back left	Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds	1	10	C	20	C	NA	NA	Centers,Transitioning
Main	E -far left		0	0	C	19	C	NA	NA	
Main	F-Front left	Infants and One Year Olds	2	10	C	12	C	NA	NA	Feeding,Diapering,Floor Play
Main	Room G -3 yrs		0	0	C	14	C	NA	NA	
		Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 114			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0					
Total # Children this Date: 51		Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 114			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0					

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	Playgrd -A frt lft	23	C
Main	Playgrd B back lft	67	C
Main	Playgrd-back rt	33	C
Main	playgrd-Front Rt	9	C

Comments
The purpose of today's visit is a Licensing Study.

Plan of Improvement: Developed This Date 01/25/2024

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 a1 855-800-7747 or qualityrated@decal.ga.gov for more information. Free techincal assistance is available!

Jessie Durbin, Program Official Date	Jerica Davis, Regional Consultant Date

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(Findings Report)

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The following information is associated with a Licensing Study:

Activities and Equipment

591-1-1-.12 Equipment & Toys(CR) **Met**

Comment
A variety of equipment and toys were observed throughout the center.

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

Comment
Center does not provide swimming activities.

Children's Records

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

Comment
Records were observed to be complete and well organized.

Facility

591-1-1-.06 Bathrooms **Met**

Comment
Bathrooms observed to be clean and well maintained.

591-1-1-.19 License Capacity(CR) **Met**

Comment
Licensed capacity observed to be routinely met by center.

591-1-1-.25 Physical Plant - Safe Environment(CR) **Met**

Comment
Center appears clean and well maintained.

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

Correction Deadline: 10/1/2023

Corrected on 1/25/2024
.26(6) - This citation was observed to be corrected on this date. The playground equipment has been repaired and replaced.

Technical Assistance
Please ensure that outdoor equipment is 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. Please inspect the small outside toys for cracking and sharp edges and removed as necessary.

Correction Deadline: 2/4/2024

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 on playground B, the following areas were in need of additional resilient surfacing:
-At the base of the two blue slides, there was one inch of resilient surfacing when three inches is required.
-At the base of the ladder climber, there were one inches of resilient surfacing where six inches is required.
-At the base of the spiral climber, there were one inches of resilient surfacing where six inches is required.
-At the base of the chain climber, there were two inches of resilient surfacing where six inches is 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: 2/8/2024

Recited on 1/25/2024

Technical Assistance
Please ensure that 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. Please ensure that children do not play on the new playground structure on playground B until the mulch has been installed. Additionally, please ensure that the landscape tarp is secured on playgrounds B and Front Right to prevent tripping until the mulch is installed.

Correction Deadline: 2/4/2024

Food Service

591-1-1-.15 Food Service & Nutrition **Met**

Comment
Center menu meets USDA guidelines.

Health and Hygiene

591-1-1-.10 Diapering Areas & Practices(CR) **Met**

Comment
Proper diapering procedures observed.

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

Comment
Proper hand washing observed throughout the center.

Correction Deadline: 8/23/2023

Corrected on 1/25/2024
.17(7) - This citation was observed to be corrected on this date. Appropriate handwashing was observed throughout.

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

Comment
The Provider currently does not dispense/administer medication.

Policies and Procedures

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

Comment
Program observed complete emergency drills

Safety

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

Technical Assistance
Please be mindful of voice tone in redirecting children. Discussed reminding staff to watch voice tones and not using threats as a form of discipline.

591-1-1-.36 Transportation(CR) **Met**

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

Comment
Complete documentation of transportation observed.

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) **Not Met**

Correction Deadline: 8/23/2023

Corrected on 1/25/2024
.09(1)(a) - This citation was observed to be corrected on this date. All staff present had a current background check on file as required.

Correction Deadline: 8/23/2023

Corrected on 1/25/2024
.09(1)(c) - This citation was observed to be corrected on this date. All staff present had a current background check on file as required.

Finding
591-1-1-.09(1)(l)3. requires the Center to immediately require a new Comprehensive Records Check Determination for a Director, Employee or Provisional Employee at least once every five years. It was determined based on a review of records that staff member # 2 had a background check record that expired on January 23, 2024 and did not complete a new Comprehensive Records Check Determination within the five year period as required. The staff member was not present and had not been present at the center after the record check had expired.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
IMMEDIATE CORRECTION - The Center will complete the provided affidavit form to ensure that each Director, Employee and Provisional Employee has a Comprehensive Records Check Determination on file that has been issued within the past five years. 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 complete all steps to ensure CRC rules are maintained.

Correction Deadline: 1/25/2024

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

Comment
Evidence observed of more than 50% of center staff certified in First Aid and CPR.

Finding
591-1-1-.14(2) requires a Staff member who is trained in CPR and first aid to be on the premises and on any field trip whenever any child is present. In addition, Staff who provide direct care to children must satisfactorily obtain certification in first aid and CPR by December 29, 2016 if employed prior to September 30, 2016 and within 90 days of their hire date if employed after September 30, 2016. It was determined based on a review of records that staff member # 12, who was hired in Agusut of 2023, did not have evidence of complete CPR and First Aid training on file within the first 90 days as required.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
The Center will develop a schedule to ensure there is always a staff person with current first aid and CPR training present and will develop and implement a plan to ensure all staff members have satisfactorily completed first aid and CPR training by the specified date.

Correction Deadline: 2/24/2024

Finding
591-1-1-.14(3) requires the Center to have a first aid kit in each building of the Center and in any vehicle used by the Center for transportation of children, that contains scissors, tweezers, gauze pads, adhesive tape, thermometer, band-aids, assorted sizes, antibacterial ointment, insect-sting preparation, an antiseptic cleansing solution, triangular bandages, rubber gloves, protective eye wear, a protective face mask, and a cold pack. The first aid kit, together with a first aid instruction manual which must be kept with the kit at all times, shall be stored so that it is not accessible to children but is easily accessible to Staff. It was determined based on observation that the first aid kits on the busses were missing the following items:
On Bus One- the antibiotic ointment was expired, there was no insect-sting preparation, and the thermometer was not in working order.
-On Bus Two- there antibiotic ointment was expired, the insect-sting preparation was expired, and there was not thermometer.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
Center Staff will provide any missing first aid kits, add any missing items to each first aid kit and will develop and use a plan for checking the kits and replacing missing items in each kit in the future. First aid kits and instruction manuals will be stored so that they kits are not accessible to children but are easily accessible to Center Staff.

Correction Deadline: 2/4/2024

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

Finding
91-1-1-.33(5) requires that every calendar year after the first year of employment, all supervisory and caregiver Personnel, except independent contractors, Students-in-Training and volunteers shall attend ten (10) clock hours of diverse training which is task-focused in on-going health, safety and early childhood or child development related topics and which is offered by an accredited college, university or vocational program or other Department-approved source. The annual ten (10) clock hours of training shall be chosen from the following fields: child development, including discipline, guidance, nutrition, injury control and safety; health, including sanitation, disease control, cleanliness, detection and disposition of illness; child abuse and neglect, including identification and reporting, and meeting the needs of abused and/or neglected children; and business related topics, including parental communication, recordkeeping, etc.; provided however that such business related training shall be limited to no more than two (2) of the required ten (10) clock hours of training. Records of completion of such training shall be maintained, as required by these rules. It was determined based on a review of records that staff member # 4, staff member # 10, and staff member # 14 did not complete 10 annual training hours for the 2023 calendar year as required.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
The Center will plan and schedule the required 10 hours of annual training each year and follow up to ensure the training is completed.

Correction Deadline: 2/24/2024

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.