



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: 5/12/2025 **VisitType:** Monitoring Visit

Arrival: 9:20 AM **Departure:** 12:20 PM

CCLC-61894

Tootcee's Tiny Tots Learning Academy

2 Blossom Drive Savannah, GA 31405 Chatham County
(912) 712-3874 tootceestinytotslearningacademy@yahoo.com

Regional Consultant

Rebecca Owsley

Phone: (229) 238-2130

Fax:

rebecca.owsley@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.
05/12/2025	Monitoring Visit	Support	
10/21/2024	Licensing Study	Good Standing	
06/03/2024	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 Building	Room A	Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds	1	10	C	12	C	NA	NA	Centers
Main Building	Room B	One Year Olds	5	5	C	5	C	NA	NA	Free Play
Main Building	Room C	Infants and One Year Olds	1	4	C	4	C	NA	NA	Floor Play
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.:			21		Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0					
Total # Children this Date: 19			Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.:		Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0					

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main Building	Main Playground	37	C

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

Comments

The Director, Casondra Lawton, was not present for the monitoring visit today. Another staff member, Tamia Reid, was present in her place and the Consultant conducted the Exit Conference with her.

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 user id 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:

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 CAPS/ QR Provisional Status, allowing for scholarships while working toward an initial star rating. Provisional Status eligibility will be determined at the time of CAPS enrollment as part of the CAPS application process.

Contact the Quality Rated help desk at 855-800-7747 or qualityrated@dec.al.ga.gov for more information. Free technical assistance is available!



(Findings 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.

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

Comment

Staff stated the Center does not provide swimming activities.

Facility

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

Correction Deadline: 10/21/2024

Corrected on 5/12/2025

.19(1) - This citation was corrected on this date. The Consultant observed the number of children did not go over the licensed capacity for each classroom.

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

Correction Deadline: 10/21/2024

Corrected on 5/12/2025

.25(13) - This citation was corrected on this date. The Consultant observed wipes were stored high on a shelf in Classroom A and no hazardous items were found in the children's cubbies.

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

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 the slide and swings on the Main Building Main Playground had 0 inches of resilient surfacing beneath them when a minimum of 6 inches was required.

Correction Deadline: 5/26/2025

Recited on 5/12/2025

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.26(9) - Please ensure that the area beneath the swing set and next to the red spinner equipment is made safe and that the concrete blocks do not pose a tripping hazard. Additionally, please ensure that the exposed tree roots around the red spinner equipment do not pose a tripping hazard.

Correction Deadline: 5/12/2025

Food Service

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

Not Met

Finding

591-1-1-.15(7) requires that food be served according to manufacturer's instructions and recommendations. Foods that are associated with young children's choking incidents, such as, but not limited to, peanuts, hot dogs, raw carrots, popcorn, fish with bones, cheese cubes, grapes and any other food that is of similar shape and size of the trachea/windpipe shall not be served to the children less than four (4) years of age. Children older than four (4) years of age may be served these foods provided that the foods are cut in such a way as to minimize choking. Food shall not be accessible or served to children until it has been chopped, diced, cut or mashed and is appropriate for each child's age and individual eating, chewing and swallowing ability. It was determined based on observation that children in the Main Building Room A and Room B were served mini corn dogs for lunch, a food associated with choking.

Correction Deadline: 5/12/2025

Health and Hygiene

591-1-1-.07 Children's Health

Not Met

Finding

591-1-1-.07(5) requires Center Staff to not permit children to wear around their necks or attach to their clothing pacifiers or other hazardous items. It was determined based on observation that two infants in the Main Building Room C had pacifier clips attached to their clothing.

Correction Deadline: 5/12/2025

Recited on 5/12/2025

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

Met

Comment

Staff state proper knowledge of diapering procedures.

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

Not Met

Finding

591-1-1-.17(8) requires staff to wash their hands with liquid soap and warm running water upon arrival for the day, when moving from one child care group to another, upon re-entering the child care area after outside play, before and after diapering each child, dispensing medication, applying topical medications, handling and preparing food, eating, drinking, preparing bottles, feeding each child, assisting children with eating and drinking, after toileting or assisting children with toileting, using tobacco products, handling garbage and organic waste, touching animals or pets, handling bodily fluids and after contamination by any means. It was determined based on observation that a staff member in the Main Building Room A classroom wiped a child's nose on three separate occasions without washing their hands in between each time that the child's nose was wiped, as required.

Correction Deadline: 5/12/2025

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

N/A

Comment

Staff stated the Center currently does not dispense/administer medication.

Policies and Procedures

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

Met

Correction Deadline: 10/26/2024

Corrected on 5/12/2025

.21(3) - This citation was corrected on this date. A review of records showed the Center had evidence of conducting drills for fire, tornado and other emergency situations in 2025 as required.

Safety

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

Not Met

Comment

Age-appropriate discussion and/or redirection observed.

Comment

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

Finding

591-1-1-.11(2) requires that Personnel not: physically or sexually abuse a child or engage or permit others to engage in sexually overt conduct in the presence of any child enrolled in the Center; inflict corporal/physical punishment upon a child; shake, jerk, pinch or handle a child roughly; verbally abuse or humiliate a child which includes, but is not limited to, the use of threats, profanity or belittling remarks about a child or his family; isolate a child in a dark room, closet or unsupervised area; use mechanical or physical restraints or devices to discipline children; use medication to discipline or control children's behavior without written medical authorization issued by a licensed professional and given with the parent's written consent; restrict unreasonably a child from going to the bathroom; punish toileting accidents; force-feed a child or withhold feeding a child regularly scheduled meals and/or snacks; force or withhold naps; allow children to discipline or humiliate other children; or confine a child for disciplinary purposes to a swing, highchair, infant carrier, walker or jump seat. It was determined based on observation that upon the Consultant's arrival in the Main Building Room A classroom, a 3-Year-Old child was buckled into a chair on the floor. The child was crying and pulled at the straps. The child was not unbuckled from the chair until approximately two minutes later. It was further determined that the same child was buckled into a chair between 10:34 a.m. and 10:38 a.m.

Correction Deadline: 5/12/2025

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

N/A

Comment

Staff stated the Center does not provide routine transportation.

Sleeping & Resting Equipment

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

Met

Correction Deadline: 10/21/2024

Corrected on 5/12/2025

.30(1)(a)3 - This citation was corrected on this date. Staff stated the sheets for the infant cribs are changed daily.

Staff Records

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

Met

Comment

Criminal record checks were observed to be complete.

Finding

591-1-1-.33(3) requires each Staff member with direct care responsibilities to complete health and safety orientation training within the first 90 days of employment. The state-approved training hours obtained will count toward required first year training hours. The training must address the following health and safety topics: prevention and control of infectious diseases (including immunizations); prevention of sudden infant death syndrome and use of safe sleeping practices; administration of medication, consistent with standards for parental consent; prevention of and response to emergencies due to food and allergic reactions; building and physical premises safety, including identification of and protection from hazards that can cause bodily injury such as electrical hazards, bodies of water, and vehicular traffic; prevention of shaken baby syndrome, abusive head trauma and child maltreatment; emergency preparedness and response planning for emergencies resulting from a natural disaster or a human-caused event (such as violence at a child care facility); handling and storage of hazardous materials and the appropriate disposal of bio contaminants; precautions in transporting children; recognition and reporting of child abuse and neglect; and child development. It was determined based on a review of records that Staff #4 did not complete health and safety orientation as required.

Correction Deadline: 5/19/2025

Recited on 5/12/2025

Correction Deadline: 11/20/2024

Corrected on 5/12/2025

.33(4) - This citation was corrected on this date in that based on a review of records, the Director had completed four clock hours of training in food nutrition planning, preparation, serving, proper dish washing and food storage as required.

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.

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 upon the Consultant's arrival in the Main Building Room B One Year Olds classroom to conduct the first count, there were five, 1-year old children unsupervised, as there was no Staff Member present in the classroom. Approximately two minutes later a Staff Member entered the classroom. Additionally, the Staff Member briefly stepped out of the classroom to put the feeding chairs on a shelf in the hallway, leaving the children unsupervised.

It was determined based on observation that when the Consultant arrived to take the count for the Main Building Classroom B, there was not a Staff Member in the room where five 1-year-old children were present. The staff member arrived from down the hall two minutes later. Additionally, the Staff Member later stepped out of the room briefly to put away feeding chairs on the shelf in the hallway.

Correction Deadline: 5/12/2025