



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: 4/4/2025 **VisitType:** Complaint Investigation & Monitoring Visit **Arrival:** 9:05 AM **Departure:** 12:45 PM

CCLC-39109
The Learning Academy of Georgia
3620 Highlands Parkway, SE Smyrna, GA 30080 Cobb County
(678) 293-6990 tanesha.nichols@gmail.com

Regional Consultant
Laura Swann
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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.
04/04/2025	Complaint Investigation & Monitoring Visit	Good Standing	
03/03/2025	Complaint Closure	Good Standing	
02/20/2025	Complaint Investigation Follow Up	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- 1L	Infants	2	9	C	12	C	NA	NA	Floor Play
Main	B- 2L	One Year Olds	2	9	C	14	C	NA	NA	Floor Play
Main	C- 2R	Two Year Olds	2	12	C	15	C	NA	NA	Centers
Main	D- 1R	Three Year Olds	1	11	C	13	C	19	C	Centers
Main	E-Back	Four Year Olds	1	5	C	9	C	NA	NA	Breakfast
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 63					Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 69					
Total # Children this Date: 46					Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 69					

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	Playground	21	C

Enrolled Children						
Under 1 years	1 years	2 years	3 years	4 years	5 years (Prekonly)	5 years and older
10	14	15	14	9	0	0

Comments

Monitoring visit completed on April 4, 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.decgal.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:

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@decgal.ga.gov for more information. Free technical assistance is available!



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(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)

Met

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.

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 classrooms had hazards accessible to children in care.

A 1L- In an unlocked drawer/cabinet under the diaper changing station were "Vaseline", diaper cream, "Pampers/Huggies" baby wipes, and diapers in plastic bags.

B 2L- In an unlocked drawer/cabinet under the diaper changing station were "Vaseline", diaper cream, "Pampers/Huggies" baby wipes, diapers in plastic bags, baby powder.

C 2R- In an unlocked cabinet drawer/cabinet under the diaper changing station were "Vaseline", diaper cream, "Pampers/Huggies" baby wipes, diapers in plastic bags.

D 1R- drawer/cabinet under the diaper changing station were "Vaseline", diaper cream, "Pampers/Huggies" baby wipes and "Aquaphor" cream.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will identify all hazardous items and keep them in a locked area inaccessible to children. The Center will inform all Staff about hazardous items and the safe storage of those items. Staff will lock the drawers/cabinets or move hazardous items to an upper cabinet out of reach of children.

Correction Deadline: 4/4/2025

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

Playground observed to be clean and in good repair.

Health and Hygiene**591-1-1-.10 Diapering Areas & Practices(CR)****Not Met****Comment**

Proper diapering procedures observed.

Comment

Staff state proper knowledge of diapering procedures.

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 in classrooms A 1I and B 2L the diaper changing pads were torn with foam exposed.

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. The center have new changing pads ordered. They are scheduled to be deliver on April 4, 2025.

Correction Deadline: 4/4/2025

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

Staff were observed to remind children to wash hands.

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

Discussed proper medication documentation and procedures.

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**

The correct number of mats, sheets and blankets were observed on this date.

Staff Records**591-1-1-.09 Criminal Records and Comprehensive Background Checks(CR)****Met****Comment**

Consultant requested to view all Criminal Record checks for employees hired after last visit. Director stated that there have been no new hires since last visit

Comment

Criminal record checks were observed to be complete.

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.

The following information is associated with a Complaint Investigation Visit:

Food Service

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

Met

Correction Deadline: 3/15/2025

Corrected on 4/4/2025

.15(9) - Correction observed on this date. Staff were given written allergies and verbally told about children with allergies in their classroom. Children's files were update, policies and procedures were update for allergies. Fish is no longer served at the center.

Health and Hygiene

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

Met

Correction Deadline: 2/20/2025

Corrected on 4/4/2025

.07(2) - Correction observed on this date. Parents are being notified of any incidents with their child by administration and a written report is provided upon pick up. Staff are required to notify administration of any incidents with children with a written incident report. Administration calls the parent immediately to inform them of the incident.