



**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:** 5/22/2024 **VisitType:** Licensing Study

**Arrival:** 11:00 AM **Departure:** 3:00 PM

**CCLC-39572**

**Little Leaders Academy of the Arts**

330 Lynhurst Dr. SW Atlanta, GA 30311 Fulton County  
(678) 710-2003 info@littleleadersatl.com

Regional Consultant

Randy Gaytan

Phone: (770) 857-7022

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randy.gaytan@decal.ga.gov

**Mailing Address**

100 Crescent Centre Pkwy Suite 395  
Tucker, GA 30084

**Quality Rated:** ★ ★

| <b>Compliance Zone Designation</b> |                  |               | <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. |
|------------------------------------|------------------|---------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 05/22/2024                         | Licensing Study  | Good Standing |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| 03/24/2023                         | Licensing Study  | Good Standing |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| 09/22/2022                         | 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                           | Room A |                             | 0                              | 0        | C    | 15         | C            | NA         | NA           |            |
| Main                           | Room B | Three Year Olds and GA PreK | 2                              | 32       | C    | 44         | C            | NA         | NA           | Centers    |
| Main                           | Room C | Infants and One Year Olds   | 1                              | 6        | C    | 24         | C            | NA         | NA           | Floor Play |
| Main                           | Room D | Two Year Olds               | 1                              | 10       | C    | 12         | C            | NA         | NA           | Lunch      |
| Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 95 |        |                             | Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0  |          |      |            |              |            |              |            |
| Total # Children this Date: 48 |        |                             | Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 95 |          |      |            |              |            |              |            |
|                                |        |                             | Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0  |          |      |            |              |            |              |            |

| Building | Playground | Playground Occupancy | Playground Compliance |
|----------|------------|----------------------|-----------------------|
| Main     | A          | 647                  | C                     |

**Comments**

The purpose of this visit was to conduct a licensing study

Plan of Improvement: Developed This Date 05/22/2024

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.dec.state.ga.us/CCS/RuleAndRegulations.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](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.

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.state.ga.us](mailto:qualityrated@dec.state.ga.us) 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 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)

N/A

Comment

Center does not provide swimming activities.

Children's Records

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

Technical Assistance

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.08(2) - Please ensure Immunizations are kept up to date

Correction Deadline: 6/1/2024

Facility

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

Met

Correction Deadline: 3/24/2023

Corrected on 5/22/2024

.19(1) - The previous citation of exceeding the license capacity in Room D was found to be corrected in that there were 10 children in the room, and the maximum is 12.

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

Not Met

Finding

591-1-1-.25(17) requires that the Center premises be free of plants and shrubs which are poisonous or hazardous. It was determined based on observation that there was a large Yucca plant with tough sword-shaped leaves growing at the base of the fence (eight fence sections from the far left corner of the playground).

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

The harmful item will be removed.

**Correction Deadline: 5/22/2024**

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**591-1-1-.26 Playgrounds(CR)****Not Met****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 there was a hole at the bottom of the fence on the far end of the playground to the left of the large bush, measuring five inches high and nine inches wide causing a possible entrapment hazard. Additionally, the vertical support pole at this same location was down.

**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.

**Correction Deadline: 5/22/2024**

**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 Consultant's observation that an accumulation of pine cones were accessible in the grassy area by the larger playground.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

The Center will remove any litter and fix or remove hazards from the playground and will routinely monitor the playground and remove litter and hazards.

**Correction Deadline: 5/23/2024**

**Recited on 5/22/2024**

|                           |
|---------------------------|
| <b>Health and Hygiene</b> |
|---------------------------|

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**591-1-1-.07 Children's Health****Technical Assistance****Technical Assistance**

591-1-1-.07(5) - Please ensure no pacifiers are attached to children's clothes or bibs, and all pacifier cords are returned parents.

**Correction Deadline: 5/22/2024**

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**591-1-1-.10 Diapering Areas & Practices(CR)****Not Met****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 the diapering surface in Room D had a textured mat on it, thus not providing a smooth or nonporous surface as required.

**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: 5/22/2024**

**Recited on 5/22/2024**

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

Staff were observed to remind children to wash hands.

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

N/A

**Comment**

The Provider currently does not dispense/administer medication.

**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.

**591-1-1-.13 Field Trips(CR)**

N/A

**Comment**

Center does not participate in field trips at this time.

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

Not Met

**Comment**

Complete documentation of transportation observed.

**Finding**

591-1-1-.36(4)(b) requires that the interior of a transportation vehicle be clean, in safe repair and free of hazardous items, objects and/or other non-essential items which could cause injury. It was determined based on observation that the weather stripping around the large passenger door was unattached and lying on the floor at the entrance causing a tripping hazard. Additionally, there was a piece of metal protruding through the back of the first row bench, and a tear on the side of the first row bench exposing the foam.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

The center will maintain that all transportation vehicles are clean, in safe repair, and free from hazards.

**Correction Deadline: 5/23/2024**

**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

**Finding**

591-1-1-.09(1)(a) requires that a Center ensure that every actual and potential Director, Employee and Provisional Employee of a Child Care Learning Center submit both a Records Check Application to the Department and Fingerprints to an authorized fingerprinting site. It was determined based on a review of records that Staff #7 (an employee who was present and had a date of hire September 16, 2019) had not submitted a Records Check Application to the Department and Fingerprints to an authorized fingerprinting site.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

IMMEDIATE CORRECTION - The Center will routinely review staff files and expiration dates to ensure that every actual and potential Director, Employee and Provisional Employee of a Child Care Learning Center submit both a Records Check Application to the Department and Fingerprints to an authorized fingerprinting site as required. 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 view the training videos, sign the affidavit, and return the signed affidavit to the Consultant to ensure the CRC rules are maintained.

**Correction Deadline: 5/22/2024**

**Finding**

591-1-1-.09(1)(c) requires the Center to ensure that every Employee has a valid and current satisfactory Comprehensive Records Check Determination on file prior to being present at the Center while any child is present for care or before an individual age 17 or older resides in the Center. The Comprehensive Records Check Determination must have a Records Check Clearance Date that is no older than the preceding 12 months of the hire date; provided, however, if the Employee has had a lapse of employment from the child care industry that lasted for 180 days (6 months) or longer, a new satisfactory Comprehensive Records Check Determination is required. It was determined based on a review of records that Staff #7 (an employee who was present and had a date of hire September 16, 2021) did not have a valid and current satisfactory Comprehensive Records Check Determination on file prior to being present at the Center

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

IMMEDIATE CORRECTION - The Center will routinely review the staff records to ensure that every Employee has a valid and current satisfactory Comprehensive Records Check Determination on file prior to being present at the Center while any child is present for care or before an individual age 17 or older resides in the Center. The Comprehensive Records Check Determination must have a Records Check Clearance Date that is no older than the preceding 12 months of the hire date; provided, however, if the Employee has had a lapse of employment from the child care industry that lasted for 180 days (6 months) or longer, a new satisfactory Comprehensive Records Check Determination is required. 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 view the training videos, sign the affidavit, and return the signed affidavit to the Consultant to ensure the CRC rules are maintained.

**Correction Deadline: 5/22/2024**

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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)****Met****Comment**

Adequate supervision observed on this date.