



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: 7/28/2025 **VisitType:** Monitoring Visit

Arrival: 8:50 AM **Departure:** 12:15 PM

CCLC-26490

Tree House Academy

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

Regional Consultant

Jerica Davis

Phone: (478) 314-9452

Fax: (478) 314-9443

jerica.davis@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.
07/28/2025	Monitoring Visit	Good Standing	
01/08/2025	Licensing Study	Good Standing	
08/07/2024	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	A-1st right	Two Year Olds	1	4	C	16	C	NA	NA	Outside
Main	B - 2nd right	One Year Olds	1	7	C	11	C	NA	NA	Floor Play,Diapering
Main	C - 3rd right	Four Year Olds and Five Year Olds and Six Year Olds and Over	1	8	C	22	C	NA	NA	Centers
Main	D -Back left	Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds	1	9	C	20	C	NA	NA	Art
Main	E -far left	Six Year Olds and Over	1	7	C	19	C	NA	NA	Outside
Main	F-Front left	Infants and One Year Olds	2	7	C	12	C	NA	NA	Diapering,Floor Play
Main	Room G -3 yrs	Two Year Olds and Three Year Olds	1	5	C	14	C	NA	NA	Circle Time
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 114			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0							
Total # Children this Date: 47			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

Enrolled Children						
Under 1 years	1 years	2 years	3 years	4 years	5 years (Prekonly)	5 years and older
6	11	8	12	7	0	20

Comments

The visit report was discussed with the assistant director on this date.

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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(Findings Report)

Date: 7/28/2025 VisitType: Monitoring Visit

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The following information is associated with a MV:

Activities and Equipment

Records Reviewed: 18

Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 1

Staff # 14

Not Met

Date of Hire: 02/17/2025

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.09-Criminal Records Check Missing

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

Met

Comment

A variety of equipment and toys were observed throughout the center on this date.

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

Met

Comment

Center does not provide swimming activities.

Facility

Records Reviewed: 18

Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 1

Staff # 14

Not Met

Date of Hire: 02/17/2025

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.09-Criminal Records Check Missing

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

The Center appeared clean and well maintained on this date.

591-1-1-.26 Playgrounds(CR)**Met****Correction Deadline: 1/8/2025****Prior Visits: 02/22/2022****Corrected on 7/28/2025****.26(9) - This citation was observed to be corrected on this date. No ants were observed on the playground.****Health and Hygiene****Records Reviewed: 18****Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 1**

Staff # 14

Not Met

Date of Hire: 02/17/2025

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.09-Criminal Records Check Missing

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 on this date.

Correction Deadline: 1/8/2025**Prior Visits: 08/13/2019****Corrected on 7/28/2025****.17(7) - This citation was observed to be corrected on this date. Appropriate hand washing was observed throughout the center.****591-1-1.20 Medications(CR)****Met****Comment**

The Provider currently does not dispense/administer medication.

Safety**Records Reviewed: 18****Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 1**

Staff # 14

Not Met

Date of Hire: 02/17/2025

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.09-Criminal Records Check Missing

591-1-1.11 Discipline(CR)**Met****Comment**

Age-appropriate discussion and/or redirection observed.

591-1-1.13 Field Trips(CR)**Met****Comment**

Field trip documentation observed to be complete on this date.

591-1-1.36 Transportation(CR)**Met****Comment**

The vehicle had an approved fire extinguisher and first aid kit on this date.

Sleeping & Resting Equipment

Staff # 14

Not Met

Date of Hire: 02/17/2025

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.09-Criminal Records Check Missing

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

Staff # 14

Not Met

Date of Hire: 02/17/2025

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.09-Criminal Records Check Missing

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 member # 14, who was hired on February 17, 2025, was present and did not submit both a Records Check Application to the Department and Fingerprints to an authorized fingerprinting site before employment as required.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

IMMEDIATE CORRECTION - The Center will complete the provided affidavit form 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 complete all steps to ensure the CRC rules are maintained.

Correction Deadline: 7/28/2025**Prior Visits: 08/23/2023****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 member # 14, who was hired on February 17, 2025, did not have a valid and current satisfactory Comprehensive Records Check Determination on file prior to being present at the Center as required.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

IMMEDIATE CORRECTION - The Center will complete the provided affidavit form 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 complete all steps to ensure the CRC rules are maintained.

Correction Deadline: 7/28/2025**Prior Visits: 08/23/2023****591-1-1-.14 First Aid & CPR(CR)****Met****Comment**

Discussed that effective July 1, 2025, new staff are required to obtain pediatric First Aid and pediatric CPR training within 45 days of employment. It was further discussed that programs must have at least one person with current pediatric First Aid and pediatric CPR training in each classroom at all times.

Correction Deadline: 2/5/2025**Corrected on 7/28/2025**

.14(2) - This citation was observed to be corrected on this date. All required staff had CPR and First Aid on file.

591-1-1-.33 Staff Training**Defer****Defer**

591-1-1-.33(5)- This citation will be evaluated at the next Licensing Study.

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: 1/1/2026**591-1-1-.31 Staff(CR)****Met****Comment**

Staff observed to be compliant with applicable laws and regulations.

Staffing and Supervision**Records Reviewed: 18****Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 1**

Staff # 14

Not Met

Date of Hire: 02/17/2025

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.09-Criminal Records Check Missing

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****Correction Deadline: 1/8/2025****Prior Visits: 05/11/2023, 01/10/2023****Corrected on 7/28/2025**

.32(7) - This citation was observed to be corrected on this date. Appropriate supervision was observed.