



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: 10/27/2025 **VisitType:** Initial Licensing Study

Arrival: 10:50 AM **Departure:** 4:00 PM

CCLC-67304

Little Explorers Childcare Learning Center LLC

1906 Barnesville Hwy Thomaston, GA 30286 Upson County
(706) 601-9129

Application Services Unit Coordinator

Twylah Tyner

Phone: (478) 599-9822

Fax: (478) 314-5868

twylah.tyner@decal.ga.gov

Joint with: Lauren Stewart

Mailing Address

Same

Quality Rated: No

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.
10/27/2025	Initial Licensing Study	Good Standing	
			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
Building 2	H - After School		0	0	C	30	C	NA	NA	
			Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 30		Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0					
Main	A - 1st L - Infants and 1's		0	0	C	11	C	NA	NA	
Main	B - 2nd L - 1's		0	0	C	17	C	NA	NA	
Main	C - 3rd L - 2's		0	0	C	16	C	NA	NA	
Main	D - 4th L - Older 2's		0	0	C	15	C	NA	NA	
Main	E - 3rd R - 4's		0	0	C	18	C	NA	NA	
Main	F - 2nd R - 3's		0	0	C	18	C	NA	NA	
Main	G - 1st R - Infants		0	0	C	13	C	NA	NA	
			Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 108		Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0					
Total # Children this Date: 0			Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 138		Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0					

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	A - Back L	147	C
Main	B - Front L	120	C
Main	C - Back R	65	C
Main	D - Front R	16	C

Comments

The child care program received a final license this date. Facility does not carry liability insurance. Licensed capacity limited at center's request.

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.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

You have received permission to operate and the form received with this report is intended to serve as a temporary license which is **valid for thirty(30) days**. Your actual license/ will be emailed to you upon receipt of the licensing fee. You may pay the licensing fee either online at <http://www.decgal.ga.gov/> or by certified check or money order mailed to: Bright from the Start, 2 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive SE, Suite 670 East Tower, Atlanta, GA 30334

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



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Summary Report

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The following information is associated with a Initial Licensing Study:

Activities and Equipment

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

Met

Comment

Discussed adding equipment and toys to enhance variety.

Comment

Equipment and furniture observed to be properly secured, as applicable.

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

N/A

Comment

Center does not provide swimming activities. No pool observed on site.

Facility

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

Met

Comment

Final License issued this date. Overall licensed capacity is 138.

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

Technical Assistance

Comment

The Center appeared clean and well maintained on this date.

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.25(3) - Ensure baseboards throughout the center are properly attached to the walls.

Correction Deadline: 10/27/2025

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.25(6) - Ensure each child over 12 months of age has individual storage space within reach.

Correction Deadline: 11/26/2025

591-1-1-.26 Playgrounds(CR)

Met

Comment

Ensure no hazards are located on playgrounds.

Health and Hygiene

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

Met

Comment

There were no children enrolled in the program on this date. Sinks with warm running water were observed adjacent to proper diapering surfaces in all classrooms approved for diapering.

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

There were no children enrolled on this date. Proper hand washing of children and staff was discussed with the director.

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

Discussed proper medication documentation and procedures.

Policies and Procedures**591-1-1-.21 Operational Policies & Procedures****Technical Assistance****Technical Assistance**

591-1-1-.21(2)(r) - New - Discussed updating the Center's policies and procedures to include the program's practices regarding the expulsion and suspension of children enrolled for care within the description of behavior management and discipline actions used by the Center.

Also discussed to ensure a description of the practices followed by the Center to prevent shaken baby syndrome and abusive head trauma in children up to five years of age that includes the following information: how to recognize, respond to, and report the signs and symptoms of shaken baby syndrome and abusive head trauma; strategies to assist staff members in understanding how to care for infants and how to cope with a crying, fussing, or distraught child; strategies to ensure staff members understand the brain development of children up to five years of age; and a list of prohibited behaviors when dealing with children.

Additional information can be found in the CCLC Indicator Manual found on DECAL's website at: <https://www.dec.al.gov/CCS/RulesAndRegulations.aspx> or through the Center on Shaken Baby Syndrome found at: <https://dontshake.org/>.

Correction Deadline: 11/1/2025**Safety****591-1-1-.11 Discipline(CR)****Met****Comment**

There were no children enrolled on this date. Regulations regarding proper discipline were discussed with the director on this date.

591-1-1-.36 Transportation(CR)**N/A****Comment**

Center does not provide routine transportation or field trips. Consultant discussed transportation requirements if/when the facility decides to incorporate transportation. The center will contact their regional consultant and complete the required two (2) hours transportation training prior to transporting children.

Sleeping & Resting Equipment**591-1-1-.30 Safe Sleeping and Resting Requirements(CR)****Technical Assistance****Comment**

Discussed SIDS and infant sleeping position.

Comment

Six cribs were present meeting safety compliance with Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) and American Society of Testing and Materials International (ASTM) safety standards. All cribs had compliance certificates showing they met compliance rule 16 CFR 1220.

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.30(1)(b)1 - Ensure all mats are in good repair and at least two inches thick.

Correction Deadline: 10/27/2025**Staff Records**

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

Criminal record checks were observed to be complete.

591-1-1-.14 First Aid & CPR(CR)	Met
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Comment

Evidence observed of 100% of center Staff certified in First Aid and CPR containing emergency care for infants and children on this date.

591-1-1-.33 Staff Training	Technical Assistance
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Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.33(1) - Discussed that all Employees, including volunteers, independent contractors, students-in-training, etc. should have a completed initial program orientation form on file.

Correction Deadline: 10/27/2025

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.33(5)(b)1. - New - Discussed that effective July 1, 2025, all staff are required to obtain at least two hours in evidence based, developmentally appropriate language and literacy practices and at least two hours in on-going child development and health and safety related topics as part of their 10 hours of annual training.

Correction Deadline: 11/26/2025

591-1-1-.31 Staff(CR)	Met
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Comment

Discussed that all lead staff must enroll in an approved education program within 6 months of hire and complete degree within 18 months.

Staffing and Supervision

591-1-1-.32 Staff:Child Ratios and Group Size(CR)	Met
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Comment

There were no children enrolled on this date. Proper ratios and classroom capacities were discussed with the director on this date.

591-1-1-.32 Supervision(CR)	Met
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Comment

A supervision plan was created on this date for classrooms A, B, C, D, F, G and H due to the shape of classrooms. Additionally a diapering supervision plan was created for classrooms A, B and C.