



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: 3/31/2026 VisitType: Licensing Study

Arrival: 8:55 AM Departure: 3:00 PM

CCLC-66016

Little Tots Learning Academy

2006 Lumpkin Rd Augusta, GA 30906 Richmond County
(706) 910-1196

Technical Assistance Unit Consultant

Devanie Schay

Phone: ()

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devanie.schay@dec.al.ga.gov

Joint with: Melyn Smith

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.
03/31/2026	Licensing Study	Good Standing	
10/30/2025	Monitoring Visit	Good Standing	
02/21/2025	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
Main	A: Infants (right)	Infants	1	3	C	9	C	NA	NA	Feeding, Floor Play
Main	B: Toddler (Left)	One Year Olds and Two Year Olds	1	8	C	14	C	NA	NA	Lunch, Story
Main	C: Threes- 12 (Back Middle)	Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds	1	8	C	23	C	NA	NA	Free Play, Nap
			Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 46			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0				
Total # Children this Date: 19			Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 46			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0				

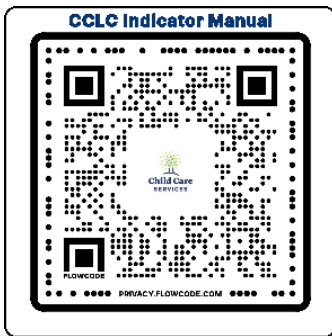
Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	Playground	23	C

Enrolled Children						
Under 1 years	1 years	2 years	3 years	4 years	5 years (Prekonly)	5 years and older
4	6	3	14	3	0	26

Comments

The visit report was reviewed with the Assistant Director and the Director. The Assistant Director was provided a copy of the report.

Plan of Improvement: Developed This Date



For additional information regarding any licensing topics discussed during this visit, please consult the Rules and Regulations Indicator Manual. This manual provides comprehensive clarification of each rule, including evaluation indicators, related best practices, and relevant considerations to support your program's continued and sustained compliance.

To access the Indicator Manual, please scan the QR code below or visit our website at <https://www.decal.ga.gov/CCS/RulesAndRegulations.aspx>.

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



Summary Report

Date: 3/31/2026 VisitType: Licensing Study

Arrival: 8:55 AM Departure: 3:00 PM

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The following information is associated with a Licensing Study:

Activities and Equipment

591-1-1-.03 Activities

Not Met

Finding

591-1-1-.03(2) requires the Center to keep current lesson plans on site that reflect appropriate instruction practices and activities to support children's development The Center shall have sufficient and varied play and learning equipment and materials to support the above program of activities in all developmental areas. It was determined based on observation that outdated lesson plans dated January 2026 were present in all classrooms on this date. Current lesson plans were not available for review.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will keep current lesson plans on site that include appropriate instruction practices and activities and will have sufficient and varied play and learning equipment and materials to support the activities.

Correction Deadline: 3/31/2026

Finding

591-1-1-.03(7) requires the center to provide outdoor activities daily, weather permitting. It was determined based on observation and staff interviews that the center has not provided outdoor activities daily for enrolled children from March 27, 2026 through this date as required.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will follow a schedule that allows for all children to have the required amount of daily outside play time.

Correction Deadline: 3/31/2026

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)

N/A

Comment

Center does not provide swimming activities.

Children's Records

Records Reviewed: 5

Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 3

Child # 1

Not Met

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.08(1)(a)-Work Number Missing

Child # 4

Not Met

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.08(1)-Doctor, Clinic, Phone Numbers

Child # 5

Not Met

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.08(1)(a)-Work Number Missing,.08(3)-Address of Release Person Missing

591-1-1-.08 Children's Records**Not Met****Finding**

591-1-1-.08(1) requires the Center Staff to maintain a file for each child while such child is in care and for one year after that child is no longer enrolled. In order for the file to be complete, the file shall contain the following: child's name, birth date, sex, address, living arrangement, name of school if applicable; names of both Parents, home and work addresses, and home and work telephone numbers; name(s) and addresses of the person(s) to whom the child may be released including address, telephone numbers, relationship to child and to Parent(s), and other identifying information; name(s) and telephone number(s) of person(s) to contact in emergencies when the Parent cannot be reached; name and telephone number of the child's primary source of health care; and a statement regarding known allergies, physical problems, mental health disorders, intellectual disabilities or developmental disabilities which limit the child's participation in the program. It was determined based on a review of records that out of five children's records reviewed, two were lacking parental work phone numbers, one was lacking a phone number for the child's primary physician, and one was lacking the address for an authorized release person on this date.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

Center staff will develop a plan that includes how to obtain all required information for currently enrolled children and how to ensure this is done for future enrollees as well. The plan will also include how and where to maintain files for the required amount of time. The plan will be implemented and followed.

Correction Deadline: 4/7/2026**Facility****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)**Not Met****Finding**

591-1-1-.25(11) requires that floor coverings be tight, smooth, free of odors and washable or cleanable. It was determined based on observation that the large rug on the right side of the room in C: Threes-12 (Back Middle) was not clean in that dirt and sand was visible throughout the rug.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

Floors will be maintained to be safe and sanitary.

Correction Deadline: 4/30/2026**591-1-1-.26 Playgrounds(CR)****Not Met****Finding**

591-1-1-.26(6) requires that playground equipment provide an opportunity for the children to engage in a variety of experiences and shall be age-appropriate. For example, toddlers shall not be permitted to swing in swings designed for School-age Children. The outdoor equipment shall be free of lead-based paint, sharp corners and shall be regularly maintained in such a way as to be free of rust and splinters that could pose significant safety hazard to the children. All equipment shall be arranged so as not to obstruct supervision of children. It was determined based on observation that the red tunnel on the Main Playground had chipping paint on this date.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

Staff will check the equipment daily to ensure that the equipment is free of hazards, rust and splinters. Assistant Director will sand and repaint red tunnel on Main Playground.

Correction Deadline: 4/8/2026

Food Service**591-1-1-.15 Food Service & Nutrition****Not Met****Finding**

591-1-1-.15(2) requires that a signed written feeding plan for children less than one (1) year of age shall be obtained from Parent(s) and that instructions from the Parent(s) shall be updated regularly as new foods are added or other dietary changes are made. The feeding plan shall be posted in the child's assigned room and must include the child's feeding schedule, the amount of formula or breast milk to be given, instructions for the introduction of solid foods, the amount of food to be given and notation of any type(s) of commercially premixed formula which may not be used in an emergency because of food allergies. It was determined based on a review records that the program was lacking feeding plans for the four infants enrolled.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center Director will develop and implement a plan to obtain and post the completed feeding plan as part of the enrollment process and to have parents update the plans on a regular basis that will include center staff involved with enrollment and those working in the infant classrooms.

Correction Deadline: 4/3/2026

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.15(2)(f) - Discussed with Director to ensure all food for toddlers is cut into 1/2 inch.

Correction Deadline: 3/31/2026

Finding

591-1-1-.15(3) requires baby bottles and formula to be labeled with the individual child's name; supplied by the Parent daily in bottles; and refrigerated at a temperature of forty (40) degrees Fahrenheit or less. Only the current day's formula or breast milk shall be served. If formula must be provided by the Center, only commercially prepared, ready-to-feed formula shall be used. Refrigerated or frozen breast milk shall only be heated or thawed under warm running water or in a container of warm water. It was determined based on observation in A: Infants (right) that three bottles, in the classroom refrigerator, were not labeled with the individual child's first or last name as required.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will train Staff to follow the required procedures, ensure that parents are fully informed, and will ensure all bottles are labeled with children's first and last names. The director will provide staff with tape and markers to label bottles.

Correction Deadline: 3/31/2026

591-1-1-.18 Kitchen Operations**Technical Assistance****Technical Assistance**

591-1-1-.18(5) - Discussed with Assistant Director to ensure that milk and any other food that requires refrigeration were kept at 40 degrees Fahrenheit or below.

Correction Deadline: 3/31/2026

Health and Hygiene**591-1-1-.10 Diapering Areas & Practices(CR)****Not Met****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 diaper changing surfaces in room A: Infants (right) and room B: Toddler (Left), were not smooth and had a quilted pattern on this date.

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: 4/10/2026

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.17(8) - Discussed with Assistant Director to ensure staff are trained on all required hand washing as one staff in room B: Toddler (Left) was observed not to wash hands after wiping a nose.

Correction Deadline: 3/31/2026

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

Not Evaluated

Comment

The Provider currently does not dispense/administer medication.

Policies and Procedures

591-1-1-.27 Posted Notices

Technical Assistance

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.27 - Discussed with Assistant Director to ensure all required notices are posted including the current center license, current week's menu, and the emergency preparedness plans.

Correction Deadline: 3/31/2026

Safety

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

Finding

591-1-1-.36(7)(c)2. requires that the driver or other designated person shall immediately document in writing, with a check or other mark/symbol to account for each child listed on the passenger transportation checklist each time a child enters and exits the vehicle. The driver or other designated staff person shall document in writing with a different mark/symbol to account for each child listed on the passenger transportation checklist who was not present on the vehicle for any reason. An explanation shall be documented in writing whenever a child is transported to a field trip site but is not present on the return trip to the Center. It was determined based on a review of records that two children who are no longer enrolled in the program were marked during morning and afternoon transportation for loading and unloading the vehicle to and from Richmond Hill Elementary on March 30 and March 31, 2026.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Director will train the driver/other designated person to immediately document in writing with a check/mark/symbol each time a child gets on and off the vehicle using name to face checks.

Correction Deadline: 4/1/2026

Sleeping & Resting Equipment

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

Met

Comment

Pleasant naptime environment observed.

Staff Records

Records Reviewed: 7

Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 4

Staff # 2

Not Met

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(3)-Health & Safety Certificate

Staff # 4

Not Met

Date of Hire: 01/01/2025

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(4)-Food Prep Training Missing 4 hrs.

Staff # 5

Not Met

Date of Hire: 01/01/2025

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(4)-Food Prep Training Missing 4 hrs.

Staff # 6

Not Met

Date of Hire: 01/01/2025

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(4)-Food Prep Training Missing 4 hrs.

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

Criminal record checks were observed to be complete.

591-1-1-.09 Criminal Records Check(CR)**Met****Comment**

Criminal records checks were observed to be complete.

591-1-1-.14 First Aid & CPR(CR)**Met****Correction Deadline: 11/30/2025****Corrected on 3/31/2026****.14(1)(a) - The previous citation was observed corrected on this date. Six out of seven staff members had current certification in Pediatric First Aid and CPR on this date.****591-1-1-.33 Staff Training****Not Met****Finding**

591-1-1-.33(3)(a)-(k) 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: a) prevention and control of infectious diseases (including immunizations); b) prevention of sudden infant death syndrome and use of safe sleeping practices; c) administration of medication, consistent with standards for parental consent; d) prevention of and response to emergencies due to food and allergic reactions; e) 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; f) prevention of shaken baby syndrome, abusive head trauma and child maltreatment; g) 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); h) handling and storage of hazardous materials and the appropriate disposal of bio contaminants; i) precautions in transporting children; j) recognition and reporting of child abuse and neglect; and k) child development to include all major domains: cognitive; social and emotional; physical development and motor skills; communication, language, and literacy; and approaches to play and learning. It was determined based on a review of records that Staff # 2 hired on December 12, 2025 did not have evidence of Health and Safety Training within 90 days of hire as required on this date.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will develop and implement a plan to schedule and track this training for all employees based on their hire dates and will ensure that the training includes all required components as required.

Correction Deadline: 4/30/2026

Finding

591-1-1-.33(4) requires within the first year of employment, the Director and person with primary responsibility for food preparation shall have four clock hours of training in food nutrition planning, preparation, serving, proper dish washing and food storage. It was determined based on a review of records that the director and three staff members identified as sharing the duties of the cook, did not have the required four hours nutrition planning, preparation, serving, proper dish washing, and food storage on this date.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will schedule food preparation training, as required, and follow up to ensure the training is completed.

Correction Deadline: 4/30/2026

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

Met

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

Comment

Center observed to maintain appropriate staff:child ratios.

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

Met

Comment

Staff observed to provide direct supervision and be attentive to children's needs.