



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: 1/22/2026 **VisitType:** Licensing Study

Arrival: 10:45 AM **Departure:** 1:25 PM

CCLC-1583

The Learning Tree Academy

1661 Fernside Dr. Toccoa, GA 30577 Stephens County
 (706) 886-9900

Regional Consultant

Brittany Lindsey

Phone: (770) 405-7931

Fax:

brittany.lindsey@dec.al.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.
01/22/2026	Licensing Study	Good Standing	
01/22/2025	Incident Investigation Closure	Good Standing	
01/02/2025	Licensing Study	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
Building 1	1L	Two Year Olds and Three Year Olds	2	9	C	22	C	NA	NA	Centers, Transitioning
Building 1	1R	Three Year Olds	2	12	C	22	C	NA	NA	Music
Building 1	2L	Two Year Olds	2	10	C	22	C	NA	NA	Story
Building 1	2R		0	0	C	23	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
Building 1	Cafeteria		0	0	C	32	C	NA	NA	
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 121			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0							
Building 2	1L back	One Year Olds	2	6	C	10	C	NA	NA	Lunch
Building 2	1L front	One Year Olds and Two Year Olds	2	6	C	18	C	NA	NA	Centers
Building 2	1R	Infants	2	5	C	14	C	NA	NA	Floor Play
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 42			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0							
Building 3	Downstairs-1L	Four Year Olds and Five Year Olds	2	11	C	20	C	NA	NA	Story
Building 3	Downstairs-2L		0	0	C	18	C	NA	NA	
Building 3	Gym	Four Year Olds and Five Year Olds	2	13	C	62	C	NA	NA	Free Play
Building 3	Media Center		0	0	C	13	C	NA	NA	
Building 3	Upstairs 1L	Five Year Olds and Six Year Olds and Over	2	10	C	19	C	NA	NA	Story
Building 3	Upstairs- 1R		0	0	C	39	C	NA	NA	

		Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 171			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0					
Building 4	Cabin 1701	Six Year Olds and Over	1	10	C	24	C	NA	NA	Outside
Building 4	Cabin 1703	Six Year Olds and Over	1	12	C	22	C	NA	NA	Outside
Building 4	Cabin 1705	Six Year Olds and Over	1	12	C	24	C	NA	NA	Outside
Building 4	Cabin 1707	Six Year Olds and Over	1	5	C	24	C	NA	NA	Story
Building 4	Cabin 1709	Six Year Olds and Over	1	8	C	24	C	NA	NA	Story
		Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 118			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0					
Total # Children this Date: 129		Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 452			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0					

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Building 1	Playground A-Rt side	102	C
Building 1	Playground B-Middle	70	C
Building 1	Playground C-Left side	56	C
Building 2	Playground-Infant	32	C
Building 2	Screened Porch	6	C
Building 3	Playground	75	C

Enrolled Children						
Under 1 years	1 years	2 years	3 years	4 years	5 years (Prekonly)	5 years and older
6	13	15	18	14	14	60

Comments

N/A

Plan of Improvement: No Plan Developed

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/Regulations.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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Summary Report

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The following information is associated with a Licensing Study:

Activities and Equipment

591-1-1-.03 Activities

Met

Comment

Age-appropriate activities observed throughout the center.

Comment

Lesson Plans were observed to be posted and reflected the current weeks activities in each classroom.

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

Met

Comment

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

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.

Children's Records

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

Met

Comment

Parent authorizations obtained/completed.

Comment

Records were observed to be complete and well organized.

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)

Met

Comment

No hazards observed accessible to children on this date.

Comment

The Center appeared clean and well maintained on this date.

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

Playground observed to be clean and in good repair on this date.

Food Service**591-1-1-.15 Food Service & Nutrition****Met****Comment**

Center menu meets USDA guidelines.

Health and Hygiene**591-1-1-.10 Diapering Areas & Practices(CR)****Met****Comment**

Staff stated proper knowledge of diapering procedures.

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

Proper hand washing observed throughout the center on this date.

Comment

Staff were observed to remind children to wash hands on this date.

591-1-1-.20 Medications(CR)**N/A****Comment**

The Provider currently does not dispense/administer medication.

Policies and Procedures**591-1-1-.21 Operational Policies & Procedures****Met****Comment**

Program observed complete emergency drills

591-1-1-.27 Posted Notices**Met****Comment**

Observed all required posted notices.

Safety**591-1-1-.05 Animals****Met****Comment**

Animals maintained clean and appropriately caged.

591-1-1-.11 Discipline(CR)**Met****Comment**

Staff were observed to maintain a positive learning environment on this date.

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

A current/completed inspection was observed for all vehicles used in transporting children this date.

Comment

Complete documentation of transportation observed on this date.

Comment

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

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

Criminal record checks were observed to be complete.

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

Complete first aid kits observed in center.

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-.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**

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