



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: 8/1/2024 **VisitType:** Complaint Investigation & Monitoring Visit

Arrival: 10:00 AM **Departure:** 3:00 PM

CCLC-24637

The Chestnut Treehouse

474 South Deshon Rd. Lithonia, GA 30058 DeKalb County
(770) 879-2021 chestnuttreehouse22@yahoo.com

Process & QI Unit Consultant

Melyn Smith

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Joint with: Latricia Hall

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.
08/01/2024	Complaint Investigation & Monitoring Visit	Good Standing	
07/26/2023	Licensing Study	Good Standing	
05/18/2023	Complaint Closure	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	10	C	16	C	NA	NA	Transitioning
Main	B-2nd rt- 0-12 mos	Infants	1	4	C	11	C	NA	NA	Floor Play
Main	C- 1st Left -New- 2 y/o	One Year Olds	1	6	C	16	C	NA	NA	Circle Time
Main	D-3rd right- 3 y/o	Three Year Olds	2	10	C	14	C	NA	NA	Outside
Main	E-4th Right- 4 y/o	Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds	1	7	C	24	C	NA	NA	Outside
Main	F-3rd Left- End- 5+	Six Year Olds and Over	1	8	C	33	C	NA	NA	Art
Main	G- Pre-K		0	0	C	25	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
Main	H-new room	Five Year Olds	1	6	C	9	C	NA	NA	Centers
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 148						Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0				
Total # Children this Date: 51						Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0				

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	A-6wks-3 years	28	C
Main	B 3-12 years	95	C

Comments

The purpose of this visit was to conduct a Complaint Investigation and to conduct a Monitoring Visit. Consultant provided contact information to the Director and Owner.

Plan of Improvement: Developed This Date 08/01/2024

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.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)

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The following information is associated with a Monitoring Visit:

Activities and Equipment

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

Met

Technical Assistance

Consultant discussed removing worn furniture that is not in good repair from classrooms.

Correction Deadline: 8/1/2024

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

N/A

Comment

Center does not provide swimming activities.

Facility

591-1-1-.06 Bathrooms

Met

Correction Deadline: 8/25/2023

Corrected on 8/1/2024

Previous citation corrected. Consultant observed exhaust fan working and in good repair on this date.

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

Met

Comment

Licensed capacity observed to be routinely met by center.

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

Not Met

Comment

Please be mindful to keep items that pose a hazard inaccessible to children.

Finding

591-1-1-.25(13) requires that potentially hazardous equipment, materials and supplies be stored in a locked area inaccessible to children. It was determined based upon observation that there were plastic bags accessible to children in care in six of the eight classrooms observed on this date.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will identify all hazardous items and keep them in a locked area inaccessible to children. The Center will inform all Staff about hazardous items and the safe storage of those items.

Correction Deadline: 8/9/2024

Recited on 8/1/2024

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 upon observation that there was a crack at the bottom of the slide on the red, blue, and yellow play structure causing a potential pinching hazard.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will provide a variety of age-appropriate equipment that is arranged so as not to obstruct supervision of children. Staff will check the equipment daily to ensure that the equipment is free of hazards, rust and splinters.

Correction Deadline: 8/31/2024

Recited on 8/1/2024

Correction Deadline: 7/26/2023

Corrected on 8/1/2024

Previous citation corrected. Consultant did not observe lifting rubber pads on this date.

Health and Hygiene

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

Met

Comment

Staff state proper knowledge of diapering procedures.

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 per the Director.

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)

Met

Comment

Field trip documentation observed to be complete.

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

Met

Comment

Complete documentation of transportation observed.

Sleeping & Resting Equipment

Technical Assistance

Consultant discussed with the Director to ensure sheets are stored in a manner that they are not touching to ensure or to consider storing sheets separately from the cots.

Correction Deadline: 8/1/2024

Finding

591-1-1-.30(2)(c) requires that infants shall not sleep in equipment other than safety-approved cribs, such as, but not limited to, a car safety seat, bouncy seat, highchair, or swing. Infants who arrive at the Center asleep or fall asleep in such equipment, on the floor or elsewhere, shall be transferred to a safety-approved crib. It was determined based on observation that a child was propped on a boppy pillow and asleep on the floor.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will only place infants in safe cribs to sleep and will transfer them to a safe crib when the infants are asleep in other equipment.

Correction Deadline: 8/1/2024

Staff Records

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

Met

Comment

Director provided [] file(s) for employees hired since last visit.

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

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

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

Met

Comment

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