



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: 1/9/2025 **VisitType:** Licensing Study

Arrival: 10:30 AM **Departure:** 3:40 PM

CCLC-24637

The Chestnut Treehouse

474 South Deshon Rd. Lithonia, GA 30058 DeKalb County
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Regional Consultant

Cassandra Jakes-Beasley

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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.
01/09/2025	Licensing Study	Good Standing	
08/01/2024	Complaint Closure	Good Standing	
08/01/2024	Complaint Investigation & 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	2	10	C	16	C	NA	NA	Floor Play
Main	B-2nd rt- 0-12 mos	Infants and One Year Olds	1	20	C	11	NC	NA	NA	Feeding,Floor Play
Main	C- 1st Left -New- 2 y/o	One Year Olds	2	11	C	16	C	NA	NA	Transitioning,Clean Up
Main	D-3rd right- 3 y/o	Four Year Olds	2	8	C	14	C	NA	NA	Story
Main	E-4th Right- 4 y/o	Three Year Olds	1	10	C	24	C	NA	NA	Floor Play
Main	F-3rd Left- End- 5+		0	0	C	33	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
Main	G- Pre-K	GA PreK	2	4	C	25	C	NA	NA	Floor Play
Main	H-new room		0	0	C	9	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 148					Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0					
Total # Children this Date: 63		Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 148			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

Enrolled Children						
Under 1 years	1 years	2 years	3 years	4 years	5 years (Prekonly)	5 years and older
3	11	16	18	17	0	24

Comments

The purpose of the visit was to conduct a Licensing Study.

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.decga.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@decga.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 Licensing Study:

Activities and Equipment

591-1-1-.03 Activities

Technical Assistance

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.03(7)(a) - The Consultant discussed with the Director that centers that operates five hours or more per day to provide at least one and one-half hours of outdoor activity per day, weather permitting, for each child who is not an infant and at least one hour daily for infants.

Correction Deadline: 1/9/2025

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

Technical Assistance

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.12(8) -

Correction Deadline: 1/9/2025

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

Met

Comment

Center does not provide swimming activities.

Children's Records

Records Reviewed: 5

Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 2

Child # 4

Not Met

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.08(2)-Immunization

Child # 5

Not Met

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.08(2)-Immunization

Comment

Please ensure that the children's records contain the complete address(es) of the person to whom the child may be released.

Finding

591-1-1-.08(2) requires Center Staff to maintain a file for each child that includes evidence of age-appropriate immunizations or a signed affidavit against such immunizations for each child enrolled in the center on a form approved by the Department, and to allow no child to continue enrollment in the Center for more than thirty (30) days without such evidence. It was determined based on a review of records there was no evidence of age-appropriate immunization or a signed affidavit against such immunization for child # 5.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

Center staff will have and use a plan to track immunization forms for all enrolled children and to ensure the form or affidavit are obtained from the parent or guardian within 30 days of enrollment. Parents will be informed their child cannot remain enrolled in the center without this documentation.

Correction Deadline: 1/19/2025

Facility

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****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 the flooring material around the toilets in the hallway were not tight and smooth.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

Floors will be maintained to be safe and sanitary.

Correction Deadline: 2/8/2025

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. It was determined based upon observation that there was a toilet plunger accessible to children in the hallway bathroom. There were plastic bags and insect repellent in cubbies in classroom D and plastic bags in two cubbies in classroom E.

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: 1/10/2025

Recited on 1/9/2025

Finding

591-1-1-.25(8) requires protective caps on all unused electrical outlets within children's reach and requires that electrical outlets in use be made inaccessible to children. It was determined based on observation the cord from the surge protector was accessible to children in the school age classroom and was missing three protective covers. In addition, the cord from the television was accessible to children.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will train Staff to check outlets and replace protective caps when needed and identify and monitor how outlets in use are inaccessible to children.

Correction Deadline: 1/9/2025

591-1-1-.26 Playgrounds(CR)**Not Met****Comment**

Discussed maintenance of resilient surface. Please fluff and redistribute.

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.

- There were three raised nails on the top of the blue bench underneath the structure.
- There was splintering wood at the bottom of white slide on the large climbing structure.
- There was flaking and chipping paint on the two red metal cars and on the arms of the teeter-totter.
- Two end caps were missing from the back seat of the orange teeter-totter.
- The rubber flooring material on the top deck of the large climbing structure was cracked in some spots with rust exposed.

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: 1/13/2025

Recited on 1/9/2025

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

Please ensure that bottles are covered and fully labeled with child's full name.

591-1-1-.18 Kitchen Operations**Met****Comment**

Please ensure that all food items are stored in airtight containers.

Health and Hygiene**591-1-1-.10 Diapering Areas & Practices(CR)****Not Met****Finding**

591-1-1-.10(2) requires Centers first licensed after March 1, 1991, and Centers that renovate existing plumbing facilities, to have a hand washing sink with running heated water located adjacent to the diapering area. Flush sinks shall not be used for hand washing. Cleansing procedures in other facilities shall be approved by the Department. It was determined based on observation there was no warm heated water adjacent to the diapering area in classroom A, B and C.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will ensure that a hand washing sink is located adjacent to each diapering area, that flush sinks are not used for handwashing, and that the department has approved cleansing procedures in other facilities, if applicable.

Correction Deadline: 1/9/2025

591-1-1-.17 Hygiene(CR)**Not Met****Finding**

591-1-1-17(7) requires that children wash their hands with liquid soap and warm running water upon arrival for care, when moving from one child care group to another, upon re-entering the child care area after outside play, before and after eating meals and snacks, handling or touching food, playing in water; after toileting and diapering, playing in sand, touching animals or pets, and contact with bodily fluids and after contamination by any other means. It was determined based on observation there was no warm running water at the hand washing sinks in the classrooms or hallway sinks.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will train Staff on required handwashing for children and Staff will ensure children's hands are washed when required. The Director will monitor for compliance.

Correction Deadline: 1/9/2025

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

The Provider currently does not dispense/administer medication.

Policies and Procedures**591-1-1-.27 Posted Notices****Met****Comment**

Please make sure that all required signs are posted and up to date.

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

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

591-1-1-.13 Field Trips(CR)**Met****Comment**

Center does not participate in field trips at this time.

591-1-1-.36 Transportation(CR)**Not Met****Comment**

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

Comment

Center does not provide routine transportation.

Comment

Complete documentation of transportation observed.

Comment

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

Finding

591-1-1-.36(4)(b) requires that the interior of a transportation vehicle be clean, in safe repair and free of hazardous items, objects and/or other non-essential items which could cause injury. It was determined based on observation the interior seats of the vehicle was torn or shredding with foam exposed and two seat belts were inoperable.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The center will maintain that all transportation vehicles are clean, in safe repair, and free from hazards.

Correction Deadline: 1/10/2025

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.

Correction Deadline: 8/1/2024

Staff Records

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

591-1-1-.09(1)(a) - The Consultant discussed with the Director that the Center is 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.

Correction Deadline: 1/9/2025**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**Not Met****Finding**

591-1-1-.14(1) requires the Center Director and, at any given time, at least fifty percent (50%) of the caregiver Staff to successfully complete a biennial training program in cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and a triennial training program in first aid. The first aid training must be done by certified or licensed health care professionals or trainers and must deal with the provision of emergency care to infants and children. The Center shall maintain current evidence of the successful completion of such training which shall be available to the Department for inspection. It was determined based on review the Center Director and fifty percent (50%) of the caregiver Staff did not have current evidence of biennial training program in cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and a triennial training program in first aid. There was one person with current evidence of the required training.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center Director and at least 50% of the caregiver Staff will complete the needed training. The Director will send written verification to the consultant upon completion and will develop a plan to ensure that at least 50% of the caregiver Staff have completed this training at any given time and that evidence of successful completion of the training is on file available for inspection. CPR and First aid training scheduled for January 25, 2025.

Correction Deadline: 2/8/2025**Finding**

591-1-1-.14(1)(a) requires, in a Center that provides transportation, that either the driver or another Staff person present on the vehicle have current evidence of successful completion of a biennial training program in cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and a triennial training program in first aid offered by certified or licensed health care professionals or trainers and which dealt with the provision of emergency care to infants and children. It was determined based on a review of records that neither the driver or another Staff person present on the vehicle had current evidence of successful completion of a biennial training program in cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and a triennial training program.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will verify proof of CPR/1st aid training and schedule Staff so that there is always a staff person on the vehicle with this training.

Correction Deadline: 1/9/2025**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**

Adequate supervision observed on this date.