



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: 4/4/2024 VisitType: Complaint Investigation & MonitoringArrival: 12:30 PM Departure: 3:25 PM  
Visit

CCLC-35001  
Tara Academy  
2326 Bouldercrest Road Atlanta, GA 30316 DeKalb County  
(404) 381-9300 melioradirector@gmail.com

Regional Consultant  
Christina Jennings  
Phone: (404) 463-0970  
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Mailing Address  
Same

Quality Rated: ★ ★

| Compliance Zone Designation |                                            |               | <b>Compliance Zone Designation</b> - 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.<br><br><b>Good Standing</b> - Program is demonstrating an acceptable level of performance in meeting the rules.<br><b>Support</b> - Program performance is demonstrating a need for improvement in meeting rules.<br><b>Deficient</b> - Program is not demonstrating an acceptable level of performance in meeting the rules. |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------------------|---------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 04/04/2024                  | Complaint Investigation & Monitoring Visit | Deficient     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| 03/20/2024                  | Initial-TA                                 | NA            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| 01/03/2024                  | LS POI Follow Up                           | 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 Left  | Infants                            | 1     | 1        | C                             | 11         | C            | NA         | NA           | Nap,Floor Play |
| Main                            | B 1st Right |                                    | 0     | 0        | C                             | 13         | C            | NA         | NA           |                |
| Main                            | C 2nd Left  | One Year Olds and Two Year Olds    | 2     | 10       | C                             | 22         | C            | NA         | NA           | Nap            |
| Main                            | D 2nd Right | Six Year Olds and Over             | 1     | 11       | C                             | 20         | C            | NA         | NA           | Outside        |
| Main                            | E 3rd Left  | Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds | 1     | 11       | C                             | 22         | C            | NA         | NA           | Nap            |
| Main                            | F 3rd Right |                                    | 0     | 0        | C                             | 16         | C            | NA         | NA           |                |
| Main                            | G 4th Left  |                                    | 0     | 0        | C                             | 11         | C            | NA         | NA           |                |
| Main                            | H 5th Left  |                                    | 0     | 0        | C                             | 26         | C            | NA         | NA           |                |
| Main                            | I 4th Right |                                    | 0     | 0        | C                             | 26         | C            | NA         | NA           |                |
| Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 167 |             |                                    |       |          | Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0 |            |              |            |              |                |
| Total # Children this Date: 33  |             |                                    |       |          | Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0 |            |              |            |              |                |

| Building | Playground    | Playground Occupancy | Playground Compliance |
|----------|---------------|----------------------|-----------------------|
| Main     | PG Preschool  | 24                   | C                     |
| Main     | PG School Age | 125                  | C                     |
| Main     | PG Toddler    | 18                   | C                     |

### Comments

The purpose of this visit was to conduct a CI/MV.

Plan of Improvement: Developed This Date 04/04/2024

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](http://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](mailto:qualityrated@dec.al.ga.gov) for more information. Free technical assistance is available!**

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Cynthia Wright, Program Official

Date

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Christina Jennings, Regional Consultant

Date



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**(Findings Report)**

**Date:** 4/4/2024 **VisitType:** Complaint Investigation & Monitoring **Arrival:** 12:30 PM **Departure:** 3:25 PM  
Visit

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The following information is associated with a Monitoring Visit:

**Activities and Equipment**

**591-1-1.12 Equipment & Toys(CR)**

**Met**

**Comment**

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

**591-1-1.35 Swimming Pools & Water-related Activities(CR)**

**N/A**

**Comment**

Center does not provide swimming activities.

**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 upon observation that the flooring in the children's bathroom was cracked on the left side of the toilet in Classroom D.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

Floors will be maintained to be safe and sanitary.

**Correction Deadline: 5/4/2024**

**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 the following hazards were accessible to children:

**Classroom C:**

- Four packs of Pamper's baby wipes in the cubbies in front of the children's bathroom.
- Three packs of Huggies baby wipes in the cubbies in front of the children's bathroom.
- One pack of Kirkland baby wipes in the cubbies in front of the children's bathroom.
- One tube of Aquaphor in the cubbies in front of the children's bathroom.

**Classroom D:**

- A toilet plunger in the children's bathroom.

**Classroom E:**

- One toilet bowl scrub brush in the children's bathroom.

**Classroom H:**

- One toilet bowl scrub brush in the boy's bathroom.
- One container of liquid Tide laundry detergent on the counter by the children's hand washing sink.
- Two cans of Barbasol shaving cream on the counter by the children's hand washing sink.

**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: 4/4/2024**

**Finding**

591-1-1-.25(3) requires the Center and surrounding premises to be kept clean, free of debris and in good repair. Hygienic measures such as, but not limited to, screened windows and proper waste disposal procedures shall be utilized to minimize the presence of rodents, flies, roaches and other vermin at the Center. It was determined based upon observation that the paper towel dispenser was not secured to the wall properly exposing two screws protruding over two threads accessible to children by the hand washing sink in Classroom E.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

The Center will have the Center and surrounding areas cleaned, make repairs where needed, and remove all debris is removed. The Center will implement a plan to keep areas clean and in good repair that includes regular monitoring.

**Correction Deadline: 4/12/2024**

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

591-1-1-.26(4) requires that playgrounds be protected from traffic or other hazards by a (4) four foot high fence or other barrier approved by this Department. Fencing material shall not present a hazard to children and shall be maintained so as to prevent children from leaving the playground area by any means other than through an approved access route. Fence gates shall be kept closed except when persons are entering or exiting the area. It was determined based upon observation that there was a nine inch gap at the top right corner of the fencing on the right side of the Preschool Playground. It was further determined that there was a rectangular metal bar protruding eight inches outwards from the fencing post on the right side of the Preschool Playground causing a potential impalement hazard.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

The Center will routinely check the fence to determine if it is in good repair and remains at least 4 feet high, and will repair any hazards. The Center will train Staff to identify and report any fence hazards and to keep the fence gates closed when not in use.

**Correction Deadline: 5/2/2024**

**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 following potential hazards were accessible to children:

**Preschool Playground:**

- Four out of four hand grips were missing on the climbing wall on the back of the second play structure.
- Two out of four hand grips were missing on the climbing wall on the front of the second play structure.
- Chipping paint through out the yellow metal see saw bouncer.

**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: 4/30/2024**

**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)** **Met**

**Comment**

The Provider currently does not dispense/administer medication.

**Safety**

**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**

Complete documentation of transportation observed.

**Sleeping & Resting Equipment**

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

**Correction Deadline: 1/12/2024**

**Corrected on 4/4/2024**

**.30(1)(b)1 - Previous citation observed to be corrected in that the Consultant observed the children's nap mats to be in good repair on this date.**

**Staff Records**

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

**Comment**

Criminal record checks were observed to be complete.

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

**Comment**

Staff observed to be compliant with applicable laws and regulations.

|                                 |
|---------------------------------|
| <b>Staffing and Supervision</b> |
|---------------------------------|

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

**Comment**

Adequate supervision observed on this date.

**The following information is associated with a Complaint Investigation Visit:**

|                                 |
|---------------------------------|
| <b>Staffing and Supervision</b> |
|---------------------------------|

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

**Correction Deadline: 2/23/2024**

**Corrected on 4/4/2024**

**.32(7) -**