



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: 12/11/2025 **VisitType:** Licensing Study

Arrival: 9:15 AM **Departure:** 1:00 PM

CCLC-898

La Petite Academy - Panola

3079 Panola Rd. Lithonia, GA 30038 DeKalb County
(770) 987-4582

Regional Consultant

Maryn Accord

Phone: (404) 591-6031

Fax:

maryn.accord@decal.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.
12/11/2025	Licensing Study	Good Standing	
07/09/2025	Incident Investigation Closure	Good Standing	
05/09/2025	Incident Investigation & 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 Right- 2 y/o	One Year Olds	1	8	C	15	C	NA	NA	Diapering, Free Play
Main	B-2nd -Right-1-2 y/o	One Year Olds and Two Year Olds	2	10	C	14	C	NA	NA	Centers
Main	C- 3rd Right-Infant	Infants	3	5	C	10	C	NA	NA	Diapering, Floor Play
Main	D-Bck-Rt- 4 y/o	GA PreK	2	15	C	22	C	30	C	Centers
Main	E- Back Lft- 4 y/o	GA PreK	2	20	C	20	C	28	C	Centers
Main	F-Center- 3 y/o	Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds	1	14	C	22	C	30	C	Centers

Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 103

Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 127

Total # Children this Date: 72

Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 103

Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 127

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	Back Playground	101	C
Main	Right Playground	18	C

Enrolled Children						
Under 1 years	1 years	2 years	3 years	4 years	5 years (Prekonly)	5 years and older
5	15	11	17	28	12	24

Comments

The Consultant reviewed Staff Records, Child Records, and evaluated Core Rules and Non-Core Rules.

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.decgal.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@decgal.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-.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.

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.

591-1-1-.26 Playgrounds(CR)

Not Met

Correction Deadline: 2/28/2025

Corrected on 12/11/2025

.26(4) - The previous citation was observed corrected on this date. The Consultant observed no gaps present in the fencing material.

Finding

591-1-1-.26(8) requires climbing and swinging equipment to have a resilient surface beneath the equipment and the fall zone from such equipment must be adequately maintained by the Center to assure continuing resiliency. It was determined based on observation that the resilient surfacing in the fall zone area of the short yellow slide, located on the Main Back Playground, measured one inch in depth, when three inches in depth was required. It was further determined that the resilient surfacing in the fall zone area of the tall yellow slide, located on the Main Back Playground, measured zero inches in depth, when six inches was required.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will add additional resilient surfacing to the fall zones where needed and check daily, adding resilient surfacing as needed to maintain adequate resiliency.

Correction Deadline: 1/31/2026

Health and Hygiene

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

Met

Comment

Hand washing requirements for diapering were discussed with the Director on this date.

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 that Staff did not wash a child's hands after diapering, as required.

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: 12/11/2025

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

Met

Comment

Documentation for medication dispensing observed completed on this date.

Policies and Procedures

591-1-1-.29 Required Reporting

Met

Correction Deadline: 7/10/2025

Corrected on 12/11/2025

.29(3) - The previous citation was observed corrected on this date. The Director stated proper knowledge of reporting to the Department within twenty-four (24) hours, as required.

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 on this date.

Sleeping & Resting Equipment

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

Met

Correction Deadline: 5/16/2025

Corrected on 12/11/2025

.30(1)(a)3 - The previous citation was observed corrected on this date. The Consultant observed that crib sheets were tight-fitting, as required.

Staff Records

Records Reviewed: 16

Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 3

Staff # 1

Not Met

Date of Hire: 08/13/2025

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(3)-Health & Safety Certificate,.09-Criminal Records Check Missing

Staff # 2

Not Met

Date of Hire: 08/18/2025

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.14(2)-CPR missing,.14(2)-First Aid Missing

Staff # 7

Not Met

Date of Hire: 05/12/2025

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.24(1)-Evidence of Orientation Missing,.33(3)-Health & Safety Certificate

591-1-1-.09 Criminal Records and Comprehensive Background Checks(CR)**Not Met****Finding**

591-1-1-.09(1)(a) requires that a Center 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 site. It was determined, based on a review of records, that Staff #1, hired August 13, 2025, was located in classroom Main C- 3rd Right-Infant, and did not have a Records Check Application to the Department and Fingerprints submitted to an authorized fingerprinting site, on this date, as required.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

IMMEDIATE CORRECTION - The Center will watch the videos 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 site as required. The program's owner or an officer/member of the corporation must view the A to Z Background Check video units pertaining to this records check rule and return the signed affidavit within one week from this visit date. The Center will watch the videos to ensure the CRC rules are maintained.

Correction Deadline: 12/18/2025**Finding**

591-1-1-.09(1)(c) requires the Center to ensure that every Employee has a valid and current satisfactory Comprehensive Records Check Determination on file prior to being present at the Center while any child is present for care or before an individual age 17 or older resides in the Center. The Comprehensive Records Check Determination must have a Records Check Clearance Date that is no older than the preceding 12 months of the hire date; provided, however, if the Employee has had a lapse of employment from the child care industry that lasted for 180 days (6 months) or longer, a new satisfactory Comprehensive Records Check Determination is required. It was determined, based on a review of records, Staff #1, hired August 13, 2025, was located in classroom Main C- 3rd Right-Infant, and did not have a valid and current satisfactory Comprehensive Records Check Determination on file prior to being present at the Center, as required.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

IMMEDIATE CORRECTION - The Center will watch the videos to ensure that every Employee has a valid and current satisfactory Comprehensive Records Check Determination on file prior to being present at the Center while any child is present for care or before an individual age 17 or older resides in the Center. The Comprehensive Records Check Determination must have a Records Check Clearance Date that is no older than the preceding 12 months of the hire date; provided, however, if the Employee has had a lapse of employment from the child care industry that lasted for 180 days (6 months) or longer, a new satisfactory Comprehensive Records Check Determination is required. The program's owner or an officer/member of the corporation must view the A to Z Background Check video units pertaining to this records check rule and return the signed affidavit within one week from this visit date. The center will watch the videos to ensure the CRC rules are maintained.

Correction Deadline: 12/18/2025**Correction Deadline: 5/16/2025****Corrected on 12/11/2025**

.09(1)(j) - The previous citation was observed corrected. The Consultant observed that no Staff eligible for portability were required to be ported electronically on this date.

591-1-1-.14 First Aid & CPR(CR)**Not Met**

Comment

Please replace/add missing/expired item(s) in first aid kit(s).

Finding

591-1-1-.14(1)(a) requires all Staff who provide direct care to children must obtain certification in a biennial training program in pediatric cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and a triennial training program in pediatric first aid within the first 45 days of employment. Current and valid evidence of the successful completion of such training shall be maintained on the Center's premises. The hours obtained completing this certification will not count towards the required annual training hours. It was determined, based on a review of records, the following Staff did not have biennial training in pediatric cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and a triennial training program in pediatric first aid within the first 45 days of employment:

- Staff #1, hired August 8, 2025
- Staff #2, hired August 18, 2025

POI (Plan of Improvement)

All caregiver Staff will complete the required training. The Director will send copies via email verification of completed CPR/First Aid certification to the Consultant upon completion and will develop a plan to ensure all caregiver Staff have completed this training within the first 45 days of employment and that evidence of successful completion of the training is on file available for inspection.

Correction Deadline: 1/9/2026

591-1-1-.33 Staff Training**Not Met****Comment**

Please ensure completed orientation checklists are documented and signed.

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 the following staff did not have health and safety orientation training on file:

- Staff #1, hired August 8, 2025
- Staff #7, hired May 12, 2025

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: 1/30/2026

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.

Comment

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