



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: 7/17/2026 **VisitType:** Licensing Study

Arrival: 8:00 AM **Departure:** 5:00 PM

CCLC-969

Learning Junction Preschool

526 Gibbs Rd. Evans, GA 30809 Columbia County
 (706) 650-0116

Process & QI Unit Consultant

Melyn Smith

Phone: (404) 276-7254

Fax:

melyn.smith@dec.al.ga.gov

Mailing Address

Same

Quality Rated: No

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.
07/17/2026	Licensing Study	Good Standing	
03/19/2026	Monitoring Visit	Good Standing	
10/01/2025	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
Main	1st Blue Room	Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds	1	9	C	16	C	NA	NA	Centers,Breakfast,Free Play
Main	1st Red Room	Five Year Olds	1	8	C	18	C	26	C	Free Play,Centers,Art
Main	1st Right- Younger Infants		0	0	C	8	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
Main	2nd Blue Room	Three Year Olds	1	10	C	16	C	NA	NA	Free Play,Art,Breakfast
Main	2nd Red Room		0	0	C	18	C	26	C	Not In Use
Main	2nd Right- Older Infants	Infants	1	5	C	17	C	NA	NA	Feeding,Nap,Floor Play
Main	Green Room	Six Year Olds and Over	1	12	C	32	C	45	C	Free Play,Centers
Main	Purple Room	One Year Olds	1	6	C	16	C	NA	NA	Centers,Diapering,Free Play
Main	Yellow Room	Two Year Olds and Three Year Olds	2	12	C	35	C	NA	NA	Diapering,Free Play,Centers
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 176					Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 176					
Total # Children this Date: 62					Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 176					
					Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 176					

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	PG- Left Playground	60	C

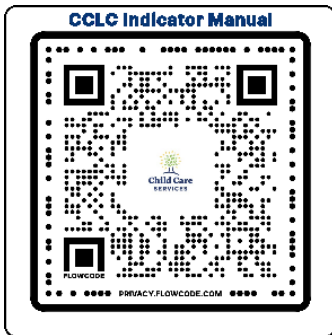
Main	PG- Middle Playground	95	C
Main	PG- Right Playground	38	C
Main	PG-Back Playground	201	C

Enrolled Children						
Under 1 years	1 years	2 years	3 years	4 years	5 years (Prekonly)	5 years and older
6	5	19	11	15	0	26

Comments

The visit report was reviewed with the Assistant Director. Resources were left regarding the DECAL Programs, the Weather Watch chart, choking prevention, and Feeding Milestones for infants, 1-year-old children, and 2-year-old children. Rule changes were discussed regarding updating the Center's policies and procedures to include behavior management practices and practices to prevent shaken baby syndrome/abusive head trauma and the added requirement of two clock hours of early language and literacy training included in ten hours of annual training.

Plan of Improvement: Developed This Date



For additional information regarding any licensing topics discussed during this visit, please consult the Rules and Regulations Indicator Manual. This manual provides comprehensive clarification of each rule, including evaluation indicators, related best practices, and relevant considerations to support your program's continued and sustained compliance.

To access the Indicator Manual, please scan the QR code below or visit our website at <https://www.decal.ga.gov/CCS/RulesAndRegulations.aspx>.

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!



Summary Report

Date: 7/17/2026 VisitType: Licensing Study

Arrival: 8:00 AM Departure: 5:00 PM

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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)

Not 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.

Finding

591-1-1-.12(2) requires that all equipment and furniture be free from hazardous conditions such as, but not limited to, sharp rough edges or toxic paint; and be kept clean. It was determined based on observation that the bottom hinges of two cubby doors were detached in the Green Room. Additionally, one cubby door was completely detached from the cubbies and leaning against the right side of the cubbies unsecured with hazardous conditions in the form of two protruding hinges exposed..

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will ensure that equipment and furniture used by the age-appropriate group of children are in good repair and free from hazards.

Correction Deadline: 7/24/2026

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

N/A

Comment

Center does not provide swimming activities.

Children's Records

Records Reviewed: 10

Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 10

Child # 1

Not Met

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.08(1)(a)-Work Address Missing

Child # 2

Not Met

<u>"Missing/Incomplete Components"</u>	
.08(1)(a)-Work Address Missing	
Child # 3	Not Met
<u>"Missing/Incomplete Components"</u>	
.08(1)(a)-Work Address Missing	
Child # 4	Not Met
<u>"Missing/Incomplete Components"</u>	
.08(1)(a)-Work Address Missing	
Child # 5	Not Met
<u>"Missing/Incomplete Components"</u>	
.08(1)(a)-Work Address Missing	
Child # 6	Not Met
<u>"Missing/Incomplete Components"</u>	
.08(1)(a)-Work Address Missing	
Child # 7	Not Met
<u>"Missing/Incomplete Components"</u>	
.08(1)(a)-Work Address Missing	
Child # 8	Not Met
<u>"Missing/Incomplete Components"</u>	
.08(1)(a)-Work Address Missing	
Child # 9	Not Met
<u>"Missing/Incomplete Components"</u>	
.08(1)(a)-Work Address Missing	
Child # 10	Not Met
<u>"Missing/Incomplete Components"</u>	
.08(1)(a)-Work Address Missing	

591-1-1-.08 Children's Records**Not Met****Comment**

Parent authorizations obtained/completed.

Finding

591-1-1-.08(1) requires the Center Staff to maintain a file for each child while such child is in care and for one year after that child is no longer enrolled. In order for the file to be complete, the file shall contain the following: child's name, birth date, sex, address, living arrangement, name of school if applicable; names of both Parents, home and work addresses, and home and work telephone numbers; name(s) and addresses of the person(s) to whom the child may be released including address, telephone numbers, relationship to child and to Parent(s), and other identifying information; name(s) and telephone number(s) of person(s) to contact in emergencies when the Parent cannot be reached; name and telephone number of the child's primary source of health care; and a statement regarding known allergies, physical problems, mental health disorders, mental retardation or developmental disabilities which limit the child's participation in the program. It was determined based on a review of records that nine of ten children's files reviewed were lacking the parents' work addresses on this date.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center has updated their children's enrollment forms to include the parents' work addresses. All enrolled children will be completing updated enrollment forms before school begins in Columbia County on August 4, 2026. The updated enrollment forms will be used for all children who enroll for care in the future.

Correction Deadline: 8/3/2026

Recited on 7/17/2026

Facility	
591-1-1-.06 Bathrooms	Not Met

Finding

591-1-1-.06(4) requires a Center first licensed after March 1, 1991, and Centers that remodel or add to existing plumbing facilities, to have the bathroom area fully enclosed and ventilated to the outside of the building with either an open screened window or functioning exhaust fan and duct system and requires Centers without fully enclosed bathrooms to ensure there is adequate ventilation to control odors and adequate sanitation measures to prevent the spread of contagious diseases. It was determined based on observation that the exhaust fans were not functioning in the boys' and girls' bathrooms located between the 1st Red Room and 2nd Red Room. It was further determined that a buildup of dust was present on the exhaust fans in the two bathrooms located between the 1st Blue Room and the 2nd Blue Room, which affected the fans' suction capability.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will repair the exhaust fans and ensure they are in working order. Center staff will ensure the exhaust fans are kept clean and free of dust.

Correction Deadline: 8/16/2026

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

Licensed capacity observed to be routinely met by center on this date.

591-1-1-.25 Physical Plant - Safe Environment(CR)	Not Met
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Comment

No hazards observed accessible to children on this date.

Finding

591-1-1-.25(17) requires that the Center premises be free of plants and shrubs which are poisonous or hazardous. It was determined based on observation that a Privet tree and a Mulberry tree were present and hanging low over the back left fence on the Left Playground where a picnic table and playground toys were located, which made the toxic trees containing berries accessible to children. It was further determined that Virginia Creeper vines and Poison Ivy vines, considered toxic and poisonous, were hanging from the Mulberry tree very low to the ground over playground toys and near a bench accessible to children at the back left corner of the Left Playground.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The harmful items will be removed. The Center will section off the back third part of the Left playground to prevent children's access to the poisonous plants during outdoor play.

Correction Deadline: 8/14/2026

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

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

Correction Deadline: 4/20/2026

Corrected on 7/17/2026

.26(4) - The previous citation was observed corrected on this date. The Center replaced the wooden fence surrounding the HVAC system on the Middle Playground. The Center placed extenders to enclose the gaps at the bottom of the fence and gate located at the back right of the Back Right Playground.

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

Comment

Please ensure that infant feeding forms are updated regularly.

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

Staff stated proper knowledge of diapering procedures.

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 two 1-year-old children's hands after diapering in the Purple Room.

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: 7/18/2026

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****Technical Assistance****Technical Assistance**

591-1-1-.21(1)(a-o) - Discussed with the Assistant Director updating the Center's policies and procedures to include the program's practices regarding the expulsion and suspension of children enrolled for care within the description of behavior management and discipline actions used by the Center.

Correction Deadline: 7/22/2026

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.21(2)(r) - New - Discussed with the Assistant Director to ensure a description of the practices followed by the Center to prevent shaken baby syndrome and abusive head trauma in children up to five years of age that includes the following information: how to recognize, respond to, and report the signs and symptoms of shaken baby syndrome and abusive head trauma; strategies to assist staff members in understanding how to care for infants and how to cope with a crying, fussing, or distraught child; strategies to ensure staff members understand the brain development of children up to five years of age; and a list of prohibited behaviors when dealing with children.

Additional information can be found in the CCLC Indicator Manual found on DECAL's website at:

<https://www.dec.state.ga.us/CCS/RuleAndRegulations.aspx> or through the Center on Shaken Baby Syndrome found at: <https://dontshake.org/>.

Correction Deadline: 7/22/2026

Comment

Program observed complete emergency drills

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

The aquarium was observed to be clean and maintained.

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

Please be mindful of voice tone in redirecting children.

Finding

591-1-1-.13(2) requires Center Staff to obtain written permission from Parents in advance of the child's participation in any field trip and such permission must be signed and dated by a Parent. It was determined based on a review of records that written permission from the Parents for their child's participation in a field trip taken on July 16, 2026, to Evans Cinema was not dated for 11 of 11 children.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

Center Staff will have and use a system to obtain written field trip permission in advance and ensure the permission is signed and dated by the responsible person.

Correction Deadline: 7/18/2026

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 vehicle 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

Pleasant naptime environment observed.

Staff Records

Records Reviewed: 21

Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 6

Staff # 5

Not Met

Date of Hire: 02/22/2023

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(3)-Health & Safety Certificate

Staff # 7

Not Met

Date of Hire: 09/24/2024

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(4)-Food Prep Training Missing 4 hrs.

Staff # 10

Not Met

Date of Hire: 05/03/1999

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.31(2)(b)2.-Staff Qualifications-Education Missing

Staff # 13

Not Met

Date of Hire: 01/08/2026

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(3)-Health & Safety Certificate

Staff # 16

Not Met

Date of Hire: 03/14/2016

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.31(2)(b)2.-Staff Qualifications-Education Missing

Staff # 19

Not Met

Date of Hire: 06/15/1994

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(4)-Food Prep Training Missing 4 hrs.

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

Met

Comment

Consultant requested to view all Criminal Record checks for employees hired after last visit. Director stated that there have been no new hires since last visit

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 and on vehicles on this date.

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-.33 Staff Training

Not Met

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 Staff # 5 hired February 22, 2023, and Staff #13 hired January 8, 2026, did not have evidence of completion of the Health and Safety Orientation training within 90 days of employment, as required.

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: 8/16/2026

Finding

591-1-1-.33(4) requires within the first year of employment, the Director and person with primary responsibility for food preparation shall have four clock hours of training in food nutrition planning, preparation, serving, proper dish washing and food storage. It was determined based on a review of records that Staff #7 hired September 24, 2024, and observed present in the kitchen preparing the meals and snacks on this date did not complete the required four clock hours of training in food nutrition planning, preparation, serving, proper dish washing and food storage within the first year of employment. It was further determined that the Director, hired January 30, 1995, did not have evidence of the four completed clock hours of training in food service and nutrition within the first year of employment as required.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will schedule food preparation training, as required, and follow up to ensure the training is completed.

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

Not Met

Comment

Discussed that all lead staff must enroll in an approved education program within 6 months of hire and complete degree within 18 months.

Comment

Staff observed to be compliant with applicable laws and regulations.

Finding

591-1-1-.31(2)(b)2. requires teachers and lead caregivers to meet minimum academic requirements and qualifying experience at the time of employment. It was determined based on a review of records that Staff #10 hired October 15, 2026, and Staff #16 hired March 14, 2016, were identified as lead teachers and did not have current evidence of meeting the minimum academic requirements and qualifying experience required for lead teachers. Expired Child Development Associate (CDA) Credentials were on file.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

A teacher/lead caregiver will be hired that meets the minimum academic requirements and qualifying work experience or the staff will enroll in a program to obtain an approved education credential and complete the program, obtaining the credential within 18 months.

Correction Deadline: 12/31/2026

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.