



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: 1/5/2024 **VisitType:** Licensing Study **Arrival:** 9:30 AM **Departure:** 4:00 PM

CCLC-38386

Little Einsteins Learning Center

4323 Dasher Grove Road Hahira, GA 31632 Lowndes County
 (229) 247-2557 celkins@littleeinsteinslearning.com

Regional Consultant

Rena Keene

Phone: (706) 855-3458
 Fax: (706) 434-7639
 rena.keene@dec.al.ga.gov

Mailing Address

4359 Tillman Bluff Rd
 Valdosta, GA 31602

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.
01/05/2024	Licensing Study	Good Standing	
08/01/2023	Monitoring Visit	Good Standing	
02/16/2023	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	Ants D-Infant-Tod	One Year Olds	2	12	C	13	C	NA	NA	Transitioning, Circle Time
Main	Bees C-Toddler	Two Year Olds	3	9	C	12	C	NA	NA	Centers
Main	Doves B-1-2 yrs	Two Year Olds	2	8	C	13	C	NA	NA	Circle Time
Main	Eagles F-3-12 yrs	Five Year Olds and Six Year Olds and Over	8	32	C	22	NC	30	NC	Outside
Main	Giraffes G-3-12 yrs	Four Year Olds and Five Year Olds and Six Year Olds and Over	1	28	C	24	NC	33	C	Outside, Transitioning
Main	Lions A-1-2 yrs	Two Year Olds	2	6	C	13	C	NA	NA	Centers
Main	Tadpoles H-infant	Infants	3	7	C	15	C	NA	NA	Floor Play, Feeding
Main	Whales E-3-12 yrs	Three Year Olds	2	12	C	19	C	27	C	Centers
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 131					Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 156					
Total # Children this Date: 114					Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 156					

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	A	40	C
Main	B	16	C
Main	C	11	C

Main	Playground D	31	C
Main	Playground E	7	C

Comments

The purpose of today's visit was to conduct a Licensing Study.

Plan of Improvement: Developed This Date 01/05/2024

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!

Caroline Elkins, Program Official

Date

Rena Keene, Regional Consultant

Date



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

(Findings Report)

Date: 1/5/2024 VisitType: Licensing Study Arrival: 9:30 AM Departure: 4:00 PM

CCLC-38386

Little Einsteins Learning Center

4323 Dasher Grove Road Hahira, GA 31632 Lowndes County
(229) 247-2557 celkins@littleeinsteinslearning.com

Regional Consultant

Rena Keene

Phone: (706) 855-3458
Fax: (706) 434-7639
rena.keene@dec.al.ga.gov

Mailing Address

4359 Tillman Bluff Rd
Valdosta, GA 31602

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.

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

Met

Comment

Center does not provide swimming activities.

Children's Records

Records Reviewed: 6

Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 4

Child # 1 Not Met

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

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

Child # 3 Not Met

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.08(1)(a)-Work Address Missing,.08(3)-Address of Release Person Missing

Child # 4 Not Met

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

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

Child # 5 Not Met

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

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

591-1-1-.08 Children's Records**Not Met****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, intellectual disabilities or developmental disabilities which limit the child's participation in the program. It was determined based on a review of children's records that three of the six records reviewed did not include the work addresses for the parents. One of the six records reviewed did not list an address for the person other than the parent to whom the child could be released.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

Center staff will develop a plan that includes how to obtain all required information for currently enrolled children and how to ensure this is done for future enrollees as well. The plan will also include how and where to maintain files for the required amount of time. The plan will be implemented and followed.

Correction Deadline: 1/5/2024**Facility****591-1-1-.06 Bathrooms****Met****Comment**

Bathrooms observed to be clean and well maintained.

591-1-1-.19 License Capacity(CR)**Not Met****Finding**

591-1-1-.19(1) requires a Center to provide 35 square feet of usable space per child, which will determine the Center's License capacity. It was determined based on Consultant's observation that the licensed capacity in the two school-age rooms was exceeded on the day of the visit. Twenty-eight (28) children were present in the Giraffes' classroom that is licensed for twenty-four (24) children. Thirty-two (32) children were present in the Eagles' classroom that is licensed for twenty-two (22) children.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will limit the number of children in this space to the licensed capacity.

Correction Deadline: 1/5/2024**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)**Technical Assistance****Technical Assistance**

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. Please ensure that the section of composite material at the base of one of the three slides on the playground is repaired so that there are no hard surfaces exposed.

Correction Deadline: 1/15/2024

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.26(9) requires the playground to be kept clean, free from litter and free of hazards, such as but not limited to rocks, exposed tree roots and exposed sharp edges of concrete. Please ensure that cement footers are covered where wash outs have exposed rough edges of cement at posts and under landings leading from classrooms. Additionally, consultant discussed with owners that spring-type see-saw on toddler area can be moved to another play area so that it can be anchored.

Correction Deadline: 1/5/2024

Food Service

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

Technical Assistance

Comment

CACFP Meal Pattern Requirements effective October 1, 2017 will be implemented October 1, 2018: 3 Components for breakfast: Grains, Vegetables, Fruits or both, Milk
5 Components for lunch – Grains, Meat/Meat alternates, Fruits, Vegetable, and Milk OR Grains, Meat/Meat alternates, 2 different types of vegetables, and Milk
2 of 5 Components for snack

Provided Updated CACFP Infant Meal pattern and Child/Adult Meal pattern flyers.

The Crediting Handbook for the CACFP can be located on DECAL and USDA's website:

DECAL

<http://dec.al.ga.gov/CACFP/Handbook.aspx>

USDA

<http://www.fns.usda.gov/cacfp/cacfp-handbooks>

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.15(2)(a) requires Center Personnel to hold and feed infants less than six months of age and older children who cannot hold their own bottles or sit alone. Baby bottles shall never be propped; the infant's head shall be elevated while feeding. Consultant discussed with staff that infants older than six months of age should be held while feeding if the infant cannot hold their own bottle.

Correction Deadline: 1/5/2024

591-1-1-.18 Kitchen Operations

Not Met

Comment

Please ensure that all food items are stored in airtight containers. Also, please ensure that any food passed the date posted for freshness is discarded.

Finding

591-1-1-.18(8) requires that containers of food be stored above the floor on clean surfaces protected from splash and other contamination. Containers for food storage other than the original container or package in which the food was obtained shall be impervious and non-absorbent, have tight-fitting lids or covers and labeled as to contents. It was determined based on Consultant's observation that two bowls of mixed fruit was stored in the refrigerator in bowls covered with aluminum foil. One of the two dishes had a serving spoon still in it.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will designate an appropriate area for the storage of containers of food, will make available containers, lids, and covers, and will train Staff on proper storage and labeling.

Correction Deadline: 1/5/2024

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. Please ensure that children who can hold up their heads have their hands washed with warm running water and soap.

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.

Policies and Procedures

591-1-1-.21 Operational Policies & Procedures	Met
--	------------

Comment

Program observed complete emergency drills

591-1-1-.27 Posted Notices	Met
-----------------------------------	------------

Comment

Observed all required posted notices.

Safety

591-1-1-.05 Animals	Met
----------------------------	------------

Comment

Center does not keep animals on premises.

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

Field trip documentation observed to be complete.

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

Correction Deadline: 8/6/2023

Corrected on 1/5/2024

.36(4)(a) - Current vehicle inspection forms were observed for the three vehicles in use by the center.

Correction Deadline: 8/2/2023

Corrected on 1/5/2024

.36(6) - Written parental authorization to transport was observed for the children transported during the current week.

Correction Deadline: 8/2/2023

Corrected on 1/5/2024

.36(7)(c) - Transportation records for the current week were observed to be complete.

Correction Deadline: 8/1/2023

Corrected on 1/5/2024

.36(7)(d)2. - Transportation logs were observed to be complete for the current week.

Sleeping & Resting Equipment

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

Met

Comment

Discussed SIDS and infant sleeping position.

Comment

Pleasant naptime environment observed.

Comment

The correct number of mats, sheets and blankets were observed on this date. Cleaning and disinfecting of mats was discussed with the director on this date.

Staff Records

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

Met

Comment

Criminal record checks were observed to be complete.

Comment

Director provided sixteen (16) files for employees hired since last visit.

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 a review of staff records and staff statements that verification of current CPR and First Aid training could only be found for thirteen staff. Based on the number of staff currently employed, which is forty-seven, a minimum of twenty-four staff must have current certification in CPR and First Aid.

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.

Correction Deadline: 2/4/2024

Finding

591-1-1-.14(2) requires a Staff member who is trained in CPR and first aid to be on the premises and on any field trip whenever any child is present. In addition, Staff who provide direct care to children must satisfactorily obtain certification in first aid and CPR by December 29, 2016 if employed prior to September 30, 2016 and within 90 days of their hire date if employed after September 30, 2016. It was determined based on a review of staff records and staff statements that six staff who were hired in the 2023 calendar year did not obtain the required CPR and First Aid training within ninety days of employment.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will develop a schedule to ensure there is always a staff person with current first aid and CPR training present and will develop and implement a plan to ensure all staff members have satisfactorily completed first aid and CPR training by the specified date.

Correction Deadline: 2/4/2024

591-1-1-.33 Staff Training

Not Met

Finding

591-1-1-.33(3) 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: prevention and control of infectious diseases (including immunizations); prevention of sudden infant death syndrome and use of safe sleeping practices; administration of medication, consistent with standards for parental consent; prevention of and response to emergencies due to food and allergic reactions; 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; prevention of shaken baby syndrome, abusive head trauma and child maltreatment; 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); handling and storage of hazardous materials and the appropriate disposal of bio contaminants; precautions in transporting children; recognition and reporting of child abuse and neglect; and child development. It was determined based on a review of staff records that one employee hired on June 20, 2023, has not obtained the required Health and Safety Orientation Training required within ninety days of employment.

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: 2/4/2024

Correction Deadline: 3/18/2023

Corrected on 1/5/2024

.33(5) - It was determined based on a review of staff records that all employees had obtained the required ten hours of annual training except for one staff who had only eight.

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

Not Met

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 staff records and staff statements that seven of ten staff who are serving as lead teachers do not possess one of the required credentials.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

A teacher/lead caregiver will be hired that meets the minimum academic requirements and qualifying work experience.

Correction Deadline: 1/5/2024

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.31(2)(b)3.(ii)(I)-(VIII) requires the Center develop a written plan for newly hired teacher's who do not possess the educational credential or degree listed in 591-1-1-.31(2)(b)2.(i) through (xii). Please ensure that any new staff who are hired to serve as lead teachers and do not possess one of the required credentials has a professional development plan on file and that documentation is kept of progress made toward acquiring that credential.

Correction Deadline: 1/5/2024

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.