



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: 8/23/2026 **VisitType:** Complaint Investigation Follow Up **Arrival:** 9:00 AM **Departure:** 3:10 PM

CCLC-969

Learning Junction Preschool

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

Special Investigations Unit Lead

Tasha McDonald

Phone: (470) 346-1409

Fax: +1 (404) 382-5057

tasha.mcdonald@decal.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.
08/23/2026	Complaint Investigation Follow Up	Good Standing	
07/17/2026	Licensing Study	Good Standing	
03/19/2026	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	1st Blue Room	Three Year Olds	1	10	C	16	C	NA	NA	Free Play
Main	1st Red Room	GA PreK	2	16	C	18	C	26	C	Snack
Main	1st Right- Younger Infants		0	0	C	8	C	NA	NA	
Main	2nd Blue Room	Three Year Olds	1	9	C	16	C	NA	NA	Free Play
Main	2nd Red Room	GA PreK	2	17	C	18	C	26	C	Story
Main	2nd Right- Older Infants	Infants	2	7	C	17	C	NA	NA	Nap,Floor Play
Main	Green Room		0	0	C	32	C	45	C	
Main	Purple Room	One Year Olds	1	0	C	16	C	NA	NA	Free Play
Main	Yellow Room	Two Year Olds	2	14	C	35	C	NA	NA	Free Play
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 176			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 176							
Total # Children this Date: 73			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

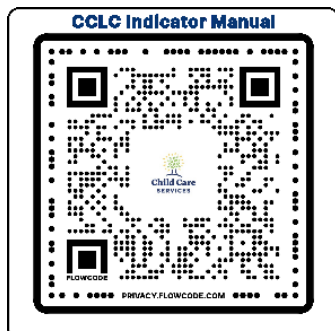
Enrolled Children

Infant (0-12 months)	Toddler (1-2 yrs)	Preschool (3-5yrs/full time care)	School Age (before/after care only)	GA PreK only	Summer Only
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Comments

The following items were discussed during the visit: the consultant reviewed playground safety requirements with the director and staff. The consultant also discussed the DECAL Scholarship Incentives Program with the director and center staff.

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>.



For additional information regarding the full compliance inspection results of this program or any licensed program in the state, access the Child Care Services Compliance-at-a Glance website by scanning this QR code or visiting: <https://families.decal.ga.gov>.

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

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The following information is associated with a Complaint Investigation Follow Up:

Activities and Equipment

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

Met

Correction Deadline: 7/24/2026

Corrected on 8/23/2026

.12(2) - The previous citation was observed to be corrected. Based on observation, the cubby doors in the Green Room had been repaired, and all doors were securely attached with hinges intact.

Children's Records

591-1-1-.08 Children's Records

Met

Correction Deadline: 8/3/2026

Corrected on 8/23/2026

.08(1) - The previous citation was observed to be corrected. Consultant observed that, based on a review of records, ten children's files reviewed contained the required parent work address information.

Facility

591-1-1-.06 Bathrooms

Met

Correction Deadline: 8/16/2026

Corrected on 8/23/2026

.06(4) - The previous citation was observed to be corrected. Consultant observed that the exhaust fans in the boys' and girls' bathrooms located between the 1st Red Room and 2nd Red Room were functioning properly. Consultant also observed that the dust buildup had been removed from the exhaust fans in the two bathrooms located between the 1st Blue Room and 2nd Blue Room, and the fans appeared clean and capable of proper suction.

591-1-1-.25 Physical Plant - Safe Environment(CR)

Not Met

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: 9/24/2026

Recited on 8/23/2026

Health and Hygiene

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 a 4-year-old child did not wash their hands after toileting in the 1st Red 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: 8/24/2026

Recited on 8/23/2026

Safety

591-1-1-.13 Field Trips(CR)

Met

Correction Deadline: 7/18/2026

Corrected on 8/23/2026

.13(2) - The previous citation was observed to be corrected. Consultant observed that center staff had implemented and were using a system to obtain written field trip permission in advance. The permission forms reviewed were signed and dated by the person responsible.

Staff Records

591-1-1-.33 Staff Training

Not Met

Correction Deadline: 8/16/2026

Corrected on 8/23/2026

.33(3)(a)-(k) -The previous citation was observed to be corrected on this date. Consultant observed the center to have documentation of completing the health and safety orientation training on file on this date.

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 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.

Correction Deadline: 9/24/2026

Recited on 8/23/2026

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

Defer

Defer

591-1-1-.31(2)(b)2.-The previous citation was deferred. The consultant observed that the Lead Teacher has until December 31, 2026, to meet the educational requirements.

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