



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: 9/17/2025 VisitType: Licensing Study

Arrival: 8:40 AM Departure: 12:10 PM

CCLC-37780

Little Stars Learning Academy

2445 Creel Road College Park, GA 30349 Fulton County
(678) 884-6994

Regional Consultant

Shameka Dozier

Phone: (770) 857-7010

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shameka.dozier@decal.ga.gov

Mailing Address

Same

Quality Rated: ★ ★

<u>Compliance Zone Designation</u>			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.
09/17/2025	Licensing Study	Good Standing	
08/13/2024	Licensing Study	Good Standing	
03/11/2024	Licensing Study	Good Standing	

Ratios/License Capacity

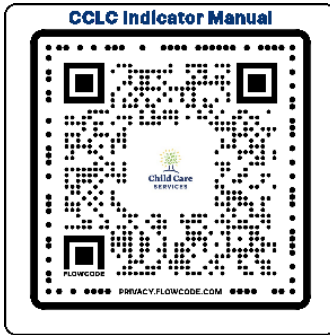
Building	Room	Age Group	Staff	Children	NC/C	Max 35 SF.	35 SF. Comp.	Max 25 SF.	25 SF. Comp.	Notes
Main	Rm A		0	0	C	15	C	NA	NA	
Main	Rm B		0	0	C	6	C	NA	NA	
Main	Rm C		0	0	C	12	C	NA	NA	
Main	Rm D	Infants and Two Year Olds and Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds	1	12	C	18	C	26	C	Breakfast, Transitioning
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 51			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 59							
Total # Children this Date: 12			Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 51				Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 59			

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	Infants/School Age	14	C
Main	Infants/School Age	180	C

Enrolled Children						
Under 1 years	1 years	2 years	3 years	4 years	5 years (Prekonly)	5 years and older
3	5	4	4	2	0	16

Comments

Pediatric First Aid and pediatric CPR training within 45 days of employment, operational policies & procedures, initial program orientation, and two hours in evidence based/developmentally appropriate language and literacy practices and at least two hours in on-going child development and health and safety related topics were discussed with the provider on 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.dec.al.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!



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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-.03 Activities

Not Met

Finding

591-1-1-.03(2) requires the Center to keep current lesson plans on site that reflect appropriate instruction practices and activities to support children's development. The Center shall have sufficient and varied play and learning equipment and materials to support the above program of activities in all developmental areas. It was determined based on observation that the lesson plans posted in classrooms A and C were not dated.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will keep current lesson plans on site that include appropriate instruction practices and activities and will have sufficient and varied play and learning equipment and materials to support the activities.

Correction Deadline: 9/17/2025

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

Met

Comment

Equipment and furniture observed to be properly secured, as applicable.

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

N/A

Comment

Center does not provide swimming activities.

Children's Records

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

Met

Comment

Parent authorizations obtained/completed.

Facility

591-1-1-.06 Bathrooms

Met

Correction Deadline: 11/4/2024

Corrected on 9/17/2025

.06(4) - Previous citation of the back left bathroom in classroom A not having a functioning exhaust fan was observed to be corrected on this date.

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)	Met
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Comment

Please be mindful to keep items that pose a hazard inaccessible to children.

591-1-1-.26 Playgrounds(CR)	Met
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Correction Deadline: 8/13/2024

Corrected on 9/17/2025

.26(9) - Previous citation of the gate placed around the air conditioning unit on the playground having two poles that were leaning with torn wires that had lifted up was observed to be corrected on this date as consultant observed a fence placed around the air conditioner unit.

Food Service

591-1-1-.15 Food Service & Nutrition	Met
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Correction Deadline: 8/13/2024

Corrected on 9/17/2025

.15(5) - Previous citation of the food menu not posted for the current week was observed to be corrected on this date.

591-1-1-.18 Kitchen Operations	Met
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Comment

Kitchen appears clean and well organized on this date.

Health and Hygiene

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

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

591-1-1-.17 Hygiene(CR)	Met
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Comment

Staff were observed to remind children to wash hands on this date.

591-1-1-.20 Medications(CR)	N/A
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Comment

The Provider currently does not dispense/administer medication.

Organization

591-1-1-.16 Governing Body & License	Not Met
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Finding

591-1-1-.16(f) requires the Center to submit an application for an amended License at least 30 days prior to a change if there is a change in the name of the program or Center, changes in the ages of the children to be served, an increase in the regular hours of operation such that the Center would be providing evening or night-time care in addition to day-time care, changes in the services provided, or additions to or changes in the use of the building by the licensed Center. If an emergency situation arises which makes it impossible to give thirty (30) days' notice, the management of the Center shall notify the Department by telephone and shall submit an application for an amended License as soon as management becomes aware of the change that will be necessitated by the emergency situation. In no case, however, shall a new owner operate the Center without first securing a new License or Permit from the Department. It was determined based on observation that a fence was placed around the playground to add a smaller playground which had playground equipment added without the center submitting an application for an amendment.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

An application for amendment and all necessary documentation will be submitted.

Correction Deadline: 9/26/2025

Recited on 9/17/2025

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

Technical Assistance

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.21(1)(a-o) - Discussed 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. Also discussed 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: 9/22/2025

Safety

591-1-1-.05 Animals

N/A

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)

N/A

Comment

Center does not participate in field trips at this time.

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

Met

Comment

Complete documentation of transportation observed on this date. Consultant was not able to inspect the vehicle as it is not kept on the premises per the provider.

Sleeping & Resting Equipment

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

Not Met

Correction Deadline: 8/13/2024

Corrected on 9/17/2025

.30(2) - Previous citation of an infant asleep with a bib around their neck was observed to be corrected on this date.

Finding

591-1-1-.30(2)(c) requires that infants shall not sleep in equipment other than safety-approved cribs, such as, but not limited to, a car safety seat, bouncy seat, highchair, or swing. Infants who arrive at the Center asleep or fall asleep in such equipment, on the floor or elsewhere, shall be transferred to a safety-approved crib. It was determined based on observation that an infant was asleep in an infant chair with a blanket covering half of their face in classroom D.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will only place infants in safe cribs to sleep and will transfer them to a safe crib when the infants are asleep in other equipment.

Correction Deadline: 9/17/2025

Staff Records

Records Reviewed: 4

Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 1

Staff # 4

Not Met

Date of Hire: 09/17/2014

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

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

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

Criminal record checks were observed to be complete.

591-1-1-.09 Criminal Records Check(CR)**Met****Comment**

Criminal records checks were observed to be complete.

591-1-1-.14 First Aid & CPR(CR)**Technical Assistance****Technical Assistance**

591-1-1-.14(1)(a) - Discussed that effective July 1, 2025, new staff are required to obtain pediatric First Aid and pediatric CPR training within 45 days of employment. It was further discussed that programs must have at least one person with current pediatric First Aid and pediatric CPR training in each classroom at all times.

Correction Deadline: 9/17/2025**591-1-1-.33 Staff Training****Technical Assistance****Technical Assistance**

591-1-1-.33(2)(a)-(n) - Discussed that all Employees, including volunteers, independent contractors, students-in-training, etc. should have a completed initial program orientation form on file.

Correction Deadline: 9/18/2025**Technical Assistance**

591-1-1-.33(3)(a)-(k) - Ten hours of Health and safety training was discussed with the provider on this date.

Correction Deadline: 10/17/2025**Technical Assistance**

591-1-1-.33(4) - Consultant discussed with the provider to ensure that the correct food preparation training is obtained for all staff that prepares food.

Correction Deadline: 10/17/2025**Technical Assistance**

591-1-1-.33(5)(b)1. - New - Discussed that effective July 1, 2025, all staff are required to obtain at least two hours in evidence based, developmentally appropriate language and literacy practices and at least two hours in on-going child development and health and safety related topics as part of their 10 hours of annual training.

Correction Deadline: 10/17/2025**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.

Finding

591-1-1-.31(2)(c) requires the Center to maintain a copy and/or written verification of the credential or degree awarded to the lead teacher that is required by these rules in the lead teacher's file, to make the document available for inspection and to provide the document to Department staff upon request. It was determined based on review of records that lead teacher credentials were not on file for staff #2, and #6 as the director was not able to provide the credentials/ degree(s) when requested.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will review lead teacher records to ensure the required documentation is on file and will obtain and file it if not found.

Correction Deadline: 10/3/2025**Recited on 9/17/2025**

591-1-1-.32 Staff:Child Ratios and Group Size(CR)**Not Met****Finding**

591-1-1-.32(2) requires the Center maintain Staff:child ratios in mixed-age groups based on the age of the youngest group of children that includes more than twenty percent of the total number of children in the mixed-age group. It was determined based on observation that in classroom D, there were three infants, four 2-year-olds, three 3-year-olds, and two 4-year-olds with one staff member, when the required ratio was 2:12.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will provide adequate staff when there is a mixed-age group.

Correction Deadline: 9/17/2025**Finding**

591-1-1-.32(4) requires that children under three years old be housed in separate physical areas from older children and cannot be mixed with older children except at specified times and circumstances. It was determined based on observation that in Classroom D there were three infants, four 2-year-olds housed with three 3-year-olds, and two 4-year-olds outside the specified time.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will maintain separation of these children under three years old.

Correction Deadline: 9/17/2025**Technical Assistance**

591-1-1-.32(4)(b) - Parental agreement from the older child's parent to mix two and three-year-olds was discussed with the provider on this date.

Correction Deadline: 9/17/2025

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

Adequate supervision observed on this date.