



**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:** 9/21/2023 **VisitType:** Licensing Study **Arrival:** 10:25 AM **Departure:** 4:00 PM

**CCLC-55247**

**The Little Fox Den, LLC**

226 Elm Street Lincolnton, GA 30817 Lincoln County  
 (706) 359-4840 thelittlefoxdenllc@gmail.com

**Regional Consultant**

Ashley Richards

Phone: ()

Fax:

ashley.richards@decal.ga.gov

Joint with: Kesha McNeal

**Mailing Address**  
 Same

**Quality Rated:** No

| <b>Compliance Zone Designation</b> |                  |               | <b>Compliance Zone Designation</b> - 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.<br><br><b>Good Standing</b> - Program is demonstrating an acceptable level of performance in meeting the rules.<br><b>Support</b> - Program performance is demonstrating a need for improvement in meeting rules.<br><b>Deficient</b> - Program is not demonstrating an acceptable level of performance in meeting the rules. |
|------------------------------------|------------------|---------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 09/21/2023                         | Licensing Study  | Good Standing |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| 08/17/2022                         | Licensing Study  | Good Standing |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| 06/10/2022                         | 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                           | A-Front- 3's & Up | Infants                           | 2     | 11       | C                              | 12         | C            | 16         | C            | Free Play,Feeding,Na p |
| Main                           | B-1L-Infant & 1's | One Year Olds and Two Year Olds   | 1     | 9        | C                              | 10         | C            | NA         | NA           | Free Play,Centers      |
| Main                           | C-Back-2's        | Two Year Olds and Three Year Olds | 2     | 10       | NC                             | 9          | NC           | NA         | NA           | Free Play,Centers      |
| Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 31 |                   |                                   |       |          | Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0  |            |              |            |              |                        |
| Total # Children this Date: 30 |                   |                                   |       |          | Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 31 |            |              |            |              |                        |
|                                |                   |                                   |       |          | Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0  |            |              |            |              |                        |

| Building | Playground | Playground Occupancy | Playground Compliance |
|----------|------------|----------------------|-----------------------|
| Main     | Playground | 25                   | C                     |

**Comments**

The purpose of this visit was to conduct a Licensing Study.

Plan of Improvement: Developed This Date 09/21/2023

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.state.ga.us/CCS/RuleAndRegulations.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](http://www.decalkoala.com) with the user id 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.state.ga.us](mailto:qualityrated@dec.state.ga.us) for more information. Free technical assistance is available!**

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Wanda Rhodes, Program Official

Date

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Kesha McNeal, CCS Coordinator

Date

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Ashley Richards, Regional Consultant

Date



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(Findings Report)

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The following information is associated with a Licensing Study:

Activities and Equipment

591-1-1.03 Activities

Not Met

Technical Assistance

591-1-1.03(2) - The Consultants and Provider discussed following weekly lesson plans with the daily schedule that reflect appropriate instruction practices and activities to support children's development.

Correction Deadline: 9/21/2023

Finding

591-1-1.03(6) requires Center Staff to ensure children less than three years of age do not spend more than one-half hour of time consecutively in confining equipment, such as swings, highchairs, jump seats, carriers or walkers. Children shall use such equipment only when they are awake. Such children shall be allowed time to play on the floor daily. Infants shall have supervised tummy time on the floor daily when they are awake. It was determined based upon observation that three infants in room Main A were confined to stationary equipment for more than thirty minutes.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will train Staff to use confining equipment appropriately, to provide supervised floor play daily for children under three years of age, including infants, and will monitor regularly.

Correction Deadline: 9/21/2023

591-1-1.12 Equipment & Toys(CR)

Not Met

Technical Assistance

591-1-1.12(1) - Please ensure that toys requiring batteries are working according to manufacturers instructions.

Correction Deadline: 9/21/2023

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 upon observation that the oversized chair in room Main A had exposed foam located on the seat on this date.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

The Center will ensure that equipment and furniture are used by the age-appropriate group of children.

**Correction Deadline: 9/21/2023**

**Recited on 9/21/2023**

**Technical Assistance**

591-1-1-.12(6) - The Consultants and Provider discussed setting up extra centers that have age-appropriate toys and play materials, stored on low, open shelves that are accessible to children in each classroom.

**Correction Deadline: 10/21/2023**

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**591-1-1-.35 Swimming Pools & Water-related Activities(CR)****N/A****Comment**

Center does not provide swimming activities.

|                           |
|---------------------------|
| <b>Children's Records</b> |
|---------------------------|

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

**Correction Deadline: 8/31/2022**

**Corrected on 9/21/2023**

.08(1) - Correction of previous citation in that children's files reviewed had all required information complete on this date.

|                 |
|-----------------|
| <b>Facility</b> |
|-----------------|

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**591-1-1-.06 Bathrooms****Met****Comment**

Bathrooms observed to be clean..

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**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 upon observation that room Main C had 10 children present on this date when licensing capacity requires a maximum of nine children.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

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

**Correction Deadline: 9/21/2023**

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

591-1-1-.25(13) requires that potentially hazardous equipment, materials and supplies be stored in a locked area inaccessible to children. It was determined based on observation that a Staff purse in Main C was located on a low shelf to the left of the hand washing sink was accessible to children. It was further determined that a toilet brush and toilet plunger were located next to the toilet in the children's bathroom on this date. It was also determined that the diaper changing table in Main A was unlocked with a plastic bag inside.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

The Center will identify all hazardous items and keep them in a locked area inaccessible to children. The Center will inform all Staff about hazardous items and the safe storage of those items.

**Correction Deadline: 9/21/2023**

**Recited on 9/21/2023**

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**591-1-1-.26 Playgrounds(CR)****Technical Assistance****Technical Assistance**

591-1-1-.26(6) - Please ensure that play equipment that is broken or has missing pieces are removed from the playground until it can be repaired or replaced.

**Correction Deadline: 10/1/2023**

**Technical Assistance**

591-1-1-.26(8) - Please ensure that the wooden equipment with the yellow slide have adequate resilient surfacing beneath and beside the equipment and the fall zones.

**Correction Deadline: 10/1/2023**

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**Food Service**

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**591-1-1-.15 Food Service & Nutrition****Not Met****Finding**

591-1-1-.15(2) requires that a signed written feeding plan for children less than one (1) year of age shall be obtained from Parent(s) and that instructions from the Parent(s) shall be updated regularly as new foods are added or other dietary changes are made. The feeding plan shall be posted in the child's assigned room and must include the child's feeding schedule, the amount of formula or breast milk to be given, instructions for the introduction of solid foods, the amount of food to be given and notation of any type(s) of commercially premixed formula which may not be used in an emergency because of food allergies. It was determined based upon a review of records that four out of eleven infant feeding plans reviewed were missing updated dates and feeding schedule information.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

The Center Director will develop and implement a plan to obtain and post the completed feeding plan as part of the enrollment process and to have parents update the plans on a regular basis that will include center staff involved with enrollment and those working in the infant classrooms.

**Correction Deadline: 9/29/2023**

**Recited on 9/21/2023**

**Technical Assistance**

591-1-1-.15(2)(c) - The Consultants and Provider discussed that children who are eating baby food are served from individual spoons and individual containers or dishes.

**Correction Deadline: 9/21/2023**

**Technical Assistance**

591-1-1-.15(3) - Please ensure that all baby bottles are labeled with the child's name and date.

**Correction Deadline: 9/21/2023**

**Technical Assistance**

591-1-1-.15(5) - Please ensure that posted menus are updated as needed before serving any meals or snacks.

**Correction Deadline: 9/21/2023**

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

Kitchen appears clean and well organized.

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**Health and Hygiene**

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**591-1-1-.10 Diapering Areas & Practices(CR)****Not Met****Finding**

591-1-1-.10(1) requires Centers first licensed after March 1, 1991, and Centers that are renovated after March 1, 1991, to provide ventilation in the diapering areas with functioning exhaust fans and a duct system or by the required amount of window space provided by operable windows when open. It was determined based upon observation that windows in room Main A were not opened and used for ventilation during diaper changes.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

The responsible person(s) at the center will ensure that the exhaust fans and duct systems are functioning or that the required amount of operable window space is provided in each diapering area.

**Correction Deadline: 9/21/2023****Finding**

591-1-1-.10(4) requires that if diapers are changed on a diaper changing surface, the surface shall be smooth, nonporous, and equipped with a guard or rails to prevent falls. Between each diaper change, the diaper changing surface shall be cleaned with a disinfectant and dried with a single-use disposable towel. It was determined based upon observation that the diaper changing surface in Main B was not smooth or nonporous. It was further determined that a Staff member In Main B did not sanitize the diapering surface after changing an infant's diaper on this date.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

The Center will ensure there is a smooth, nonporous changing surface that has a guard or rails for safety in each classroom that houses children wearing diapers. Center Staff will be trained and have adequate supplies to properly clean the diaper changing surface between each diaper change.

**Correction Deadline: 9/21/2023**

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**591-1-1-.17 Hygiene(CR)****Not Met****Technical Assistance**

591-1-1-.17(10) - Please ensure that potty training seats used for children are sanitized and stored when not in use.

**Correction Deadline: 9/21/2023****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 upon observation that children in Main C did not wash their hands with warm water and liquid hand soap before eating lunch. It was further determined that children in Main B did not wash their hands with warm water and liquid hand soap after coming inside from recess.

**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: 9/21/2023****Finding**

591-1-1-.17(8) requires staff to wash their hands with liquid soap and warm running water upon arrival for the day, when moving from one child care group to another, upon re-entering the child care area after outside play, before and after diapering each child, dispensing medication, applying topical medications, handling and preparing food, eating, drinking, preparing bottles, feeding each child, assisting children with eating and drinking, after toileting or assisting children with toileting, using tobacco products, handling garbage and organic waste, touching animals or pets, handling bodily fluids and after contamination by any means. It was determined based upon observation that a Staff member in room Main A did not wash their hands with warm water and liquid hand soap before changing an infant's diaper. It was further determined that Staff in room Main B did not wash their hands with warm water and liquid hand soap after handling bodily fluids.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

The Center will ensure liquid soap and warm running water are available for handwashing, train Staff on the handwashing requirements, review the requirements with Staff periodically, and monitor handwashing.

**Correction Deadline: 9/21/2023**

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

The Provider currently does not dispense/administer medication.

**Policies and Procedures****591-1-1-.27 Posted Notices****Technical Assistance****Technical Assistance**

591-1-1-.27 - Please ensure that Director Designees are posted.

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

Center does not keep animals on premises.

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

Age-appropriate discussion and/or redirection observed.

**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)****N/A****Comment**

Center does not provide routine transportation.

**Sleeping & Resting Equipment****591-1-1-.30 Safe Sleeping and Resting Requirements(CR)****Not Met****Technical Assistance**

591-1-1-.30 - The Consultants and Provider discussed using a large covering for cots that are stored within the classrooms.

**Comment**

Discussed SIDS and infant sleeping position.

**Finding**

591-1-1-.30(1)(a) requires a crib that is safety approved in compliance with Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) and American Society of Testing and Materials International (ASTM) safety standards be provided for each infant. It was determined based upon observation that the facility had an insufficient amount of cribs when there was eleven children present and only six cribs for use.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

The Center will provide a crib that is safety approved in compliance with CPSC and ASTM safety standards for each infant.

**Correction Deadline: 9/21/2023**

**Finding**

591-1-1-.30(1)(a)3 requires that each crib shall have only an individual, tight-fitting sheet which is changed daily or more often as needed and prior to a change of occupant. It was determined based upon observation that three out of five crib sheets were loose fitting on this date.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

The center will ensure that each crib has an individual, tight-fitting sheet which is changed daily or more often as needed and prior to a change of occupant.

**Correction Deadline: 9/29/2023**

**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 upon observation that an infant was asleep in a bouncy seat and not in a safety-approved crib.

**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: 9/21/2023**

|                      |
|----------------------|
| <b>Staff Records</b> |
|----------------------|

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

**Not Met**

**Finding**

591-1-1-.09(1)(j) requires that for portability for Directors, Employees and Provisional Employees, excluding Students-in-Training, only the most recently issued determination letter is eligible for portability and must be ported electronically. A Center may accept a satisfactory Fingerprint Records Check Determination letter or a satisfactory Comprehensive Records Check Determination letter issued by the Department if the Records Check Clearance Date is within the preceding 12 months from the hire date, the individual has not had a lapse of employment from the child care industry that lasted for 180 days (6 months) or longer, and the Center does not know or reasonably should not know that the individual's satisfactory status has changed. It was determined based upon observation that Staff #10 was not ported electronically.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

IMMEDIATE CORRECTION - The Center will enter the Staff member's information immediately to ensure that only the most recently issued determination letter is electronically ported for Directors, Employees and Provisional Employees, excluding Students-in-Training. A Center may accept a satisfactory Fingerprint Records Check Determination letter or a satisfactory Comprehensive Records Check Determination letter issued by the Department if the Records Check Clearance Date is within the preceding 12 months from the hire date, the individual has not had a lapse of employment from the child care industry that lasted for 180 days (6 months) or longer, and the Center does not know or reasonably should not know that the individual's satisfactory status has changed. 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 ensure CRC rules are maintained.

**Correction Deadline: 9/21/2023**

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

**Met**

**Comment**

Director provided five file(s) for employees hired since last visit.

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**591-1-1-.14 First Aid & CPR**

**Met**

**Correction Deadline: 9/16/2022**

**Corrected on 9/21/2023**

**.14(1) - Correction of previous citation in that the Center Director and 50% of Staff have completed CPR Training.**

**Correction Deadline: 9/16/2022**

**Corrected on 9/21/2023**

**.14(2) - Correction of previous citation in that all Staff have completed CPR and First Aid training as required.**

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**591-1-1-.33 Staff Training**

**Technical Assistance**

**Technical Assistance**

591-1-1-.33 - Please ensure that all training records are up to date and on file.

**Correction Deadline: 9/29/2023**

**Corrected on 9/21/2023**

**.33(3) - Correction of previous citation in that the training for all employees based on their hire dates have training components as required.**

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

**Met**

**Comment**

Staff observed to be compliant with applicable laws and regulations.

|                                 |
|---------------------------------|
| <b>Staffing and Supervision</b> |
|---------------------------------|

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**591-1-1-.32 Staff:Child Ratios and Group Size(CR)**

**Met**

**Comment**

Center observed to maintain appropriate staff:child ratios.

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

**Met**

**Comment**

Adequate supervision observed on this date.