



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: 4/16/2025 **VisitType:** Licensing Study

Arrival: 9:00 AM **Departure:** 11:15 AM

CCLC-39281

Little Branches Learning Center

354 Hill Farm Road Alamo, GA 30411 Wheeler County
(912) 423-2088 christieshaw78@gmail.com

Regional Consultant

Connie Boatright

Phone: (912) 544-9701

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connie.boatright@decal.ga.gov

Mailing Address

Same

Quality Rated: ★ ★ ★

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.
04/16/2025	Licensing Study	Good Standing	
03/04/2024	Licensing Study	Good Standing	
10/02/2023	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	Little Fruit	Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds	2	14	C	16	C	23	C	Transitioning,Ce nters,Outside
Main	Little Sprouts	Infants and One Year Olds	1	6	C	8	C	NA	NA	Nap,Free Play,Floor Play
Main	Little Twigs	Two Year Olds	1	9	C	9	C	NA	NA	Centers
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 33			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 37							
Total # Children this Date: 29			Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 33			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 37			Building @25 capacity limited by Fire Marshall Limitations	

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	Playground	27	C

Enrolled Children						
Under 1 years	1 years	2 years	3 years	4 years	5 years (Prekonly)	5 years and older
3	3	9	8	8	0	0

Comments

The provider stated no medication is administered, no swimming activities, field trips or routine transportation is provided.

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/Regulations.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 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:

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 CAPS/ QR Provisional Status, allowing for scholarships while working toward an initial star rating. Provisional Status eligibility will be determined at the time of CAPS enrollment as part of the CAPS application process.

Contact the Quality Rated help desk at 855-800-7747 or qualityrated@dec.state.ga.us for more information. Free technical assistance is available!



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(Findings Report)

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Mailing Address

Same

The following information is associated with a Licensing Study:

Activities and Equipment

Records Reviewed: 6

Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 4

Staff # 1

Not Met

Date of Hire: 09/23/2024

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(3)-Health & Safety Certificate,.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training

Staff # 2

Not Met

Date of Hire: 01/16/2023

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training

Staff # 3

Not Met

Date of Hire: 09/23/2024

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(3)-Health & Safety Certificate,.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training

Staff # 6

Not Met

Date of Hire: 03/14/2023

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training

591-1-1-.03 Activities

Met

Comment

The consultant observed current lesson plans to be posted in all classrooms.

Correction Deadline: 4/16/2025

Comment

The consultant observed age appropriate activities through out the center.

Correction Deadline: 4/16/2025

591-1-1-.12 Equipment & Toys(CR)**Met****Comment**

Toys and equipment were observed to be clean and in good repair.

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**

Staff # 1

Not Met

Date of Hire: 09/23/2024

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(3)-Health & Safety Certificate,.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training

Staff # 2

Not Met

Date of Hire: 01/16/2023

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training

Staff # 3

Not Met

Date of Hire: 09/23/2024

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(3)-Health & Safety Certificate,.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training

Staff # 6

Not Met

Date of Hire: 03/14/2023

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training

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

Parent agreements observed obtained/completed.

Comment

Parent authorizations obtained/completed.

Comment

Records were observed to be complete and well organized.

Comment

The consultant observed twenty nine children to be present and twenty nine children to be signed in.

Correction Deadline: 4/16/2025**Facility****Records Reviewed: 6****Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 4**

Staff # 1

Not Met

Date of Hire: 09/23/2024

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(3)-Health & Safety Certificate,.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training

Staff # 2 Not Met

Date of Hire: 01/16/2023

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training

Staff # 3 Not Met

Date of Hire: 09/23/2024

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(3)-Health & Safety Certificate,.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training

Staff # 6 Not Met

Date of Hire: 03/14/2023

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training

591-1-1-.06 Bathrooms Met

Comment

Bathrooms observed to be clean and well maintained.

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

Comment

Licensed capacity observed to be routinely met by center. Twenty six children were observed to be present on this visit.

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 five thirty two ounce bottles of Good Neighbor Pharmacy Isopropyl Rubbing Alcohol 70% USP was stored on the top shelf of the cubby near the First Aid Kit, marked Keep Out of Reach of Children, and accessible to the three and four-year-old children.

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: 4/16/2025

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

Correction Deadline: 3/14/2024

Corrected on 4/16/2025

.26(4) - The previous citation was observed to be corrected. The enter has installed new six feet chain link fencing around the playground.

Correction Deadline: 3/14/2024

Corrected on 4/16/2025

.26(6) - The previous citation was observed to be corrected. The provider covered the door bell hole which no longer poses as a hazard.

Food Service

Staff # 1 Not Met

Date of Hire: 09/23/2024

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(3)-Health & Safety Certificate,.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training

Staff # 2

Not Met

Date of Hire: 01/16/2023

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training

Staff # 3

Not Met

Date of Hire: 09/23/2024

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(3)-Health & Safety Certificate,.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training

Staff # 6

Not Met

Date of Hire: 03/14/2023

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training

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) - Please use Bright From the Start updated feeding plan.

Correction Deadline: 4/16/2025**591-1-1-.18 Kitchen Operations****Met****Comment**

Kitchen appears clean and well organized.

Health and Hygiene

Staff # 1

Not Met

Date of Hire: 09/23/2024

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(3)-Health & Safety Certificate,.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training

Staff # 2

Not Met

Date of Hire: 01/16/2023

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training

Staff # 3

Not Met

Date of Hire: 09/23/2024

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(3)-Health & Safety Certificate,.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training

Staff # 6

Not Met

Date of Hire: 03/14/2023

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training

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

Proper diapering procedures observed.

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

Proper hand washing observed throughout the center.

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.

Organization

Staff # 1

Not Met

Date of Hire: 09/23/2024

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(3)-Health & Safety Certificate,.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training

Staff # 2

Not Met

Date of Hire: 01/16/2023

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training

Staff # 3

Not Met

Date of Hire: 09/23/2024

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(3)-Health & Safety Certificate,.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training

Staff # 6

Not Met

Date of Hire: 03/14/2023

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training

Comment

The consultant observed a current 2025 license with Bright From the Start to be posted in the parent information corner.

Correction Deadline: 4/16/2025

Policies and Procedures

Records Reviewed: 6	Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 4
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Staff # 1

Not Met

Date of Hire: 09/23/2024

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(3)-Health & Safety Certificate,.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training

Staff # 2

Not Met

Date of Hire: 01/16/2023

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training

Staff # 3

Not Met

Date of Hire: 09/23/2024

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(3)-Health & Safety Certificate,.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training

Staff # 6

Not Met

Date of Hire: 03/14/2023

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training

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

Met

Comment

Program observed complete emergency drills

591-1-1-.27 Posted Notices**Technical Assistance****Technical Assistance**

591-1-1-.27 - The center will ensure to post in a designated area for public viewing near the front entrance the following: the Center's current License or Permit; a copy of these rules; a copy of the current communicable disease chart; a statement allowing Parent(s) access to all child care areas upon notifying any staff member of his or her presence; names of persons responsible for the administration of the Center in the administrator's absence; the dated current week's menu for meals and snacks; emergency plans for severe weather, fire, and other emergency situations; a statement requiring visitors to check in with Staff when entering the Center; no smoking signs; and a notice provided by the Department which advises Parents of their right to review a copy of the Center's most recent licensure evaluation report upon request to the Center Director. The Center shall provide any Parent with a copy of this evaluation report upon request (Visitor Sign in Statement, Director Designee).

Correction Deadline: 4/16/2025

591-1-1-.29 Required Reporting

Met

Comment

Thank you for reporting as required.

Safety

Staff # 1 Not Met

Date of Hire: 09/23/2024

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(3)-Health & Safety Certificate,.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training

Staff # 2 Not Met

Date of Hire: 01/16/2023

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training

Staff # 3 Not Met

Date of Hire: 09/23/2024

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(3)-Health & Safety Certificate,.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training

Staff # 6 Not Met

Date of Hire: 03/14/2023

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training

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.

Comment

Staff were observed to maintain a positive learning environment on this date.

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

Comment

Center does not participate in field trips at this time.

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

Comment

Center does not provide routine transportation.

Sleeping & Resting Equipment

Staff # 1 Not Met

Date of Hire: 09/23/2024

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(3)-Health & Safety Certificate,.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training

Staff # 2 Not Met

Date of Hire: 01/16/2023

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training

Staff # 3 Not Met

Date of Hire: 09/23/2024

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(3)-Health & Safety Certificate,.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training

Staff # 6 Not Met

Date of Hire: 03/14/2023

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training

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

Met

Comment

Discussed SIDS and infant sleeping position.

Correction Deadline: 3/4/2024

Corrected on 4/16/2025

.30(4) - The previous citation was observed to be corrected on this day. Cots that were stored inside of the child classroom were fully covered.

Staff Records

Staff # 1 Not Met

Date of Hire: 09/23/2024

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(3)-Health & Safety Certificate,.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training

Staff # 2 Not Met

Date of Hire: 01/16/2023

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training

Staff # 3 Not Met

Date of Hire: 09/23/2024

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(3)-Health & Safety Certificate,.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training

Staff # 6 Not Met

Date of Hire: 03/14/2023

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training

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

Met

Comment

Criminal record checks were observed to be complete.

Comment

Director provided 2 file(s) for employees hired since last visit.

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

Met

Comment

Evidence observed of 100% of center staff certified in First Aid and CPR.

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 review of files that staff # 1 and staff # 3 was hired September 23, 2024 and has no proof of completion of health and safety orientation training within the first 90 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: 5/16/2025

Finding

91-1-1-.33(5) requires that every calendar year after the first year of employment, all supervisory and caregiver Personnel, except independent contractors, Students-in-Training and volunteers shall attend ten (10) clock hours of diverse training which is task-focused in on-going health, safety and early childhood or child development related topics and which is offered by an accredited college, university or vocational program or other Department-approved source. The annual ten (10) clock hours of training shall be chosen from the following fields: child development, including discipline, guidance, nutrition, injury control and safety; health, including sanitation, disease control, cleanliness, detection and disposition of illness; child abuse and neglect, including identification and reporting, and meeting the needs of abused and/or neglected children; and business related topics, including parental communication, recordkeeping, etc.; provided however that such business related training shall be limited to no more than two (2) of the required ten (10) clock hours of training. Records of completion of such training shall be maintained, as required by these rules. It was determined based on review of files that staff # 1, 2, 3, and 6 do not have proof of completion of any hours of annual training for the year of 2024.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will plan and schedule the required 10 hours of annual training each year and follow up to ensure the training is completed.

Correction Deadline: 5/16/2025

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

Staff observed to be compliant with applicable laws and regulations.

Staffing and Supervision

Records Reviewed: 6

Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 4

Staff # 1

Not Met

Date of Hire: 09/23/2024

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(3)-Health & Safety Certificate,.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training

Staff # 2

Not Met

Date of Hire: 01/16/2023

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training

Staff # 3

Not Met

Date of Hire: 09/23/2024

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(3)-Health & Safety Certificate,.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training

Staff # 6

Not Met

Date of Hire: 03/14/2023

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training

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

Adequate supervision observed on this date.