



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: 1/10/2023 **VisitType:** Licensing Study **Arrival:** 10:30 AM **Departure:** 3:45 PM

CCLC-26490

Tree House Academy

2600 Sugarmill Blvd. St. Marys, GA 31558 Camden County
 (912) 576-8697 st.marys@treehouseacademy.org

Region Consultant

Jerica Davis

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Mailing Address
 Same

Quality Rated: ★

Compliance Zone Designation		
01/10/2023	Licensing Study	Good Standing
08/08/2022	Monitoring Visit	Good Standing
02/25/2022	Complaint Closure	Good Standing

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.

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-1st right	Two Year Olds	2	12	C	16	C	NA	NA	Outside
Main	B - 2nd right	One Year Olds	1	6	C	11	C	NA	NA	Clean Up,Centers
Main	C - 3rd right	GA PreK	2	22	C	22	C	NA	NA	Clean Up,Circle Time,Transitioning,Outside
Main	D -Back left	Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds	1	11	C	20	C	NA	NA	Transitioning
Main	E -far left		0	0	C	19	C	NA	NA	
Main	F-Front left	Infants and One Year Olds	2	9	C	12	C	NA	NA	Feeding,Floor Play,Lunch,Diapering
Main	Room G -3 yrs		0	0	C	14	C	NA	NA	

Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 114

Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0

Total # Children this Date: 60

Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 114

Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	Playgrd -A frt lft	23	C
Main	Playgrd B back lft	67	C
Main	Playgrd-back rt	33	C
Main	playgrd-Front Rt	9	C

Comments

The purpose of today's visit is to conduct a Licensing Study. The center provides routine transportation and all records and vehicles were inspected on this date.

Plan of Improvement: Developed This Date 01/10/2023

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.decgal.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@decgal.ga.gov for more information. Free technical assistance is available!

Jessie Durbin, Program Official

Date

Jerica Davis, 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-.12 Equipment & Toys(CR)

Met

Correction Deadline: 8/22/2022

Corrected on 1/10/2023

.12(2) - This citation was observed to be corrected on this date. The couch was observed to have been repaired.

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

Met

Comment

Center does not provide swimming activities.

Children's Records

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

Met

Comment

Records were observed to be complete and well organized.

Facility

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.

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

Met

Correction Deadline: 8/8/2022

Corrected on 1/10/2023

.25(3) - This citation was observed to be corrected on this date. All items in need of repair were observed to have been repaired.

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

Not Met

Technical Assistance

Discussed maintenance of resilient surface. Please fluff and redistribute. Please fluff mulch in fall zones on playground back right.

Technical Assistance

Please ensure that fencing material shall not present a hazard to children and shall be maintained. Please ensure that the wood slats on air conditioner enclosure are in good repair and do not have any rough or sharp edges or broken pieces.

Correction Deadline: 1/10/2023

Finding

591-1-1-.26(6) requires that playground equipment provide an opportunity for the children to engage in a variety of experiences and shall be age-appropriate. For example, toddlers shall not be permitted to swing in swings designed for School-age Children. The outdoor equipment shall be free of lead-based paint, sharp corners and shall be regularly maintained in such a way as to be free of rust and splinters that could pose significant safety hazard to the children. All equipment shall be arranged so as not to obstruct supervision of children. It was determined based on observation that the following playground equipment hazards were observed:

-On playground A, there was a blue, red, and yellow teeter totter that one handle that was cracked and missing a piece posing a potential pinch hazard.

-On playground A, the surfacing on the three steps to the slide and the landing was worn away leaving the steps rough and rusted that posed potential hazard.

-On playground B, the walk through playground structure had areas that were rusted and were in need of repair.

-On playground B, the surfacing on the four steps to the slide and the landing was worn away leaving the steps rough and rusted that posed potential hazard.

-On playground back right, two scooters were rusted and posed a potential hazard.

-On playground back right, there was a top portion of a tricycle including the handlebars and one wheel that was not in good repair accessible to children that posed a potential hazard.

-On playground back right, one tricycle was missing one pedal and one tricycle was missing two pedals and posed a potential safety hazard.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will provide a variety of age-appropriate equipment that is arranged so as not to obstruct supervision of children. Staff will check the equipment daily to ensure that the equipment is free of hazards, rust and splinters.

Correction Deadline: 1/20/2023

Food Service

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

Met

Comment

Center menu meets USDA guidelines.

Health and Hygiene

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

Not Met

Comment

Proper diapering procedures observed.

Finding

591-1-1-.10(6) requires Center Staff to keep any items which might harm a child out of a child's reach. It was determined based on observation that in classroom A, there was many tubes of diaper rash cream, two bottles of Lysol spray, a bottle of bleach solution, and two packages of diaper wipes stored on the changing table accessible to the children being diapered.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will remove any harmful item and provide instruction to staff. that includes identification and storage of hazardous items and procedures for keeping classrooms and other children's areas free of hazards.

Correction Deadline: 1/10/2023

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

Comment

Proper hand washing observed throughout the center.

591-1-1-.20 Medications(CR) **Met**

Comment

The Provider currently does not dispense/administer medication.

Safety

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

Comment

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

591-1-1-.36 Transportation(CR) **Not Met**

Comment

Complete documentation of transportation observed.

Comment

The vehicle had an approved fire extinguisher and first aid kit on this date.

Finding

591-1-1-.36(4)(b) requires that the interior of a transportation vehicle be clean, in safe repair and free of hazardous items, objects and/or other non-essential items which could cause injury. It was determined based on observation that two of eight seats in the bus with tag number PB7315 were torn on the corner with foam exposed and were in need of repair.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The center will maintain that all transportation vehicles are clean, in safe repair, and free from hazards.

Correction Deadline: 1/18/2023

Sleeping & Resting Equipment

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

Comment

Discussed SIDS and infant sleeping position.

Finding

591-1-1-.30(4). requires that if cots and mats are stored in the children's activity room or area, they shall be stored to prevent children's access to them and to allow maximum use of play space. When storage is available and used for the storage of cots and mats that allows the cots, mats and any bedding to be stored without touching any other cots, mats or bedding, the bedding may be left on the cot or mat. When such storage is not available for the cots and mats, each child's bedding shall be kept separate from other children's bedding and stored in containers marked for individual use, such as, but not limited to, bins, cubbies, or bags. It was determined based on observation that 14 out of 22 mats with sheets and blankets on them were stored touching throughout the classroom in preparation for nap time and were not stored separately as required.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will store cots and mats so children do not have access to them and they don't take up play space and will store them so each child's bedding is separate from the others.

Correction Deadline: 1/10/2023

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 four files for employees hired since the 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 Met

Comment

Documentation observed of required staff training.

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

Comment

Staff observed to be compliant with applicable laws and regulations.

Staffing and Supervision

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

Comment

Center observed to maintain appropriate staff:child ratios.

Finding

591-1-1-.32(7) requires that children be supervised at all times appropriate to the individual age, needs and capabilities of each child. Such supervision must include, but not be limited to, indoor and outdoor activities, mealtimes, naptime, transportation, field trips, and transitions between activities. "Supervision" means that the appropriate number of Staff members are physically present in the area where children are being cared for and are providing watchful oversight to the children, volunteers and Students-in-Training. The persons supervising in the child care area must be alert, positioned to maximize their ability to hear and see the children at all times, and able to respond promptly to the needs and actions of the children being supervised, as well as the actions of the volunteers and Students-in-Training, and provide timely attention to the children's actions and needs. Staff shall be attentive and participating with all children during mealtimes and shall be seated within an arm's length away from children thirty-six (36) months of age and younger. It was determined based on observation that two infant children were observed eating in high chairs in classroom E and the staff members were not within arm's length of the children while they ate as required.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will train Staff and monitor to ensure they are providing supervision and watchful oversight to the children at all times.

Correction Deadline: 1/10/2023