



**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

**Cover Sheet**

**Date:** 1/18/2022    **VisitType:** Complaint Investigation & Monitoring Visit    **Arrival:** 9:30 AM    **Departure:** 1:00 PM

**CCLC-48159**

**The Learning Academy**

428 Picric Street Brunswick, GA 31520 Glynn County  
 (912) 342-8793 maryashaw@bellsouth.net

**Regional Consultant**

Jerica Davis

Phone: (478) 314-9452  
 Fax: (478) 314-9443  
 jerica.davis@decal.ga.gov

**Mailing Address**  
 Same

**Quality Rated:** ★ ★

<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.  <b>Good Standing</b> - Program is demonstrating an acceptable level of performance in meeting the rules. <b>Support</b> - Program performance is demonstrating a need for improvement in meeting rules. <b>Deficient</b> - Program is not demonstrating an acceptable level of performance in meeting the rules.
01/18/2022	Complaint Investigation & Monitoring Visit	Good Standing	
11/29/2021	Incident Investigation Closure	Good Standing	
10/21/2021	Incident Investigation & Follow Up	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	Infants and One Year Olds	2	7	C	9	C	NA	NA	Floor Play, Nap
Main	B		0	0	C	13	C	NA	NA	
Main	C	One Year Olds and Two Year Olds	1	11	NC	16	C	NA	NA	Centers
Main	D	Three Year Olds	1	9	C	12	C	NA	NA	Transitioning, Centers, Circle Time, Outside
Main	E	Four Year Olds and Five Year Olds	1	12	C	56	C	NA	NA	Outside, Centers, Art
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 106						Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0				
Total # Children this Date: 39			Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 167			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0				

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	Playground A	24	C
Main	Playground B	37	C

**Comments**

January 18, 2022- The purpose of today's visit is to conduct a Monitoring Visit. The visit was conducted in-person and the visit report will be completed at a later time.

January 20, 2022- The visit report was completed on this date and discussed with the director.

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



### Important New Deadlines:

Due to the ongoing COVID restrictions, the deadline to become Quality Rated for programs who want to continue to receive Childcare and Parent Services (CAPS), has been extended to at least December 31, 2021.

Get started today! Sign up by completing a short online application: <https://qualityrated.dec.state.ga.us/>  
Request free technical assistance to help you earn your star rating by contacting the Quality Rated help desk at 855-800-7747 or [qualityrated@dec.state.ga.us](mailto:qualityrated@dec.state.ga.us)

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), e-mail the following information to [CCSRefutations@dec.state.ga.us](mailto:CCSRefutations@dec.state.ga.us).

- 1) Facility name, license number and visit date
- 2) Your name, title/relationship to the facility, e-mail address & up to two phone number(s) where you can be reached
- 3) Specific rule number(s) that you are refuting, along with your concerns or questions regarding the rule citation

Refutations must be submitted to Child Care Services (CCS) within 10 business days of the completion date.

A sample form for submitting a refutation can be found at: <http://dec.state.ga.us/ChildCareServices/RefutationInformation.aspx>

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)

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Mary Shaw, Program Official

Date

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Jerica Davis, Consultant

Date



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Phone: (404) 657-5562 WWW.DECAL.GA.GOV

**Findings Report**

**Date:** 1/18/2022 **VisitType:** Complaint Investigation & Monitoring Visit **Arrival:** 9:30 AM **Departure:** 1:00 PM

**CCLC-48159**

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The following information is associated with a Monitoring Visit:

**Activities and Equipment**

**591-1-1-.03 Activities**

**Technical Assistance**

**Technical Assistance**

Please ensure that all classrooms provide a variety of activities that allow for: indoor and outdoor play; quiet and active periods; free choice and directed activities; individual and group activities; large and small muscle activities; language experiences; arts and crafts; dramatic play; music and movement; and nature and science.

**Correction Deadline: 1/18/2022**

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

**Not Met**

**Technical Assistance**

Please ensure that each Employee and child in attendance to use all indoor and outdoor furniture, activity materials, and equipment in a safe and appropriate manner and in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions, recommendations, and intended use. All equipment and furniture shall be used only by the age-appropriate group of children. Boppy Lounger seats have been recalled by the Consumer Product Safety Commission. Please ensure the two boppy lounger seats in the infant room are removed from use.

**Correction Deadline: 1/18/2022**

**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 on observation that the storage cabinet in the back left corner of classroom A had a broken door on the left side of the cabinet in need of repair. Additionally, the wooden toy kitchen in classroom D had the door on the right side of the kitchen with a broken hinge causing the door to hang incorrectly and be a potential hazard.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

The Center will ensure that equipment and furniture are in good repair and repaired or replaced as needed.

**Correction Deadline: 1/25/2022**

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

**Met**

**Comment**

Center does not provide swimming activities.

**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)****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 the following hazards were observed:

-In classroom A, three cans of Lysol spray, one container of Lysol wipes, and two bottles of lotion were observed to be stored in the bottom of the changing table accessible to children.

-In classroom C, a large container of hand sanitizer, a bottle of leave in hair conditioner, and two plastic bags containing clothing were observed to be stored in the cubby area accessible to the children. Additionally, a container of Lysol wipes were observed to be stored in the bottom of the unlocked changing table and a bottle of Lysol Wipes and can of Lysol spray were observed to be stored on the hand washing sink accessible to the children.

-In classroom D, a broom and dust pan were observed to be stored accessible to the 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: 1/18/2022**

**Finding**

591-1-1-.25(8) requires protective caps on all unused electrical outlets within children's reach and requires that electrical outlets in use be made inaccessible to children. It was determined based on observation that in classroom C, a white extension cord was observed hanging in the far right corner of the classroom posing a potential strangulation hazard. Additionally, in classroom D, a brown extension cord and several black electrical cords that power the fish tank were observed hanging in the far right corner of the classroom posing a potential strangulation hazard.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

The Center will train Staff to check all electrical cords to ensure that they are secure and do not pose a risk to children.

**Correction Deadline: 1/18/2022**

**591-1-1-.26 Playgrounds(CR)****Not Met****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 airplane climb on toy located in the front playground was missing the steering wheel leaving a metal pole protruding in two places on the piece of equipment posing a potential hazard. Additionally, four push trucks were observed to have cracked and broken pieces on the playground accessible to the children.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

Staff will check the equipment daily to ensure that the equipment is free of hazards, rust and splinters. Staff will repair or replace playground equipment and toys that is damaged or broken.

**Correction Deadline: 1/28/2022**

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

591-1-1-.15(6)(b) requires that food and beverages be served in individual plates or bowls and with individual glasses or cups. It was determined based on observation that a infant was observed to be sitting in a crib with cereal on the crib sheet and was not provided a individual plate or bowl for eating. Additionally, the infant was removed from the crib and then began eating the cereal off of the floor.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

The center will use individual food service items to serve food and beverages.

**Correction Deadline: 1/18/2022**

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<b>Health and Hygiene</b>
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**591-1-1-.07 Children's Health****Technical Assistance****Technical Assistance**

Please ensure that staff do not permit children to wear around their necks or attach to their clothing including pacifier clips or other hazardous items.

**Correction Deadline: 1/18/2022**

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

Proper diapering procedures observed.

**Finding**

591-1-1-.10(9) requires Center Staff to not use the area used for diapering for food preparation and to keep the diapering area clear of formulas, food, food utensils and food preparation items. It was determined based on observation that two infant bottles were observed to be stored on the hand washing sink when the consultant arrived. Additionally, later in the visit the consultant observed an infant bottle in a bowl of water in the hand washing sink.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

Center staff will be trained, specified areas will be available for food preparation and placement of food-related items, and the director will monitor.

**Correction Deadline: 1/18/2022**

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**591-1-1-.17 Hygiene(CR)****Technical Assistance****Technical Assistance**

Please ensure lids remain on trash containing organic waste.

**Comment**

Proper hand washing observed throughout the center.

**Comment**

Staff were observed to remind children to wash hands.

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

The Provider currently does not dispense/administer medication.

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<b>Safety</b>
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**591-1-1-.11 Discipline(CR)****Met****Comment**

Age-appropriate discussion and/or redirection observed.

**Comment**

Center does not provide routine transportation.

**Sleeping & Resting Equipment****Comment**

Discussed SIDS and infant sleeping position.

**Comment**

The correct number of mats, sheets and blankets were observed on this date. Cleaning and disinfecting of mats was discussed with the director on this date.

**Technical Assistance**

Please ensure 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.

**Correction Deadline: 1/18/2022**

**Staff Records**

**Records Reviewed: 9**

**Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 0**

Staff # 1	Met
Staff # 2	Met
Date of Hire: 01/18/2022	<u>Reminder - Health &amp; Safety training is required within 90 calendar days of hired</u>
Staff # 3	Met
Date of Hire: 06/10/2020	
Staff # 4	Met
Date of Hire: 01/18/2022	<u>Reminder - Health &amp; Safety training is required within 90 calendar days of hired</u>
Staff # 5	Met
Date of Hire: 11/01/2020	
Staff # 6	Met
Staff # 7	Met
Staff # 8	Met
Staff # 9	Met
Date of Hire: 01/03/2022	<u>Reminder - Health &amp; Safety training is required within 90 calendar days of hired</u>

**Staff Credentials Reviewed: 4**

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

Director provided three files for employees hired since the last visit.

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

Staff observed to be compliant with applicable laws and regulations.

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<b>Staffing and Supervision</b>
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**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 classroom C had 11 one and two-year-old children present with one staff member when the consultant arrived where two staff members were required.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

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

**Correction Deadline: 1/18/2022**

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

A supervision plan was discussed on this date. Please ensure that a staff member is escorting the children in classroom E to and from the hall restroom. Children should not go to the restroom in the hallway unattended.