



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: 5/19/2023 **VisitType:** Licensing Study **Arrival:** 11:00 AM **Departure:** 2:35 PM

CCLC-35001

Tara Academy

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 (404) 381-9300 melioradirector@gmail.com

Region Consultant

Christina Jennings

Phone:

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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.
05/19/2023	Licensing Study	Support	
04/21/2023	Complaint Closure	Good Standing	
04/05/2023	Complaint 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 1st Left	Infants	1	4	C	11	C	NA	NA	Nap,Feeding
Main	B 1st Right		0	0	C	13	C	NA	NA	
Main	C 2nd Left	Two Year Olds	1	10	C	22	C	NA	NA	Lunch
Main	D 2nd Right		0	0	C	20	C	NA	NA	
Main	E 3rd Left	Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds	1	8	C	22	C	NA	NA	Nap
Main	F 3rd Right		0	0	C	16	C	NA	NA	
Main	G 4th Left	One Year Olds	2	11	C	11	C	NA	NA	Diapering,Lunch
Main	H 5th Left		0	0	C	26	C	NA	NA	
Main	I 4th Right	GA PreK	2	9	C	26	C	NA	NA	Lunch
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 167					Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0					
Total # Children this Date: 42					Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 167					
					Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0					

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	PG Preschool	24	C
Main	PG School Age	125	C
Main	PG Toddler	18	C

Comments

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

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

Ruth Penn, Program Official

Date

Christina Jennings, Region 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)

Not Met

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 following classrooms had furniture and equipment with hazardous conditions accessible to children:

Classroom A:

-The blue, red, and green vinyl play mat had exposed foam on the corners of the mat.

Classroom C:

- The soap dispenser in the children's bathroom was broken exposing sharp edges.
- The bottom of the blue wall on the right side of the classroom had a large area that had peeling paint.
- The bottom of the blue wall under the window of the back of the classroom had a large area that had peeling paint.
- There was a thick layer of a sticky residue on the tile flooring preventing the floor to be properly cleaned and sanitized.
- The legs and arms of eleven out of eleven chairs were rusted and had peeling paint.
- The legs of the children's feeding table were rusted.

Classroom E:

- The trim along the baseboard was missing along bottom of the wall throughout the classroom.
- The legs and arms of 16 out of 16 chairs were rusted and had peeling paint.
- The trim along the baseboard in the children's bathroom was missing.
- The children's hand-washing sink was cracked around the drain causing the sink to not be in good repair.

Classroom G:

- The trim along the baseboard was missing along bottom of the wall throughout the classroom.
- The legs and arms of 13 out of 13 chairs were rusted and had peeling paint.
- The green, blue, and red chair in the reading center had exposed foam on each corner.

Correction Deadline: 5/19/2023

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

N/A

Comment

Center does not provide swimming activities.

Facility

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 upon observation that the following hazards were accessible to children:

Classroom C:

- A pink paper cutter on the manipulative shelf adjacent to the hand washing sink.
- Two brooms and dust pans in the children's bathroom.

Classroom E:

- A white and grey toilet brush behind the toilet in the children's bathroom.
 - A black stapler on top of the children's cubbies along the right side wall of the classroom.
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Correction Deadline: 5/19/2023

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

Not Met

Finding

591-1-1-.26(4) requires that playgrounds be protected from traffic or other hazards by a (4) four foot high fence or other barrier approved by this Department. Fencing material shall not present a hazard to children and shall be maintained so as to prevent children from leaving the playground area by any means other than through an approved access route. Fence gates shall be kept closed except when persons are entering or exiting the area. It was determined based upon observation that the fencing along the Preschool Playground was leaning. It was further determined that the gate doors were missing between the Preschool Playground and the Schoolage Playground.

Correction Deadline: 6/19/2023

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 upon observation that the following hazards were accessible to children:

Preschool Playground:

- The wooden benches in the metal playhouse with the yellow roof were splintering.

School Age Playground:

- The red metal play car climb on structure was rusted through out the structure.
- The blue metal jungle gym had exposed rust.

Correction Deadline: 5/29/2023

Finding

591-1-1-.26(9) requires the playground to be kept clean, free from litter and free of hazards, such as but not limited to rocks, exposed tree roots and exposed sharp edges of concrete. It was determined based upon observation that the following hazards were accessible to children:

Preschool Playground:

- Exposed concrete under the tree by the metal airplane structure.
- Litter throughout the playground.

School Age Playground:

- A white trash bag with trash inside of it laying on the ground.
- Litter through out the playground.

Correction Deadline: 5/19/2023

Health and Hygiene

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

Comment

Proper diapering procedures observed.

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

Comment

Staff were observed to remind children to wash hands.

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

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**

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 on the second bench seat of the van, there was a four inch hole with foam exposed. It was further determined that trash and debris were on the floor and seats of the van.

Correction Deadline: 5/19/2023

Recited on 5/19/2023

Sleeping & Resting Equipment

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

Comment

Pleasant naptime environment observed.

Staff Records

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

Criminal record checks were observed to be complete.

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

Adequate supervision observed on this date.

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

Staff observed to provide direct supervision and be attentive to children's needs.