



**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:** 4/24/2023    **VisitType:** Complaint Investigation & Licensing Study    **Arrival:** 10:00 AM    **Departure:** 2:15 PM

**CCLC-39499**

**Premier Early Learning Academy**

2696 Macland Rd Dallas, GA 30157 Paulding County  
(770) 445-4517 Erica.Burton@pelacademy.com

**Region Consultant**

Brionne Higgins

Phone: (404) 232-1903  
Fax: (770) 359-5819  
brionne.higgins@dec.al.ga.gov

**Mailing Address**  
Same

**Quality Rated:** ★ ★

<b>Compliance Zone Designation</b>		
04/24/2023	Complaint Investigation & Licensing Study	Good Standing
11/28/2022	Monitoring Visit	Good Standing
04/07/2022	Licensing Study	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
Building 2	G - Front Right	GA PreK	2	17	C	19	C	NA	NA	Transitioning
Building 2	H - Front Left	Three Year Olds	2	17	C	18	C	NA	NA	Outside
Building 2	I - Back Left	Three Year Olds	1	9	C	15	C	NA	NA	Outside
Building 2	J - Back Right	GA PreK	2	18	C	20	C	NA	NA	Transitioning
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 72					Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0					
Main	C- 2nd R	Two Year Olds	1	7	C	10	C	NA	NA	Transitioning
Main	D-Far Right	Infants	1	3	C	10	C	NA	NA	Nap
Main	E-1 st Left	One Year Olds	1	8	C	10	C	NA	NA	Circle Time
Main	F-2nd Left	Two Year Olds	2	10	C	16	C	NA	NA	Diapering, Transitioning
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 46					Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0					
Total # Children this Date: 89			Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 118			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0				

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
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**Comments**

The purpose of this visit was to follow up to a visit conducted on Novmeber 28, 2022.

Plan of Improvement: Developed This Date 04/24/2023

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/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](http://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.state.ga.us](mailto:qualityrated@dec.state.ga.us) for more information. Free technical assistance is available!**

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Erica Burton, Program Official

Date

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Brionne Higgins, Consultant

Date



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**(Findings Report)**

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The following information is associated with a Licensing Study Visit:

**Activities and Equipment**

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

**Technical Assistance**

**Technical Assistance**

591-1-1-.03(2) - Consultant discussed ensuring that a current lesson plan is posted in all classrooms.

**Correction Deadline: 4/24/2023**

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

**Met**

**Comment**

A variety of equipment and toys were observed throughout the center.

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

**N/A**

**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**

**Technical Assistance**

**Technical Assistance**

591-1-1-.06(4) - Consultant discussed ensuring that all fully enclosed bathrooms utilize adequate ventilation to control odors and adequate sanitation measures to prevent the spread of contagious diseases.

Correction Deadline: 5/24/2023

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: 11/28/2022

Corrected on 4/24/2023

.25(13) - Previous citation corrected on this date. Consultant observed potentially hazardous equipment, materials and supplies to be stored in a locked area. Consultant discussed corrected safety locks on cabinets to ensure that hazardous materials remains inaccessible.

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

**Comment**

Playground observed to be clean and in good repair.

**Food Service**

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

**Comment**

Center menu meets USDA guidelines.

591-1-1-.18 Kitchen Operations Met

**Comment**

Kitchen appears clean and well organized.

**Health and Hygiene**

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

**Comment**

Staff state proper knowledge of diapering procedures.

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.

**Policies and Procedures**

591-1-1-.21 Operational Policies & Procedures Not Met

**Finding**

591-1-1-.21(3) requires that the Center conduct drills for fire, tornado and other emergency situations. The fire drills will be conducted monthly and tornado and other emergency situation drills will be conducted every six months. The Center shall maintain documentation of the dates and times of these drills for two years. It was determined based a review of documents that center staff failed to conduct emergency drills including lockdown drills and tornado drills every six months.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

The Center will hold the drills as required and keep the documentation of the drills on file for two years.

**Correction Deadline: 4/29/2023**

**Comment**

591-1-1-.21(1)(p) - Observed completed emergency preparedness plan.

**Correction Deadline: 4/29/2023**

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

**Met**

**Comment**

Observed all required posted notices.

**Safety**

**591-1-1-.05 Animals**

**N/A**

**Comment**

Center does not keep animals on premises.

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

**Met**

**Comment**

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

**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)**

**Not Met**

**Comment**

A current/completed inspection was observed for all vehicles used in transporting children this date.

**Comment**

Complete documentation of transportation observed.

**Comment**

The vehicle had an approved fire extinguisher.

**Technical Assistance**

591-1-1-.36(3)(a-b) - Consultant discussed ensuring that Directors, drivers, and any other staff who participate in transporting children (e.g., staff who sign transportation checklists, staff who ride the vehicle, etc.) for child care learning programs must obtain two clock hours of approved transportation training prior to performing any duties associated with the transportation of children. Furthermore, consultant discussed ensuring that complete biannually.

**Correction Deadline: 5/4/2023**

**Finding**

591-1-1-.36(7)(c)3. requires that the driver or other designated person document in writing the time of arrival and departure each time the vehicle departs from the Center, is loaded or unloaded at each school and when the vehicle returns to the Center; each time the vehicle departs from the Center, arrives at the location where any child is picked up or dropped off and when the vehicle returns to the Center; each time the vehicle leaves the Center, arrives at a field trip destination, leaves a field trip destination, and returns to the Center. It was determined based on a review of records that center staff failed to document an arrival time to Premier Early Learning Academy from Roberts Elementary on the afternoon transportation route on April 10, 2023.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

The Center will ensure that each time of arrival and departure is documented by the driver or designated person with training, review and monitoring.

**Correction Deadline: 4/25/2023**

## Sleeping & Resting Equipment

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

**Technical Assistance**

**Comment**

Discussed SIDS and infant sleeping position.

**Technical Assistance**

591-1-1-.30(4) - Consultant discussed ensuring that cots are stored in children's classrooms and/or activity areas should be stored in such a way as to prevent children's access to them. For example, the stack of cots could be covered with a sheet or similar material or positioned behind toy shelving to prevent children's access.

**Correction Deadline: 4/24/2023**

## Staff Records

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

**Met**

**Correction Deadline: 11/28/2022**

**Corrected on 4/24/2023**

**.09(1)(g) - Previous citation corrected on this date. Consultant observed all staff present and caring for children to have a satisfactory comprehensive records check determination on file.**

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

**Met**

**Comment**

Evidence observed of 50% of center staff certified in First Aid and CPR.

**Comment**

Please replace/add missing/expired item(s) in first aid kit(s). The following items were missing from the first aid kit on the 15 passenger van: tweezer, scissors, triangular bandage, thermometer, face mask, insect-sting preparation.

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

**Met**

**Comment**

Documentation observed of required staff training.

**Comment**

Discussed: Health and Safety Training is required for each staff member with direct care responsibilities within 90 calendar days of their hire date.

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

**Met**

**Comment**

Discussed that all lead staff must enroll in an approved education program within 6 months of hire and complete degree within 18 months.

**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.

**Comment**

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