



**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:** 8/30/2022 **VisitType:** Licensing Study

**Arrival:** 10:45 AM **Departure:** 1:00 PM

**CCLC-24637**

**The Chestnut Treehouse**

474 South Deshon Rd. Lithonia, GA 30058 DeKalb County  
 (770) 879-2021 chestnuttreehouse22@yahoo.com

**Regional Consultant**

Kaycee Purvis

Phone: (770) 357-4915  
 Fax: (404) 478-8085  
 kaycee.purvis@dec.al.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.
08/30/2022	Licensing Study	Good Standing	
01/19/2022	Monitoring Visit	Good Standing	
12/13/2021	Complaint Investigation by Phone	Good Standing	

  

<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.

**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	1	7	C	16	C	NA	NA	Circle Time
Main	B-2nd rt- 0-12 mos	Infants	1	4	C	11	C	NA	NA	Nap,Free Play,Floor Play
Main	C- 1st Left -New- 2 y/o	One Year Olds	2	14	C	16	C	NA	NA	Nap,Transitioning
Main	D-3rd right- 3 y/o	Three Year Olds	2	10	C	14	C	NA	NA	Lunch
Main	E-4th Right- 4 y/o	Three Year Olds	2	11	C	24	C	NA	NA	Transitioning
Main	F-3rd Left- End- 5+		0	0	C	33	C	NA	NA	
Main	G- Pre-K	PreK	2	17	C	25	C	NA	NA	Lunch
Main	H-new room	Two Year Olds	2	8	C	9	C	NA	NA	Lunch
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 148					Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0					
Total # Children this Date: 71			Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 148			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0				

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	A-6wks-3 years	28	C
Main	B 3-12 years	95	C

**Comments**

An electronic copy of the licensing study report was emailed to the provider. An exit conference was conducted virtually.

Plan of Improvement: Developed This Date 08/30/2022

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 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!**

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)

Vernancy Asghar, Program Official

Date

Kaycee Purvis, Consultant

Date



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**Findings Report**

**Date:** 8/30/2022 **VisitType:** Licensing Study

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The following information is associated with a Licensing Study:

**Activities and Equipment**

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

**Technical Assistance**

**Technical Assistance**

591-1-1-.03(2) - The Consultant and Director discussed ensuring that all classrooms post current lesson plans.

**Correction Deadline: 8/30/2022**

**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 equipment hazards were observed accessible to children:

A-1st Right-

- The cardboard blocks were torn

C-1st Left-New- 2 y/o

- The brown vinyl chair was torn with exposed foam.

E-4th Right- 4 y/o

- The blue vinyl couch was torn at the seat, the back of the couch, and the left and right arms with exposed foam.

H-new room

- The brown vinyl couch was worn at both arms and at the front of the seat.
- The blue chair vinyl was torn at the right arm with exposed foam.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

The Center will ensure that equipment and furniture are used by the age-appropriate group of children.

**Correction Deadline: 8/30/2022**

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**591-1-1-.35 Swimming Pools & Water-related Activities(CR)****N/A****Comment**

Center does not provide swimming activities.

**Facility**

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

Licensed capacity observed to be routinely met by center.

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**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 observed accessible to children:

**A-1st Right-**

- A staff purse, broom and dust pan were in an unlocked closet.
- Four pairs of scissors, an Energizer "C" battery, and a roll of white out were in an unlocked drawer.
- Two boxes of gloves, a trash bag, 12 Alcohol prep pads, 2 Antiseptic Towelettes, four packs of Medique Diphen tablets, two packs of Non Aspirin tablets, and a pack of burn gel was in an unlocked drawer under the diaper changing table.
- A toilet brush was in the bathroom.

**D-3rd right-3 y/o**

- A broom and dust pan were in the corner by the toy shelf.
- Three packs of Pampers Sensitive baby wipes, one pack of Pampers baby wipes, one pack of Pinkfrog Baby Shark baby wipes, and a pack of Parents Choice Sensitive baby wipes were in children's cubbies.

**F-3rd Left-End-5+**

- A box of gloves, a container of Equate Petroleum Jelly, and a bottle of Ultra Defense Sanitariums Hand Sanitizer was on a low shelf.

**H-new room**

- Two packs of Babysoft baby wipes and a container of Equate Petroleum Jelly was in a child's cubby.

**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: 8/30/2022**

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**591-1-1-.26 Playgrounds(CR)****Not Met****Comment**

Discussed maintenance of resilient surface. Please fluff and redistribute.

**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 there was a potential entrapment hazard on the Large Playground when there was a five inch gap from the ground to the bottom of the wooden fence on the left side fence. It was further determined that there was also a three inch by seven inch hole in the wooden fence on the left side fence. It was further determined that the back wooden fence on the Small playground was leaning into the playground on the left and right side.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

The Center will routinely check the fence to determine if it is in good repair and remains at least 4 feet high, and will repair any hazards. The Center will train Staff to identify and report any fence hazards and to keep the fence gates closed when not in use.

**Correction Deadline: 10/28/2022**

**Recited on 8/30/2022**

**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 two out of four tricycle seats were cracked on this date.

**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: 8/31/2022**

**Recited on 8/30/2022**

**Correction Deadline: 1/19/2022**

**Corrected on 8/30/2022**

**.26(9) - Correction of previous citation in that the Consultant did not observed any hazards accessible to children on the playground on this date.**

**Health and Hygiene**

**591-1-1-.07 Children's Health** **Not Met**

**Finding**

591-1-1-.07(5) requires Center Staff to not permit children to wear around their necks or attach to their clothing pacifier or other hazardous items. It was determined based on observation a child in Classroom C-1st Left-New- 2 y/o had a pacifier strap attached to their clothing on this date.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

The Center will instruct Staff regarding this safety requirement.

**Correction Deadline: 8/31/2022**

**Recited on 8/30/2022**

**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.

**Safety**

**Comment**

Age-appropriate discussion and/or redirection observed.

**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 upon observation that the second and third left seats and the first and second right seats were torn at the back of the seat on the vehicle used for transportation (tag BPB 9984).

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

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

**Correction Deadline: 10/14/2022**

**Recited on 8/30/2022**

**Correction Deadline: 1/20/2022**

**Corrected on 8/30/2022**

**.36(7)(b) - Correction of previous citation in that the Consultant observed completed emergency medical information records on this date.**

**Finding**

591-1-1-.36(7)(c)2. requires that the driver or other designated person shall immediately document in writing, with a check or other mark/symbol to account for each child listed on the passenger transportation checklist each time a child enters and exits the vehicle. The driver or other designated staff person shall document in writing with a different mark/symbol to account for each child listed on the passenger transportation checklist who was not present on the vehicle for any reason. An explanation shall be documented in writing whenever a child is transported to a field trip site but is not present on the return trip to the Center. It was determined based upon a review of records that one child was not marked load or unload on the transportation record for the field trip to the Georgia Aquarium on July 19, 2022.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

The driver/other designated person will immediately document in writing with a check/mark/symbol each time a child gets on and off the vehicle.

**Correction Deadline: 8/31/2022**

**Sleeping & Resting Equipment**

**Technical Assistance**

591-1-1-.30(1)(b)1 - The Consultant and Director discussed replacing/repairing nap mats as they begin to tear.

**Correction Deadline: 8/30/2022**

**Staff Records**

**Records Reviewed: 20**

**Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 1**

Staff # 1	Met
Staff # 2	Met
Staff # 3	Met
Staff # 4	Met

**Records Reviewed: 20**

**Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 1**

Date of Hire: 02/12/2021

Staff # 5 Met

Staff # 6 Met

Staff # 7 Met

Staff # 8 Met

Staff # 9 Met

Staff # 10 Met

Date of Hire: 03/03/2020

Staff # 11 Met

Date of Hire: 08/29/2020

Staff # 12 Met

Staff # 13 Met

Staff # 14 Met

Date of Hire: 10/05/2020

Staff # 15 Met

Staff # 16 Met

Staff # 17 Not Met

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.09-Criminal Records Check Missing

Staff # 18 Met

Date of Hire: 08/19/2009

Staff # 19 Met

Date of Hire: 03/22/2011

Staff # 20 Met

**Staff Credentials Reviewed: 0**

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

**Not Met**

**Finding**

591-1-1-.09(1)(j) requires that for portability for Directors, Employees and Provisional Employees, excluding Students-in-Training, only the most recently issued determination letter is eligible for portability and must be ported electronically. A Center may accept a satisfactory Fingerprint Records Check Determination letter or a satisfactory Comprehensive Records Check Determination letter issued by the Department if the Records Check Clearance Date is within the preceding 12 months from the hire date, the individual has not had a lapse of employment from the child care industry that lasted for 180 days (6 months) or longer, and the Center does not know or reasonably should not know that the individual's satisfactory status has changed. It was determined based upon observation that the center failed to electronically port the most recently issued determination letter.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

IMMEDIATE CORRECTION - The Center will watch the videos to ensure that only the most recently issued determination letter is electronically ported for Directors, Employees and Provisional Employees, excluding Students-in-Training. A Center may accept a satisfactory Fingerprint Records Check Determination letter or a satisfactory Comprehensive Records Check Determination letter issued by the Department if the Records Check Clearance Date is within the preceding 12 months from the hire date, the individual has not had a lapse of employment from the child care industry that lasted for 180 days (6 months) or longer, and the Center does not know or reasonably should not know that the individual's satisfactory status has changed. The program's owner or an officer/member of the corporation must view the A to Z Background Check video units pertaining to this records check rule and return the signed affidavit within one week from this visit date. The Center will watch the videos to ensure CRC rules are maintained.

**Correction Deadline: 8/30/2022**

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

**Not Met**

**Finding**

591-1-1-.31(13) prohibits Center Staff from committing any criminal act, as defined under Georgia law, in the presence of any child enrolled in the Center and requires Center staff to comply with all applicable laws and regulations. It was determined based upon observation that the vehicle used for transportation (tag BPB 9984) had a registration tag that expired at the end of February 2020. It was further determined that the vehicle used for transportation (tag TBN 8850) had a registration tag that expired end of May 2022.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

The Center will ensure that all Staff comply with all applicable laws and regulations.

**Correction Deadline: 8/30/2022**

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<b>Staffing and Supervision</b>
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**591-1-1-.32 Staff:Child Ratios and Group Size(CR)**

**Met**

**Comment**

Center observed to maintain appropriate staff:child ratios.

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

**Met**

**Comment**

Adequate supervision observed on this date.