



**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:** 9/24/2021    **VisitType:** Monitoring Visit    **Arrival:** 12:30 PM    **Departure:** 1:30 PM

**CCLC-27756**

**Echols Learning Academy**

3900 Bakers Ferry Road Atlanta, GA 30331 Fulton County  
(404) 696-5009 jamesjechols@yahoo.com

**Regional Consultant**

Michelle Smith

Phone: (404) 478-8183  
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michelle.smith@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.
09/24/2021	Monitoring Visit	Good Standing	
02/25/2021	Licensing Study	Good Standing	
12/15/2020	Monitoring Visit	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- Far Left	Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds	1	8	C	14	C	19	C	Nap
Main	B (first left)		0	0	C	11	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
Main	C (First Right)		0	0	C	15	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 40						Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 45				
Total # Children this Date: 8			Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 40			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 45				

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	Outside	48	C

**Comments**

Background checks were all reviewed. A virtual inspection was conducted on September 24, 2021, with the Director. An in-person visit was not conducted due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Required Reporting was discussed.

Plan of Improvement: Developed This Date 09/24/2021

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.decal.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



### 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.decal.ga.gov/>  
Request free technical assistance to help you earn your star rating by contacting the Quality Rated help desk at 855-800-7747 or [qualityrated@decal.ga.gov](mailto:qualityrated@decal.ga.gov)

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@decal.ga.gov](mailto:CCSRefutations@decal.ga.gov).

- 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://decal.ga.gov/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)

Ritesha Scarbrough, Program Official

Date

Michelle Smith, Consultant

Date



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**Findings Report**

**Date:** 9/24/2021 **VisitType:** Monitoring Visit **Arrival:** 12:30 PM **Departure:** 1:30 PM

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The following information is associated with a Monitoring Visit:

**Activities and Equipment**

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

**Comment**

Equipment and furniture observed to be properly secured, as applicable.

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

**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 on observation that one toilet bowl brush was present in the hallway bathroom used by children. In addition, a can of air freshener was observed on the sink in the A Far Left classroom.

**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: 9/24/2021**

**Technical Assistance**

591-1-1-.25(3) - Consultant discussed with the director to ensure that the A Far Left bathroom is repaired timely. Consultant observed a hallway bathroom that is operable and able to be used by children less than 50 feet away from the entrance and exit of the A Far Left classroom.

**Correction Deadline: 9/24/2021**

**Finding**

591-1-1-.25(3) requires the Center and surrounding premises to be kept clean, free of debris and in good repair. Hygienic measures such as, but not limited to, screened windows and proper waste disposal procedures shall be utilized to minimize the presence of rodents, flies, roaches and other vermin at the Center. It was determined based on observation that dust was on vent in the B- First Left near the diapering changing surface.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

The Center will have the Center and surrounding areas cleaned, make repairs where needed, and remove all debris is removed. The Center will implement a plan to keep areas clean and in good repair that includes regular monitoring.

**Correction Deadline: 10/25/2021**

**Recited on 9/24/2021**

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

**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 on observation that one large ladder was present on the playground to the far left, and stacks of repairing wood was on the walking ramp used to enter and exit the playground, which poses potential hazards to children.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

The Center will remove any litter and fix or remove hazards from the playground and will routinely monitor the playground and remove litter and hazards.

**Correction Deadline: 9/24/2021**

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**Food Service**

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

**Correction Deadline: 2/25/2020**

**Corrected on 9/24/2021**

**.15(3) - The citation was corrected. Staff stated proper knowledge of bottle labeling.**

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**Health and Hygiene**

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

**Comment**

Hand washing requirements for diapering were discussed with the director on this date.

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

**Comment**

Proper hand washing was discussed.

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

**Comment**

The Provider currently does not dispense/administer medication.

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**Safety**

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

**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-.36 Transportation(CR)** **Met**

**Comment**

Center does not provide routine transportation.

**Sleeping & Resting Equipment**

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

**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.

**Staff Records**

**Records Reviewed: 3**

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

Staff # 1 Met

Staff # 2 Met

Date of Hire: 08/14/2017

Staff # 3 Not Met

Date of Hire: 07/26/2021

Reminder - Health & Safety training is required within 90 calendar days of hired

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.31(2)(b)2.-Staff Qualifications-Education Missing

**Staff Credentials Reviewed: 1**

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

**Comment**

Consultant observed three (3) of three (3) program staff to have valid evidence of a Satisfactory Comprehensive Criminal Records Check Determination letter on file. The program director stated that the owner of the program is not an on-site director, and is not present for the day to day operations.

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

**Defer**

591-1-1-.33(3)- Consultant will evaluate this rule during the next regulatory visit scheduled.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

The Center will develop and implement a plan to schedule and track this training for all employees based on their hire dates and will ensure that the training includes all required components as required.

**Correction Deadline: 2/26/2021**

**Defer**

591-1-1-.33(5)- This rule will be evaluated during the next regulatory visit scheduled.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

Previously Cited: The Center will plan and schedule the required 10 hours of annual training each year and follow up to ensure the training is completed.

The Center will plan and schedule the required 10 hours of annual training each year and follow up to ensure the training is completed.

**Correction Deadline: 2/28/2020**

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

**Not Met**

**Finding**

591-1-1-.31(1)(b)2 requires the Director to possess at least one of the sets of minimum academic requirements and qualifying child care experience listed in Rule 591-1-1-.31(1)(b)2.(i-xiii). It was determined based on review of records that the program director did not have valid evidence of an earned CDA, TCC, 40-Hour Director's training, Associates Degree or any other credential on file.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

The Center will ensure that the Director meets the minimum education and work requirements and secure the necessary documentation.

**Correction Deadline: 2/25/2022**

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**Staffing and Supervision**

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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)**

**Not Met**

**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 one teacher stepped out of the classroom while children were resting for less than 30 seconds in the A- Far Left classroom.

**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: 9/24/2021**