



**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:** 9/28/2021 **VisitType:** Monitoring Visit

**Arrival:** 9:00 AM

**Departure:** 11:00 AM

**CCLC-35362**

**Elachee Nature Preschool**

2125 Elachee Drive Gainesville, GA 30504 Hall County  
 (770) 535-1976 Melissa@elachee.org

**Mailing Address**  
 Same

**Regional Consultant**

Stephanie Clark

Phone: (770) 357-1712

Fax: (770) 357-1715

stephanie.clark@decal.ga.gov

Joint with: Neli Todorova

**Quality Rated:** No

| <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.<br><br><b>Good Standing</b> - Program is demonstrating an acceptable level of performance in meeting the rules.<br><b>Support</b> - Program performance is demonstrating a need for improvement in meeting rules.<br><b>Deficient</b> - Program is not demonstrating an acceptable level of performance in meeting the rules. |
|------------------------------------|------------------|---------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 09/28/2021                         | Monitoring Visit | Good Standing |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| 03/09/2021                         | Licensing Study  | Good Standing |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| 08/17/2020                         | 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                           | Rm.A ( 3-5yrs)        | Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds        | 2                             | 18       | C    | 33         | C            | NA         | NA           | Field Trip |
| Main                           | Room B (kindergarten) | Five Year Olds and Six Year Olds and Over | 2                             | 17       | C    | 35         | C            | NA         | NA           | Field Trip |
| Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 68 |                       |                                           | Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0 |          |      |            |              |            |              |            |
| Total # Children this Date: 35 |                       |                                           | Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0 |          |      |            |              |            |              |            |

| Building | Playground | Playground Occupancy | Playground Compliance |
|----------|------------|----------------------|-----------------------|
|----------|------------|----------------------|-----------------------|

**Comments**

Background checks were all reviewed on September 28th, 2021. A virtual inspection was conducted on September 28th, 2021 with the Director, Melissa Reed. An in-person visit was not conducted due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Plan of Improvement: No Plan Developed

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)

Melissa Reid, Program Official

Date

Stephanie Clark, Consultant

Date

Neli Todorova, Consultant

Date



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### Findings Report

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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-.06 Bathrooms**

**Met**

**Comment**

Bathrooms observed to be clean and well maintained.

**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**

**Comment**

No hazards observed accessible to children on this date.

**Comment**

Provider was reminded to reference our poisonous plant list and to label plants placed in the Classroom.

**Correction Deadline: 9/28/2021**

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

**Technical Assistance**

**Comment**

Discussed maintenance of resilient surface. Please fluff and redistribute.

**Comment**

Provider was reminded that Fencing must be 4ft or higher and material must be approved as adequate fence extensions.

**Technical Assistance**

591-1-1-.26(3) - Consultant observed the Center using the breeze way as an option to get to the playground. It was discussed with the provider to use the indoor route to the playground from Kindergarten.

**Correction Deadline: 10/28/2021**

**Technical Assistance**

591-1-1-.26 – Please ensure to monitor the playground areas for the following hazards: - Normal wear and tear of playground equipment and toys. Potential entrapment hazards in the fence surrounding the playground area. Biting and/or stinging insects (i.e. ants, bees, etc.). Loose and/or weak tree branches surrounding the playground area. Standing water in and around playground equipment after inclement weather. Fall zones and resilient surface.

**Correction Deadline: 10/8/2021**

**Technical Assistance**

591-1-1-.26(8) - Consultant discussed with the provider to make sure that the fall zones and the depth of the resilient surface are as required:

Slides:

- A Minimum of four (4) feet perimeter fall (use) zone around entrance/ladder end of slide.
- A minimum of five (5) feet perimeter fall (use) zone around the exit and out from sides of slide at exit region.
- Stand alone climbers (i.e. arch climbers, dome climbers [jungle gyms], overhead horizontal ladders [monkey bars], spiral climbers – at least four feet in all directions from climbing structures (i.e. climbers/ladders)

Resilient Surface:

- \* Three (3) inches of loose fill surfacing for equipment that measures between three and five feet high .
- \* Six (6) inches of loose fill surfacing for swings and equipment over five feet high

**Correction Deadline: 10/8/2021**

|                           |
|---------------------------|
| <b>Health and Hygiene</b> |
|---------------------------|

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

The program serves children ages three and up. No diapering.

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

591-1-1-.17(7) - Provider was reminded that hand sanitizer does not replace hand washing with soap and water.

**Correction Deadline: 9/28/2021**

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

Discussed proper medication documentation and procedures. The provider reported no medication since the last visit and on this date.

|               |
|---------------|
| <b>Safety</b> |
|---------------|

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

Age-appropriate discussion and/or redirection observed.

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**591-1-1-.13 Field Trips(CR)****Technical Assistance****Technical Assistance**

591-1-1-.13(2) - During the visit the children were on a walk on the nature trails of the large property of Elachee. The activity has been viewed in the past as an in-house field trip. The regional manager and coordinator are in the process of arranging a meeting with the provider, discussing practices and procedures and possibly requesting field trip forms to be completed as well as written supervision plans.

**Correction Deadline: 9/28/2021**

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**591-1-1-.36 Transportation(CR)****Met****Comment**

Center does not provide routine transportation.

|                                         |
|-----------------------------------------|
| <b>Sleeping &amp; Resting Equipment</b> |
|-----------------------------------------|

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

The Center does not provide care for Infants.

|                      |
|----------------------|
| <b>Staff Records</b> |
|----------------------|

**Records Reviewed: 12****Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 0**

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Staff # 1

Met

Date of Hire: 06/01/2013

Staff # 2

Met

Date of Hire: 05/13/2021

Staff # 3

Met

Date of Hire: 08/02/2021

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

Staff # 4

Met

Date of Hire: 09/16/2021

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

Staff # 5

Met

Date of Hire: 02/04/2019

Staff # 6

Met

Date of Hire: 07/28/2020

Staff # 7

Met

Staff # 8

Met

**Records Reviewed: 12****Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 0**

Date of Hire: 08/23/2021

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

Staff # 9

Met

Date of Hire: 01/23/2017

Staff # 10

Met

Date of Hire: 09/17/2018

Staff # 11

Met

Date of Hire: 12/19/2016

Staff # 12

Met

Date of Hire: 08/14/2018

**Staff Credentials Reviewed: 3****591-1-1-.09 Criminal Records and Comprehensive Background Checks(CR)****Met****Comment**

Criminal record checks were observed to be complete.

**591-1-1-.09 Criminal Records Check(CR)****Met****Comment**

Criminal records checks were observed to be complete.

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

Please be mindful of training expiration dates.

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

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

Adequate supervision observed on this date.