



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: 9/23/2024 **VisitType:** Monitoring Visit

Arrival: 1:30 PM **Departure:** 4:45 PM

CCLC-61943

Laughing Tots

5293 Mill Store Road Lake Park, GA 31636 Lowndes County
(229) 464-2608 Walmartqueen62@gmail.com

Regional Consultant

Rena Keene

Phone: (706) 855-3458

Fax: (706) 434-7639

rena.keene@decal.ga.gov

Mailing Address

Same

Quality Rated: No

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.
09/23/2024	Monitoring Visit	Good Standing	
06/13/2024	Monitoring Visit	Good Standing	
10/04/2023	Initial Licensing Study	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 Building	Room A	Infants and One Year Olds	1	7	NC	13	C	NA	NA	Nap, Diapering, S nack
Main Building	Room B	One Year Olds and Two Year Olds and Three Year Olds	2	5	C	15	C	NA	NA	Diapering, Floor Play
Main Building	Room C		0	0	C	24	C	NA	NA	
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 52			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0							
Total # Children this Date: 12			Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 52							
			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0							

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main Building	Playground A	14	C

Enrolled Children						
Under 1 years	1 years	2 years	3 years	4 years	5 years (Prekonly)	5 years and older
1	9	1	1	0	0	0

Comments

The purpose of today's visit was to conduct a Monitoring Visit and to follow up on previously cited rule violations.

September 24, 2024: The Monitoring Visit Form for September 23, 2024, was revised based on the following: The citation regarding ratios for mixed age groups was changed from 590-1-1-.32(1) to 590-1-1-.32(2). The correction placed the Center's Enforcement and Compliance back in Good Standing. The correction was made based on a supervisory review. (Rena Keene)

Plan of Improvement: To Be Submitted 10/07/2024

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/RuleAndRegulations.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.state.ga.us for more information. Free technical assistance is available!



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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

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

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)

Met

Comment

Center appears clean and well maintained.

591-1-1-26 Playgrounds(CR)

Met

Comment

Playground observed to be clean and in good repair.

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

Proper hand washing observed throughout the center.

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

Center does not provide routine transportation.

Sleeping & Resting Equipment

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

Correction Deadline: 6/13/2024

Corrected on 9/23/2024

.30(2)(c) - Infants were observed in approved sleeping equipment.

Staff Records

591-1-1-.09 Criminal Records and Comprehensive Background Checks(CR)**Not Met****Finding**

591-1-1-.09(1)(a) requires that a Center ensure that every actual and potential Director, Employee and Provisional Employee of a Child Care Learning Center submit both a Records Check Application to the Department and Fingerprints to an authorized fingerprinting site. It was determined based on staff statements and a review of staff records that Employee No. 6 and Employee No. 7 did not submit to fingerprint checks to obtain a background check prior to employment at this center which began in October, 2023. A one-day letter was left with the employee in charge.

Correction Deadline: 9/23/2024

Finding

591-1-1-.09(1)(c) requires the Center to ensure that every Employee has a valid and current satisfactory Comprehensive Records Check Determination on file prior to being present at the Center while any child is present for care or before an individual age 17 or older resides in the Center. The Comprehensive Records Check Determination must have a Records Check Clearance Date that is no older than the preceding 12 months of the hire date; provided, however, if the Employee has had a lapse of employment from the child care industry that lasted for 180 days (6 months) or longer, a new satisfactory Comprehensive Records Check Determination is required. It was determined based on consultant's observation and a review of staff records that Employee No. 6, who was present with children ranging in ages from infant to four years of age, and Employee No. 7, who was in the classroom with children who were from one-year to three years of age, did not have a current background check on file. Both employees stated that they have been employed at the center since October, 2023. A one-day letter was left with the center.

Correction Deadline: 9/23/2024

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

Comment

Refer to 590-1-1-.09(1)(a) and 590-1-1-.09(1)(c).

Staffing and Supervision

591-1-1-.32 Staff:Child Ratios and Group Size(CR) **Not Met**

Correction Deadline: 9/23/2024

Corrected on 9/23/2024

.32(1) - Refer to 590-1-1-.32(2).

Finding

591-1-1-.32(2) requires the Center maintain Staff:child ratios in mixed-age groups based on the age of the youngest group of children that includes more than twenty percent of the total number of children in the mixed-age group. It was determined based on consultant's observation and staff statements that one staff was in the classroom with seven children, one of whom was an infant and the other six children were one-year of age. Based on the ages and the number of children present, two staff were required at all times with this group.

Correction Deadline: 9/23/2024

Finding

591-1-1-.32(4) requires that children under three years old be housed in separate physical areas from older children and cannot be mixed with older children except at specified times and circumstances. It was determined based on consultant's observation that one three-year-old child was housed in classroom C, with four other children who were one and two years of age.

Correction Deadline: 9/23/2024

Recited on 9/23/2024

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

Met

Correction Deadline: 6/13/2024

Corrected on 9/23/2024

.32(7) - Adequate supervision was observed.