



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: 7/14/2025 **VisitType:** Monitoring Visit

Arrival: 1:30 PM **Departure:** 3:45 PM

CCLC-61943

Laughing Tots

5293 Mill Store Road Lake Park, GA 31636 Lowndes County
(229) 464-2608 chelsea.tequila.miller93@gmail.com

Regional Consultant

Kayla Coats

Phone: (470) 676-8185

Fax:

kayla.coats@decal.ga.gov

Mailing Address

Same

Quality Rated: ★

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.
07/14/2025	Monitoring Visit	Good Standing	
01/16/2025	Licensing Study	Good Standing	
09/23/2024	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 Building	Room A	Infants and One Year Olds	1	5	C	13	C	NA	NA	Floor Play,Nap
Main Building	Room B	Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds and Five Year Olds and Six Year Olds and Over	1	14	C	15	C	NA	NA	Nap
Main Building	Room C	One Year Olds and Two Year Olds	1	8	C	24	C	NA	NA	Nap
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 52					Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0					
Total # Children this Date: 27					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
6	8	7	3	12	0	10

Comments

A copy of the visit report was left with the Provider on this date.

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.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

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.ga.gov for more information. Free technical assistance is available!



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

(Findings Report)

Date: 7/14/2025 VisitType: Monitoring Visit

Arrival: 1:30 PM Departure: 3:45 PM

CCLC-61943

Laughing Tots

5293 Mill Store Road Lake Park, GA 31636 Lowndes County
(229) 464-2608 chelsea.tequila.miller93@gmail.com

Regional Consultant

Kayla Coats

Phone: (470) 676-8185

Fax:

kayla.coats@decal.ga.gov

Mailing Address

Same

The following information is associated with a MV:

Activities and Equipment

591-1-1-.03 Activities

Met

Correction Deadline: 7/14/2025

Prior Visits: 01/16/2025

Corrected on 7/14/2025

.03(2) - This citation was observed corrected on this date. The Director provided copies of current lesson plans for all classrooms.

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

Not Met

Finding

591-1-1-.12(6) requires that a variety of age-appropriate toys and play materials be available, stored on low, open shelves accessible to children in each room or assigned area. It was determined based on observation that in Room C, there was not a variety of age-appropriate toys and play materials readily available and accessible to the children in that classroom.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center director will ensure there is a variety of age-appropriate toys and play materials in each room for each age group. that are stored on low, open shelves accessible to children.

Correction Deadline: 8/13/2025

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

N/A

Comment

Center does not provide swimming activities.

Facility

591-1-1-.06 Bathrooms

Met

Correction Deadline: 2/15/2025

Prior Visits: 01/16/2025

Corrected on 7/14/2025

.06(4) - This citation was observed corrected on this date. The bathroom ventilation had been repaired and was working properly.

591-1-1-.19 License Capacity(CR)

Met

Comment

Licensed capacity observed to be routinely met by center on this date.

591-1-1-.25 Physical Plant - Safe Environment(CR)**Not Met****Finding**

591-1-1-.25(11) requires that floor coverings be tight, smooth, free of odors and washable or cleanable. It was determined based on observation that two of two rugs in Room C were dirty and contained mildew/mold stains throughout. It was further determined that the ABC/123 rug in the front right corner of Room C was not tight and smooth which posed a tripping hazard to the children.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

Floors will be maintained to be safe and sanitary.

Correction Deadline: 7/14/2025**591-1-1-.25 Physical Plant-Structural/Mechanical****Met****Correction Deadline: 2/15/2025****Prior Visits: 01/16/2025****Corrected on 7/14/2025**

.25(14) - This citation was observed corrected on this date. All lighting in the Center, including the bathroom lighting, was working properly.

591-1-1-.26 Playgrounds(CR)**Not Met****Correction Deadline: 1/16/2025****Prior Visits: 01/16/2025****Corrected on 7/14/2025**

.26(4) - This citation was observed corrected on this date. The fence had been repaired to close the 4 inch gap at the bottom of the fence and the fence boards with protruding nails had been removed from the property.

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 on observation that the bench at the back left corner of the playground had a broken arm rest and had sharp edges exposed.

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: 7/14/2025**Prior Visits: 01/16/2025****Recited on 7/14/2025****Technical Assistance**

591-1-1-.26(9) - Please ensure that the playground is clean and free from litter and debris including trash and empty plastic grocery bags.

Correction Deadline: 7/14/2025**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**

Proper hand washing observed throughout the center.

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**Met****Correction Deadline: 7/14/2025****Prior Visits: 01/16/2025****Corrected on 7/14/2025**

.21(3) - This citation was observed corrected on this date. The Center owner provided the Consultant an electronic log of fire drills conducted during every month of 2025 and completed tornado drills every six months.

Safety

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

Age-appropriate discussion and/or redirection observed.

591-1-1-.36 Transportation(CR)**N/A****Comment**

Center does not provide routine transportation.

Sleeping & Resting Equipment

591-1-1-.30 Safe Sleeping and Resting Requirements(CR)**Not 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.

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.30(1)(a)3 - Please ensure that all crib sheets are tight fitting.

Correction Deadline: 7/14/2025**Finding**

591-1-1-.30(2) requires the Center to provide a safe sleep environment in accordance with American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) and American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) recommendations as listed in these rules for all infants. Center Staff shall place an infant to sleep on the infant's back in a crib unless the Center has been provided a physician's written statement authorizing another sleep position for that particular infant that includes how the infant shall be placed to sleep and a time frame that the instructions are to be followed. When an infant can easily turn over from back to front and back again, Staff shall continue to put the infant to sleep initially on the infant's back but allow the infant to roll over into his or her preferred position and not re-position the infant. Sleepers, sleep sacks and wearable blankets that fit according to the commercial manufacturer's guidelines and will not slide up around the infant's face may be used when necessary for the comfort of the sleeping infant. Swaddling shall not be used unless the Center has been provided a physician's written statement authorizing its use for a particular infant that includes instructions and a time frame for swaddling the infant. Center Staff shall not place objects or allow objects to be placed in or on the crib with an infant such as but not limited to toys, pillows, quilts, comforters, bumper pads, sheepskins, stuffed toys, or other soft items and shall not attach objects or allow objects to be attached to a crib with a sleeping infant, such as, but not limited to, crib gyms, toys, mirrors and mobiles. It was determined based on observation that a sippy cup was present in a crib with a sleeping 1-year-old during nap time.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will take all steps necessary to provide a safe sleep environment for infants as listed in these rules; will train Staff to follow these rules; and will monitor for compliance.

Correction Deadline: 7/14/2025

Staff Records

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

Consultant requested to view all Criminal Record checks for employees hired after last visit. Director stated that there have been no new hires since last visit

Comment

Criminal record checks were observed to be complete.

591-1-1-.14 First Aid & CPR(CR)**Met****Correction Deadline: 2/15/2025****Prior Visits: 01/16/2025****Corrected on 7/14/2025**

.14(1) - This citation was observed corrected on this date. All staff members had evidence of current first aid and CPR training on file.

591-1-1-.24 Personnel Records**Met****Correction Deadline: 1/21/2025****Prior Visits: 06/13/2024****Corrected on 7/14/2025**

.24(1) - This citation was observed corrected on this date. All staff members had up to date employee files that contained all information as required by the Department.

591-1-1-.33 Staff Training**Met****Correction Deadline: 1/26/2025****Prior Visits: 01/16/2025****Corrected on 7/14/2025**

.33(6) - This citation was observed corrected on this date. All current staff files were made available to the Consultant to verify evidence of orientation and annual training for the year 2024.

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.