



**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:** 10/5/2022 **VisitType:** Licensing Study

**Arrival:** 10:00 AM

**Departure:** 1:40 PM

**CCLC-51288**

**Learning Ladder Christian Childcare**

111 South Belair Road Martinez, GA 30907 Columbia County  
(706) 925-5608 learningladderccc1@gmail.com

**Regional Consultant**

Melyn Smith

Phone: (706) 855-3455

Fax: (706) 434-7640

melyn.smith@dec.al.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. |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------|--|
| 10/05/2022                         | Licensing Study                 | Good Standing |  |
| 05/19/2022                         | Monitoring Visit                | Good Standing |  |
| 01/21/2022                         | Incident 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                           | 1st Left  | Infants                           | 2                              | 9        | C                               | 11                              | C            | NA         | NA           | Feeding, Diapering, Floor Play, Nap |
| Main                           | 1st Right | Two Year Olds                     | 1                              | 10       | C                               | 10                              | C            | NA         | NA           | Centers                             |
| Main                           | 2nd Left  | Three Year Olds                   | 1                              | 13       | C                               | 16                              | C            | 23         | C            | Outside                             |
| Main                           | 2nd Right | One Year Olds                     | 1                              | 6        | C                               | 8                               | C            | NA         | NA           | Centers                             |
| Main                           | 3rd Left  | Two Year Olds                     | 1                              | 6        | C                               | 10                              | C            | NA         | NA           | Music                               |
| Main                           | 3rd Right | Three Year Olds                   | 1                              | 14       | C                               | 14                              | C            | NA         | NA           | Outside                             |
| Main                           | Middle    | Four Year Olds and Five Year Olds | 1                              | 13       | C                               | 18                              | C            | 25         | C            | Centers                             |
| Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 87 |           |                                   |                                |          | Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 101 |                                 |              |            |              |                                     |
| Total # Children this Date: 71 |           |                                   | Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 87 |          |                                 | Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 101 |              |            |              |                                     |

| Building | Playground | Playground Occupancy | Playground Compliance |
|----------|------------|----------------------|-----------------------|
| Main     | Playground | 31                   | C                     |

**Comments**

The purpose of this visit was to conduct a Licensing Study and to follow up on the previous visit on this date.

Plan of Improvement: Developed 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.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)

Melinda Williams, Program Official

Date

Melyn Smith, Consultant

Date



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**Findings Report**

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The following information is associated with a Licensing Study:

**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)**

**N/A**

**Comment**

Center does not provide swimming activities.

**Children's Records**

**Records Reviewed: 5**

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

|           |     |
|-----------|-----|
| Child # 1 | Met |
| Child # 2 | Met |
| Child # 3 | Met |
| Child # 4 | Met |
| Child # 5 | Met |

**591-1-1-.08 Children's Records**

**Met**

**Comment**

Records were observed to be complete and well organized.

**Facility**

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**591-1-1-.06 Bathrooms****Technical Assistance****Technical Assistance**

591-1-1-.06 - The Consultant discussed with the Director to please ensure the ventilation or exhaust fans were regularly dusted on this date.

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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)****Met****Comment**

Please be mindful to keep items that pose a hazard inaccessible to children.

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

Discussed maintenance of resilient surface. Please fluff and redistribute.

**Comment**

Playground observed to be clean and in good repair.

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|                     |
|---------------------|
| <b>Food Service</b> |
|---------------------|

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**591-1-1-.15 Food Service & Nutrition****Not Met****Correction Deadline: 5/27/2022****Corrected on 10/5/2022**

**.15(2) - Previous citation corrected, based on review of records, in that the infant feeding plans were on the updated form on this date. The Consultant discussed the infant feeding plans with the Director on this date.**

**Finding**

591-1-1-.15(7) requires that food be served according to manufacturer's instructions and recommendations. Foods that are associated with young children's choking incidents, such as, but not limited to, peanuts, hot dogs, raw carrots, popcorn, fish with bones, cheese cubes, grapes and any other food that is of similar shape and size of the trachea/windpipe shall not be served to the children less than four (4) years of age. Children older than four (4) years of age may be served these foods provided that the foods are cut in such a way as to minimize choking. Food shall not be accessible or served to children until it has been chopped, diced, cut or mashed and is appropriate for each child's age and individual eating, chewing and swallowing ability. It was determined, based on review of records, that the Center's current menu indicated that cheese cubes were served to all enrolled children for snack, when cheese cubes were not to be served to children less than four-years-old.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

The Center will train Staff and monitor food served and accessible to children to ensure that the food does not present a choking hazard.

**Correction Deadline: 10/5/2022**

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

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

Proper diapering procedures observed.

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

Proper hand washing observed throughout the center.

**Comment**

Staff were observed to remind children to wash hands.

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

**Met**

**Comment**

Documentation for medication dispensing observed complete.

**Policies and Procedures**

**591-1-1-.21 Operational Policies & Procedures**

**Met**

**Comment**

Program observed complete emergency drills

**Safety**

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

**Met**

**Comment**

Staff were observed to maintain a positive learning environment on this date.

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

**N/A**

**Comment**

Center does not participate in field trips at this time.

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

**Met**

**Comment**

A current/completed inspection was observed for all vehicles used in transporting children this date.

**Comment**

Complete documentation of transportation observed.

**Comment**

The vehicle had an approved fire extinguisher and first aid kit on this date.

**Sleeping & Resting Equipment**

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

**Met**

**Comment**

Pleasant naptime environment observed.

**Staff Records**

**Records Reviewed: 24**

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

Staff # 1 Met

Date of Hire: 03/03/2022

Staff # 2 Met

Date of Hire: 08/23/2021

Staff # 3 Met

Date of Hire: 05/24/2022

Staff # 4 Met

Date of Hire: 08/30/2021

Staff # 5 Met

Date of Hire: 06/06/2022

Staff # 6 Met

Date of Hire: 08/19/2019

Staff # 7 Met

Date of Hire: 09/16/2019

Staff # 8 Met

Date of Hire: 08/04/2021

Staff # 9 Met

Date of Hire: 07/22/2022

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

Staff # 10 Met

Date of Hire: 11/29/2021

Staff # 11 Met

Date of Hire: 09/20/2021

Staff # 12 Met

Date of Hire: 09/07/2021

Staff # 13 Met

Date of Hire: 01/24/2019

Staff # 14 Met

Date of Hire: 03/26/2021

Staff # 15 Met

Date of Hire: 08/23/2021

Staff # 16 Met

Date of Hire: 03/12/2019

Staff # 17 Met

Date of Hire: 02/18/2022

Staff # 18 Met

Date of Hire: 01/15/2019

Staff # 19 Met

Date of Hire: 06/28/2022

Staff # 20 Met

Date of Hire: 09/20/2021

Staff # 21 Met

Date of Hire: 05/01/2019

Staff # 22 Met

Date of Hire: 05/01/2019

Staff # 23 Met

Date of Hire: 05/01/2019

Staff # 24 Met

Date of Hire: 07/26/2021

**Staff Credentials Reviewed: 9**

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

**Comment**

Criminal record checks were observed to be complete.

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

**Comment**

Complete first aid kits observed in center and on vehicles.

**Comment**

Evidence observed of 100% of center staff certified in First Aid and CPR.

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

**Comment**

Documentation observed of required staff training.

**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**

Center observed to maintain appropriate staff:child ratios.