



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: 4/7/2021 **VisitType:** Monitoring Visit **Arrival:** 8:25 AM **Departure:** 10:00 AM

CCLC-31511

Mountain Academy for Kids

1523 Old Hwy 5 North Ellijay, GA 30540 Gilmer County
 (706) 636-4881 cindyhall@ellijay.com

Regional Consultant

Colleen Covey

Phone: (706) 256-7245

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colleen.covey@decals.ga.gov

Mailing Address

Same

Quality Rated: No

Compliance Zone Designation		
04/07/2021	Monitoring Visit	Good Standing
11/04/2020	Licensing Study	Good Standing
12/18/2019	Licensing Study	Good Standing

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.

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-(Left, 1st LF)	Three Year Olds	1	13	C	15	C	NA	NA	Music
Main	B-Left, 2nd LF)	Two Year Olds	1	8	C	18	C	NA	NA	Outside
Main	C-(Left, 2nd RT)	Infants	1	5	C	14	C	NA	NA	Floor Play,Nap
Main	D-(Left, 1st RT/Right Side)	One Year Olds	2	5	C	10	C	NA	NA	Outside
Main	D-(LF, 1st RT, Left Side)		0	0	C	10	C	NA	NA	
Main	E-(Right 1st RT)	Four Year Olds	1	7	C	20	C	NA	NA	Circle Time
Main	F-(Right Side End Room)	Six Year Olds and Over	1	11	C	49	C	NA	NA	Transitioning
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 136						Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0				
Total # Children this Date: 49						Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0				

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	Playground (Preschool)	32	C
Main	Playground (School AGe Rt Side)	44	C
Main	Playground(Infant Toddler)	26	C

Comments

A virtual inspection was conducted on April 7, 2021 with the Director. An in-person visit was not conducted due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Compliance with the Executive Order issued on February 15, 2021 was reviewed during the virtual inspection.

The consultant discussed the supplemental payments for child care staff, and vaccine availability during the exit conference.

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

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.

- 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)



Important New Deadlines:

Your program must be Quality Rated by December 31, 2020 in order to continue to receive Childcare and Parent Services (CAPS).

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

Tammy Ledford, Program Official

Date

Colleen Covey, 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

Additional cleaning and sanitizing requirements due to the COVID-19 pandemic were discussed and observed during a virtual walk through on April 7, 2021.

591-1-1-.35 Swimming Pools & Water-related Activities(CR) **N/A**

Comment

Center does not provide swimming activities.

Facility

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

Comment

Discussed special use of gym.

Comment

Licensed capacity observed to be routinely met by center.

591-1-1-.25 Physical Plant - Safe Environment(CR) **Met**

Comment

A virtual walk through of the center was conducted on April 7, 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. No hazards were observed accessible to children on this date.

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

Comment

A virtual walk through of the playground was conducted on April 7, 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The playground was observed to be clean and in good repair.

Food Service

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

Discussed new revision to restricted food rule which states: 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.

Health and Hygiene

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

Hand washing and sanitizing requirements for diapering were discussed with the Director on this date. Additional cleaning and sanitizing requirements due to the COVID-19 pandemic were also discussed and observed during a virtual walk through on April 7, 2021.

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

A Virtual Visit was conducted due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Hand washing was not directly observed during the virtual walk through on this date. Staff stated knowledge of proper hand washing procedures for staff and children.

591-1-1-.20 Medications(CR)**Not Evaluated****Comment**

The Director stated that no medication has been administered since March 2020. (This rule was not evaluated on this date).

Policies and Procedures

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

Discussed emergency drills and emergency plans with the Director.

591-1-1-.29 Required Reporting**Met****Comment**

Discussed reporting requirements.

Safety

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

TA-A Virtual Visit was conducted due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Discipline was not directly observed during the virtual walk through. Regulations regarding proper discipline were discussed with the Director on this date.

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

A current/completed inspection was observed for all vehicles used in transporting children this date. Vehicle inspections were observed completed as follows:

2001 Chevrolet Express-3500, Tag # BQA 8995, July 31, 2020

2010 Ford E-350, Tag # BWT 6057, July 28, 2020

Comment

Complete documentation of transportation observed.

Sleeping & Resting Equipment

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

Staff # 1	Met
Date of Hire: 05/28/2018	
Staff # 2	Met
Date of Hire: 12/12/2012	
Staff # 3	Met
Date of Hire: 09/30/2015	
Staff # 4	Met
Date of Hire: 03/19/2019	
Staff # 5	Met
Date of Hire: 11/06/2017	
Staff # 6	Met
Date of Hire: 10/01/2010	
Staff # 7	Met
Date of Hire: 02/24/2021	<u>Reminder - Health & Safety training is required within 90 calendar days of hired</u>
Staff # 8	Met
Date of Hire: 07/28/2019	
Staff # 9	Met
Date of Hire: 08/23/2004	
Staff # 10	Met
Date of Hire: 05/28/2019	
Staff # 11	Met
Date of Hire: 03/25/2019	
Staff # 12	Met
Date of Hire: 09/19/2019	

Staff # 13 Date of Hire: 12/03/2018	Met
Staff # 14 Date of Hire: 11/16/2020	Met
Staff # 15 Date of Hire: 01/07/2021	Met
Staff # 16 Date of Hire: 07/25/2019	Met
Staff # 17 Date of Hire: 10/10/2019	Met
Staff # 18 Date of Hire: 11/05/2004	Met

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 for all staff observed during the virtual visit or listed on the staff list provided by the Director.

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

Comment

Additional cleaning and sanitizing requirements due to the COVID-19 pandemic were discussed and observed during a virtual walk through on this date. The program was in compliance with the Executive Order issued on February 15, 2021.

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.

Comment

Discussed new revision to the supervision rule which states: Staff shall be attentive and participating with all children during meal times and shall be seated within an arm's length away from children thirty-six (36) months of age and younger.