



**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:** 12/9/2021    **VisitType:** Licensing Study    **Arrival:** 9:00 AM    **Departure:** 11:00 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**

Stephanie Clark

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stephanie.clark@decals.ga.gov

**Mailing Address**

Same

**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.  <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.
12/09/2021	Licensing Study	Good Standing	
04/07/2021	Monitoring Visit	Good Standing	
11/04/2020	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	A-(Left, 1st LF)	Two Year Olds	1	9	C	15	C	NA	NA	Centers
Main	B-Left, 2nd LF)	Three Year Olds	1	12	C	18	C	NA	NA	Centers
Main	C-(Left, 2nd RT)	Infants	1	5	C	14	C	NA	NA	Floor Play
Main	D-(Left, 1st RT/Right Side)	One Year Olds	1	6	C	10	C	NA	NA	Story
Main	D-(LF, 1st RT, Left Side)		0	0	C	10	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
Main	E-(Right 1st RT)	Four Year Olds	1	11	C	20	C	NA	NA	Centers
Main	F-(Right Side End Room)		0	0	C	49	C	NA	NA	
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 136						Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0				
Total # Children this Date: 43						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

An Administrative Review was conducted on December 9th, 2021 Staff files, children's files, training, and background checks were all reviewed. A virtual inspection was conducted on December 9th, 2021 with the Provider. 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.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 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.dec.state.ga.us/>  
Request free technical assistance to help you earn your star rating by contacting the Quality Rated help desk at 855-800-7747 or [qualityrated@dec.state.ga.us](mailto:qualityrated@dec.state.ga.us)

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@dec.state.ga.us](mailto:CCSRefutations@dec.state.ga.us).

- 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://dec.state.ga.us/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)

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Tammy Ledford, Program Official

Date

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Stephanie Clark, 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)**

**Met**

**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****Met****Comment**

Bathrooms observed to be clean and well maintained.

**Comment**

Please monitor bathrooms for necessary supplies.

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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)****Technical Assistance****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.

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**Food Service**

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**591-1-1-.15 Food Service & Nutrition****Technical Assistance****Technical Assistance**

591-1-1-.15 - 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.

Please ensure the new updated infant feeding form is used. Discussed revision to the written feeding plans for children under the age of 1 years old. Age-appropriate solid foods (including cereal) shall not be given to infants or children less than one (1) year of age until recommended as developmentally appropriate by the child's primary care physician and indicated in writing by the Parent(s). As soon as the feeding plan indicates that a child is ready for solid foods, the child shall be fed from individual spoons and individual containers or dishes. A child shall not be fed directly from the original baby food container if the contents are to be fed to the child at more than one (1) meal or to more than one (1) child.

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**Health and Hygiene**

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

Hand washing requirements for diapering were discussed with the director on this date.

**Comment**

Staff state proper knowledge of diapering procedures.

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

Proper hand washing observed throughout the center.

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

The Provider currently does not dispense/administer medication.

## Safety

### 591-1-1-.05 Animals

Met

#### Comment

Center does not keep animals on premises.

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

Met

#### Comment

Age-appropriate discussion and/or redirection observed.

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

Met

#### 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

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: 14

Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 0

Staff # 1 Met

Date of Hire: 08/06/2021

Staff # 2 Met

Date of Hire: 04/26/2021

Staff # 3 Met

Date of Hire: 11/06/2017

Staff # 4 Met

Date of Hire: 02/24/2021

Staff # 5 Met

Date of Hire: 07/05/2021

Staff # 6 Met

**Records Reviewed: 14****Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 0**

Date of Hire: 07/28/2019

Staff # 7

Met

Date of Hire: 08/23/2004

Staff # 8

Met

Date of Hire: 05/28/2019

Staff # 9

Met

Date of Hire: 09/19/2019

Staff # 10

Met

Date of Hire: 12/03/2018

Staff # 11

Met

Date of Hire: 11/16/2020

Staff # 12

Met

Date of Hire: 01/07/2021

Staff # 13

Met

Date of Hire: 10/04/2021

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

Staff # 14

Met

Date of Hire: 11/05/2004

**Staff Credentials Reviewed: 4****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**

Please be mindful of training expiration dates.

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

Documentation observed of required staff training.

**591-1-1-.31 Staff(CR)****Technical Assistance****Technical Assistance**

591-1-1-.31 - Discussed that all lead staff must enroll in an approved education program within 6 months of hire and complete degree within 18 months.

**Staffing and Supervision****591-1-1-.32 Staff:Child Ratios and Group Size(CR)****Met**

**Comment**

Center observed to maintain appropriate staff:child ratios.

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

**Met**

**Comment**

Adequate supervision observed on this date.