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: 10/30/2023 **VisitType:** Monitoring Visit **Arrival:** 9:00 AM **Departure:** 1:00 PM

CCLC-53834
Greater Minds Learning Academy
1285 McGarity Road McDonough, GA 30252 Henry County
(678) 272-7386 greatermindsla@gmail.com

Regional Consultant
Brandi Mangino
Phone: (478) 314-9726
Fax: (478) 599-0169
brandi.mangino@decal.ga.gov

Mailing Address
Same

Quality Rated: No

Compliance Zone Designation		
10/30/2023	Monitoring Visit	Good Standing
08/16/2023	TA Follow Up	NA
07/21/2023	TA Follow Up	NA

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: 2L (inside L)		0	0	C	4	C	NA	NA	
Main	B: 2L (inside R)	Infants and One Year Olds	2	6	C	13	C	NA	NA	Nap,Floor Play
Main	C: 4L	One Year Olds	1	8	C	18	C	NA	NA	Circle Time
Main	D: Middle	Two Year Olds	2	9	C	15	C	NA	NA	Diapering,Circle Time,Story
Main	E: 2R	Two Year Olds	1	8	C	16	C	NA	NA	Centers
Main	F: 3R	Three Year Olds	2	11	C	21	C	NA	NA	Circle Time
Main	G: 4R	GA PreK	2	20	C	26	C	NA	NA	Centers
Main	H: 3rd Middle		0	0	C	24	C	NA	NA	

Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 137 Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0

Total # Children this Date: 62 Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 137 Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	A: Infants/Toddlers	38	C
Main	C: Left Back	116	C

Comments
Plan of Improvement developed on this date.

Plan of Improvement: Developed This Date 10/30/2023

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), 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 a1 855-800-7747 or qualityrated@decal.ga.gov for more information. Free techincal 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) **Not Met**

Comment
Discussed adding equipment and toys to enhance variety.

Finding
591-1-1-.12(4) requires that equipment and furniture is secured if it is of a weight or mass that could cause injury from tipping, falling, or being pulled or pushed over. It was determined based on observation that wooden shelves in Room F throughout and Room E in the dramatic play area were in need of being secured.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
The Center will ensure that the identified equipment or furniture and any other such existing or future items are secured adequately and will have a system for checking these for stability.

Correction Deadline: 10/30/2023

591-1-1-.35 Swimming Pools & Water-related Activities(CR) **Not Evaluated**

Comment
Center does not provide swimming activities.

Facility

591-1-1-.06 Bathrooms **Not Met**

Comment
Please monitor bathrooms for necessary supplies.

Finding
591-1-1-.06(7) requires Center Staff to ensure bathrooms are cleaned daily with a disinfectant. It was determined based on observation that restrooms were not cleaned daily as required in that the Cafeteria restroom had toilet paper on the floor and brown stains in the toilets. It was further determined that In Room H, the right side restroom smelled of urine and had toilet paper in the floor.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
The Center will develop and implement a plan to ensure that bathrooms are cleaned and disinfected daily and that this is monitored daily.

Correction Deadline: 10/30/2023

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) **Not Met**

Finding
591-1-1-.25(13) requires that potentially hazardous equipment, materials and supplies be stored in a locked area inaccessible to children. It was determined based on observation that the following items were accessible to children in care.

Cafeteria:
-A broom, dust pan, and 'Swifter' mop were stored in the corner of the room.
-Disinfectant spray and rubber gloves were placed on the shelf of the sink area and within reach of children using the stools to wash hands.
-A clear backpack containing a first aid kit was located on a table within reach of children.

Room C (4L):
-Rubber gloves were placed on a cabinet within reach of children.
-'Clorox', a toilet brush, broom and dust pan were located in an unlocked restroom.

Room D (Middle):
-Rubber gloves and three tubes of ointments were located on the side of the sink within reach of children.
- A plunger, broom, and dust pan were accessible within the restroom.

Room E (2L):
-Rubber gloves were located on the side of the diapering station.
-Disinfectant solution was located on the bottom of the diapering station within reach of children.
-Baby wipes were located in the bottom of the open diapering station and posed a suffocation hazard.

Room F (3L):
-Baby wipes which posed a suffocation hazard were placed on top of a black cabinet within reach of children.
-A staff member's purse was located in the unlocked black cabinet.

Room G (4L):
-The vacuum, toilet brush, two brooms, two dust pans, and 'Swifter' floor cleaner were accessible within the restroom.
-Rubber gloves were placed on a shelf by the restrooms.
-Vaseline lotion, a first aid kit, stapler, and adult scissors were in a basket on the cubbies and within reach of children.

Room H (3rd Middle):
-Four brooms and two boxes of rubber gloves were within reach of children.
-A mop, plunger, toilet brush, bleach, and disinfectant cleaner were within reach of children in the restroom.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
The Center will identify all hazardous items and keep them in a locked area inaccessible to children. The Center will inform all Staff about hazardous items and the safe storage of those items.

Correction Deadline: 10/30/2023

591-1-1-.26 Playgrounds(CR) **Not Met**

Finding
591-1-1-.26(9) requires the playground to be kept clean, free from litter and free of hazards, such as but not limited to rocks, exposed tree roots and exposed sharp edges of concrete. It was determined based on observation that the following items were observed accessible to children on the center playgrounds.

Front Left:
-There were fallen limbs throughout the playground.
-There were vines growing on the back fencing.
-Playground equipment was in need of being cleaned due to black residue.

Back Left:
-There was trash throughout the playground in the manner of cups, candy wrappers and etc.
-The sidewalk was observed not to be flushed in areas posing a tripping hazard.
-Concrete around the basketball goal was observed not to be flush in areas and posed a tripping hazard.
-Vines were growing throughout the side fencing.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
The Center will remove any litter and fix or remove hazards from the playground and will routinely monitor the playground and remove litter and hazards.

Correction Deadline: 10/30/2023

Food Service

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

Technical Assistance
Consultant discussed that meatballs should not be served to children under the age of four due to chocking hazards.

Correction Deadline: 10/30/2023

Health and Hygiene

591-1-1-.10 Diapering Areas & Practices(CR) **Not Met**

Finding
591-1-1-.10(4) requires that if diapers are changed on a diaper changing surface, the surface shall be smooth, nonporous, and equipped with a guard or rails to prevent falls. Between each diaper change, the diaper changing surface shall be cleaned with a disinfectant and dried with a single-use disposable towel. It was determined based on observation that diapering pads in Room A, B, C, D and E were porous.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
The Center will ensure there is a smooth, nonporous changing surface that has a guard or rails for safety in each classroom that houses children wearing diapers. Center Staff will be trained and have adequate supplies to properly clean the diaper changing surface between each diaper change.

Correction Deadline: 10/30/2023

591-1-1-.17 Hygiene(CR) **Not Met**

Finding
591-1-1-.17(8) requires staff to wash their hands with liquid soap and warm running water upon arrival for the day, when moving from one child care group to another, upon re-entering the child care area after outside play, before and after diapering each child, dispensing medication, applying topical medications, handling and preparing food, eating, drinking, preparing bottles, feeding each child, assisting children with eating and drinking, after toileting or assisting children with toileting, using tobacco products, handling garbage and organic waste, touching animals or pets, handling bodily fluids and after contamination by any means. It was determined based on observation that a staff member in Room D (Middle) did not wash hands prior to diapering and only placed gloves on.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
The Center will ensure liquid soap and warm running water are available for handwashing, train Staff on the handwashing requirements, review the requirements with Staff periodically, and monitor handwashing.

Correction Deadline: 10/30/2023

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

Comment
The Provider currently does not dispense/administer medication.

Policies and Procedures

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

Correction Deadline: 7/6/2023

Corrected on 10/30/2023
.29(1) - Citation corrected.

Safety

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

Comment
Please be mindful of voice tone in redirecting children.

Correction Deadline: 7/6/2023

Corrected on 10/30/2023
.11(2) - Citation corrected.

591-1-1-.36 Transportation(CR) **Not Met**

Comment
The vehicle was checked for compliance. Proper restraints were observed and discussed with the director.

Technical Assistance
Please ensure that times are listed on transportation agreements and all information on the emergency medical forms is filled out or marked by the parent as "N/A".

Correction Deadline: 11/4/2023

Finding
591-1-1-.36(4)(a) requires an annual safety check for each vehicle. The annual safety check, completed by a trained individual, should include a check of the: tires, headlights, horn, taillight, turn signals, brake lights, brakes, suspension, exhaust system, steering, windows, windshield and windshield wipers. A copy of the annual safety check will be kept in the Center or on the vehicle and should include evidence of any repairs and/or replacements that were identified as needed on the inspection report. It was determined based on a review of records that the van ending in tag 9722 was noted as needing an alignment and the center had no documentation that the repair was made. It was further determined that the van ending in tag number 9723 was noted as having worn front brake pads and based on the receipt from the mechanic, the replacement was declined by the center.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
The Center will obtain the annual vehicle inspection.

Correction Deadline: 11/4/2023

Finding
591-1-1-.36(4)(b) requires that the interior of a transportation vehicle be clean, in safe repair and free of hazardous items, objects and/or other non-essential items which could cause injury. It was determined based on observation that the van ending in tag 9722 had trash on the floors and the floor mats were not flushed posing a tripping hazard. It was further determined that the van ending in tag number 9723 had material on the roof that was falling from the ceiling.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
The center will maintain that all transportation vehicles are clean, in safe repair, and free from hazards.

Correction Deadline: 10/31/2023

Finding
591-1-1-.36(7)(c)2. requires that the driver or other designated person shall immediately document in writing, with a check or other mark/symbol to account for each child listed on the passenger transportation checklist each time a child enters and exits the vehicle. The driver or other designated staff person shall document in writing with a different mark/symbol to account for each child listed on the passenger transportation checklist who was not present on the vehicle for any reason. An explanation shall be documented in writing whenever a child is transported to a field trip site but is not present on the return trip to the Center. It was determined based on a review of records that on October 27, 2023, there were no marks for load/unload during morning transportation to Tussahaw Elementary. It was further determined that during afternoon transportation on October 27, 2023 from Tussahaw Elementary, there were no marks for unloading when the van returned to the center.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
The driver/other designated person will immediately document in writing with a check/mark/symbol each time a child gets on and off the vehicle.

Correction Deadline: 10/31/2023

Finding
591-1-1-.36(7)(c)3. requires that the driver or other designated person document in writing the date and time of arrival and departure each time the vehicle departs from the Center, is loaded or unloaded at each school and when the vehicle returns to the Center; each time the vehicle departs from the Center, arrives at the location where any child is picked up or dropped off and when the vehicle returns to the Center; each time the vehicle leaves the Center, arrives at a field trip destination, leaves a field trip destination, and returns to the Center. It was determined based on a review of records that no departure, load/unload or return times were documented on October 27, 2023, during afternoon transportation to Tusshaw Elementary.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
The Center will ensure that each date and time of arrival and departure is documented by the driver or designated person with training, review and monitoring.

Correction Deadline: 10/31/2023

Finding
591-1-1-.36(7)(d)1. requires that the first check be conducted immediately upon unloading the last child at any location including, but not limited to, a field trip destination, arrival at the Center, and the last stop during transportation to home or school. The responsible person on the vehicle shall physically walk through the entire vehicle; visually inspect all seat surfaces, under all seats and in all compartments or recesses in the vehicle's interior; sign the passenger transportation checklist (s), indicating all of the children have exited the vehicle; and give the passenger transportation checklist(s) to the second designated Staff person. It was determined based on a review of records that on October 27, 2023 a first check was not completed during afternoon transportation from Tussahaw Elementary and five children were marked as loaded.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
The Center will train Staff who are or may be involved in transporting children in how to thoroughly inspect a vehicle and properly complete transportation documentation. The Center will review and monitor.

Correction Deadline: 10/31/2023

Finding
591-1-1-.36(7)(d)2. requires that the second designated Staff person conduct a check of the vehicle immediately upon the completion of the first check of the vehicle. The responsible person shall physically walk through the entire vehicle; visually inspect all seat surfaces, under all seats and in all compartments or recesses in the vehicle's interior; and sign the passenger transportation checklist(s), indicating all of the children have exited the vehicle. There shall be continuous watchful oversight of the vehicle between the first check and second check. It was determined based on a review of records that on October 27, 2023, no second check was completed during morning transportation when the center van returned from Tussahaw Elementary.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
The Center will train Staff who are or may be involved in transporting children in how to thoroughly inspect a vehicle and properly complete transportation documentation. The Center will review and monitor.

Correction Deadline: 10/30/2023

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.

Finding
591-1-1-.30(1)(a)3 requires that each crib shall have only an individual, tight-fitting sheet which is changed daily or more often as needed and prior to a change of occupant. It was determined based on observation that two of five crib sheets were not tight-fitting.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
The center will ensure that each crib has an individual, tight-fitting sheet which is changed daily or more often as needed and prior to a change of occupant.

Correction Deadline: 10/30/2023

Staff Records

Staff # 10 Not Met

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.24(1)-Evidence of Orientation Missing

Staff # 13 Not Met

Date of Hire: 09/29/2023

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.24(1)-Evidence of Orientation Missing

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

Technical Assistance
Criminal record requirements were discussed on this date with anyone who is going to be present at the center more that one time every 90 days.

Correction Deadline: 10/30/2023

591-1-1-.33 Staff Training **Technical Assistance**

Technical Assistance
Please ensure that documentation of orientation is fully completed prior to a staff member being placed in the classroom.

Correction Deadline: 11/29/2023

591-1-1-.31 Staff(CR) **Not Met**

Finding
591-1-1-.31(1)(b)2 requires the Director to possess at least one of the sets of minimum academic requirements and qualifying child care experience listed in Rule 591-1-1-.31(1)(b)2.(i-xiii). It was determined based on a review of records that the center director did not meet the required educational requirements.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
The Center will ensure that the Director meets the minimum education and work requirements and secure the necessary documentation.

Correction Deadline: 10/30/2023

Finding
591-1-1-.31(2)(c) requires the Center to maintain a copy and/or written verification of the credential or degree awarded to the lead teacher that is required by these rules in the lead teacher's file, to make the document available for inspection and to provide the document to Department staff upon request. It was determined based on observation that the center did not have a qualified lead teacher for eight of eight classrooms.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
The Center will review lead teacher records to ensure the required documentation is on file and will obtain and file it if not found.

Correction Deadline: 10/30/2023

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.