



**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:** 10/13/2022 **VisitType:** Licensing Study

**Arrival:** 1:30 PM

**Departure:** 3:45 PM

**CCLC-55057**

**The Marks Academy**

1125 South Hairston Rd. Stone Mountain, GA 30088 DeKalb County  
 (404) 296-7881 drjgriffey@gmail.com

**Regional Consultant**

Roslyn Williams

Phone: (770) 357-7020

Fax: (770) 357-7019

roslyn.williams@decal.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. |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------|---------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 10/13/2022                         | Licensing Study         | Good Standing |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| 05/19/2022                         | Monitoring Visit        | Good Standing |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| 11/24/2021                         | Initial Licensing Study | 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 Building                  | A-R-GA Pre K                | GA PreK                   | 2                               | 10       | C    | 27                            | C            | NA         | NA           | Transitioning |
| Main Building                  | B-BR-Two-Year-Olds          | Two Year Olds             | 2                               | 9        | C    | 19                            | C            | NA         | NA           | Transitioning |
| Main Building                  | C-BM-Infants/ One-Year-Olds | Infants and One Year Olds | 1                               | 6        | C    | 12                            | C            | NA         | NA           | Nap,Diapering |
| Main Building                  | D-L-Private (School Age)    | Five Year Olds            | 1                               | 11       | C    | 15                            | C            | NA         | NA           | Transitioning |
| Main Building                  | E-BL-Three-Four-Year-Olds   | Three Year Olds           | 1                               | 14       | C    | 32                            | C            | NA         | NA           | Transitioning |
|                                |                             |                           | Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 105 |          |      | Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0 |              |            |              |               |
| Total # Children this Date: 50 |                             |                           | Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 105 |          |      | Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0 |              |            |              |               |

| Building      | Playground      | Playground Occupancy | Playground Compliance |
|---------------|-----------------|----------------------|-----------------------|
| Main Building | Main Playground | 196                  | C                     |

**Comments**

Visit Completed

Plan of Improvement: Developed This Date 10/13/2022

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

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)



#### 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!**

Joannie Marks, Program Official

Date

Roslyn Williams, Consultant

Date



**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:** 10/13/2022 **VisitType:** Licensing Study

**Arrival:** 1:30 PM

**Departure:** 3:45 PM

**CCLC-55057**

**The Marks Academy**

1125 South Hairston Rd. Stone Mountain, GA 30088 DeKalb County  
(404) 296-7881 drjgriffey@gmail.com

**Regional Consultant**

Roslyn Williams

Phone: (770) 357-7020

Fax: (770) 357-7019

roslyn.williams@decal.ga.gov

**Mailing Address**  
Same

The following information is associated with a Licensing Study:

**Activities and Equipment**

**591-1-1-.03 Activities**

**Technical Assistance**

**Technical Assistance**

591-1-1-.03(1) - Please ensure that all lessons plans are dated for the current week.

**Correction Deadline: 10/13/2022**

**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.

**Facility**

**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**

**Technical Assistance**

591-1-1-.25(13) - Storage procedures were discussed with the Director.

**Correction Deadline: 10/13/2022**

**Finding**

591-1-1-.25(3) requires the Center and surrounding premises to be kept clean, free of debris and in good repair. Hygienic measures such as, but not limited to, screened windows and proper waste disposal procedures shall be utilized to minimize the presence of rodents, flies, roaches and other vermin at the Center. It was determined that the following was observed:

Room B- The large alphabet rug had soil stains on it.

Room E- The floor drain in the boy's bathroom was detached, one of two light bulbs was not working, and the light cover was missing in the girl's bathroom.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

The Center will have the Center and surrounding areas cleaned, make repairs where needed, and remove all debris is removed. The Center will implement a plan to keep areas clean and in good repair that includes regular monitoring.

**Correction Deadline: 10/28/2022**

**Technical Assistance**

591-1-1-.25(7) - Procedures for doors to unapproved rooms were discussed with the Director.

**Correction Deadline: 10/13/2022**

---

**591-1-1-.26 Playgrounds(CR)****Not Met****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 pipe around the silver climber was detached on the right side which posed a potential tripping hazard.

**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: 10/23/2022**

---

**Health and Hygiene**

---

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

Proper diapering procedures observed.

---

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

Staff were observed to remind children to wash hands.

---

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

The Provider currently does not dispense/administer medication.

---

**Safety**

---

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

Age-appropriate discussion and/or redirection observed.

---

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

Paperwork, checklist, permission forms, annual inspection form and proper check of the vehicle after transportation were discussed with the director.

**Comment**

Transportation training expiration dates were discussed.

---

**Sleeping & Resting Equipment**

---

---

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

Pleasant naptime environment observed.

---

**Staff Records**

---

---

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

**Correction Deadline: 5/19/2022**

**Corrected on 10/13/2022**

**.09(1)(a) - The previous citation was corrected.**

**Correction Deadline: 5/19/2022**

**Corrected on 10/13/2022**

**.09(1)(c) - The previous citation was corrected.**

---

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

Please replace/add missing/expired item(s) in first aid kit(s).

---

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

591-1-1-.33(4) - Please ensure that all food service staff obtain the required training.

**Correction Deadline: 11/12/2022**

---

**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**

Staff observed to provide direct supervision and be attentive to children's needs.