



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: 10/2/2025 **VisitType:** Licensing Study

Arrival: 9:00 AM **Departure:** 11:15 AM

CCLC-61863
Ker Early Learning Academy
57 Merritt Street Marietta, GA 30060 Cobb County
(678) 403-1933

Regional Consultant
Kaiyah Werts
Phone: (912) 544-9793
Fax: (912) 544-9757
kaiyah.werts@dec.al.ga.gov

Mailing Address
Same

Quality Rated: ★

Compliance Zone Designation			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.
10/02/2025	Licensing Study	Good Standing	
09/04/2024	Licensing Study	Good Standing	
08/09/2023	Initial 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 - 1st Right	One Year Olds and Two Year Olds	1	2	C	9	C	NA	NA	Free Play
Main	B - Back Center		0	0	C	9	C	NA	NA	
Main	C - 1st Left	Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds	1	2	C	14	C	NA	NA	Free Play
Main	D - Front Center		0	0	C	11	C	NA	NA	
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 43			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0							
Total # Children this Date: 4			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0							

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	Playground A - Left	35	C
Main	Playground B - Back Right	26	C

Enrolled Children						
Under 1 years	1 years	2 years	3 years	4 years	5 years (Prekonly)	5 years and older
0	3	4	2	5	0	9

Comments

Discussed the visit report with the Director and offered any recommendations.

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.decgal.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 at 855-800-7747 or qualityrated@decgal.ga.gov for more information. Free technical assistance is available!



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Summary Report

Date: 10/2/2025 VisitType: Licensing Study

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The following information is associated with a Licensing Study:

Activities and Equipment

591-1-1-.03 Activities

Met

Comment

Age-appropriate activities observed throughout the center.

Comment

Lesson Plans were observed to be posted and reflected the current weeks activities in each classroom.

591-1-1-.12 Equipment & Toys(CR)

Met

Comment

A variety of equipment and toys were observed throughout the center on this date.

Comment

Equipment and furniture observed to be properly secured, as applicable.

591-1-1-.35 Swimming Pools & Water-related Activities(CR)

N/A

Comment

Center does not provide swimming activities.

Children's Records

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

Met

Comment

Records were observed to be complete and well organized.

Facility

591-1-1-.06 Bathrooms

Met

Comment

Bathrooms observed to be clean and well maintained.

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

Met

Comment

Licensed capacity observed to be routinely met by center on this date.

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

Met

Comment

No hazards observed accessible to children on this date.

Comment

The Center appeared clean and well maintained on this date.

591-1-1-.26 Playgrounds(CR)**Technical Assistance****Comment**

Playground observed to be clean and in good repair on this date.

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.26(9) - Discussed with the Director to please ensure the stairs leading to Playground A are in good repair. It was further discussed to fluff the mulch to ensure the bike track does not have exposed concrete that could a potential tripping hazard.

Correction Deadline: 10/2/2025

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

Center menu meets USDA guidelines.

591-1-1-.18 Kitchen Operations**Technical Assistance****Comment**

Kitchen appeared clean and well organized on this date.

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.18(5) - Discussed with the Director to ensure thermometers are present in the refrigerator and freezer.

Correction Deadline: 10/2/2025

Health and Hygiene**591-1-1-.10 Diapering Areas & Practices(CR)****Technical Assistance****Comment**

Staff stated proper knowledge of diapering procedures.

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.10(4) - Discussed with the Director to ensure the diapering pads do not have any rips or tears.

Correction Deadline: 10/2/2025

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

Staff stated the hand washing procedures on this date.

591-1-1-.20 Medications(CR)**N/A****Comment**

The Provider currently does not dispense/administer medication.

Policies and Procedures**591-1-1-.21 Operational Policies & Procedures****Technical Assistance****Technical Assistance**

591-1-1-.21(3) - Fire drills were observed to be complete. Discussed with the Director to ensure all drills are conducted such as, but not limited to, lock down drill, inclement weather etc.

Correction Deadline: 10/7/2025

Safety**591-1-1-.05 Animals****N/A****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)**N/A****Comment**

Center does not participate in field trips at this time.

591-1-1-.36 Transportation(CR)**N/A****Comment**

Center does not provide routine transportation.

Sleeping & Resting Equipment

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

Center does not provide care for infants that require cribs at this time.

Comment

The correct number of cots, sheets and blankets were observed on this date. Cleaning and disinfecting of cots was discussed with the director on this date.

Staff Records

Records Reviewed: 4**Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 2**

Staff # 3

Not Met

Date of Hire: 03/18/2021

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(4)-Food Prep Training Missing 4 hrs.,.31(2)(b)2.-Staff Qualifications-Education Missing,.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training

Staff # 4

Not Met

Date of Hire: 09/09/2022

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(4)-Food Prep Training Missing 4 hrs.,.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training

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

Consultant requested to view all Criminal Record checks for employees hired after last visit. Director stated that there have been no new hires since last visit

Comment

Criminal record checks were observed to be complete.

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

Evidence observed of 100% of center Staff certified in First Aid and CPR containing emergency care for infants and children on this date.

591-1-1-.33 Staff Training**Not Met****Correction Deadline: 10/4/2024****Corrected on 10/2/2025**

.33(3)(a)-(k) - Previous citation observed corrected on this date. Consultant observed completed Health and Safety Orientation for each employee.

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.33(4) - Discussed with the Director to ensure any employee responsible to food prep has a completed Nutritional Training equivalent to 4 clock hours

Correction Deadline: 11/1/2025

Finding

Previously Cited: 91-1-1-.33(5) requires that every calendar year after the first year of employment, all supervisory and caregiver Personnel, except independent contractors, Students-in-Training and volunteers shall attend ten (10) clock hours of diverse training which is task-focused in on-going health, safety and early childhood or child development related topics and which is offered by an accredited college, university or vocational program or other Department-approved source. The annual ten (10) clock hours of training shall be chosen from the following fields: child development, including discipline, guidance, nutrition, injury control and safety; health, including sanitation, disease control, cleanliness, detection and disposition of illness; child abuse and neglect, including identification and reporting, and meeting the needs of abused and/or neglected children; and business related topics, including parental communication, record keeping, etc.; provided however that such business related training shall be limited to no more than two (2) of the required ten (10) clock hours of training. Records of completion of such training shall be maintained, as required by these rules. It was determined based on a review of documentation that staff member #3, staff member #6, and staff member #7 did not have evidence of completing 10 clock hours of annual training in 2023.

591-1-1-.33(5)(a) requires that every calendar year after the first year of employment, all supervisory and caregiver Personnel, except independent contractors, Students-in-Training and volunteers, shall attend ten (10) clock hours of diverse training which is offered by an accredited college, university or vocational program or other Department-approved source. It was determined based on review of records that staff #3 and staff #4 did not evidence of completing 10 clock hours of annual training for 2024.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

Previously Cited: The Center will plan and schedule the required 10 hours of annual training each year and follow up to ensure the training is completed.

The Center will plan and schedule the required 10 hours of annual training each year and follow up to ensure the training is completed.

Correction Deadline: 10/2/2025

Recited on 10/2/2025

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

Not Met

Comment

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

Comment

Staff observed to be compliant with applicable laws and regulations.

Finding

591-1-1-.31(1)(c) requires that a copy and/or written verification of the credential or degree awarded to the Director by the technical college, university, school or Department-approved trainer listed in 591-1-1-.31(1)(b)2. (i) through (xiii) be maintained by the Center in the Director's file and such documentation shall be available for inspection by Department staff upon request. It was determined based on review of records the Director had an expired CDA certificate and did not have evidence of a completed approved credential at the time of the visit.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will obtain the written verification from the Director, place it in the Director's file, and provide it to the Department if requested.

Correction Deadline: 10/2/2025

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.