



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: 4/14/2026 **VisitType:** Incident Investigation & Follow Up **Arrival:** 2:10 PM **Departure:** 7:30 PM

CCLC-22108

MKS Learning Center

3385 Flat Shoals Road Decatur, GA 30034 DeKalb County
(404) 241-7280

Special Investigations Unit Specialist

Brittany Cook

Phone: (706) 434-4412

Fax: (706) 434-7708

brittany.cook@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.
04/14/2026	Incident Investigation & Follow Up	Deficient	
03/19/2026	TA Follow Up	NA	
02/26/2026	TA Follow Up	NA	

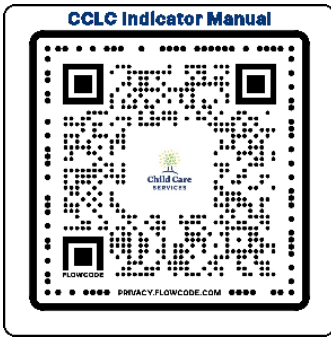
Ratios/License Capacity

Building	Room	Age Group	Staff	Children	NC/C	Max 35 SF.	35 SF. Comp.	Max 25 SF.	25 SF. Comp.	Notes
Main	B-1yr	One Year Olds	1	8	C	8	C	NA	NA	Snack
Main	C		0	0	C	8	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
Main	D		0	0	C	9	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
Main	E-2yr	Two Year Olds	1	10	C	10	C	NA	NA	Transitioning,Snack
Main	F-2yr		0	0	C	10	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
Main	G-3yr		0	0	C	30	C	41	C	Not In Use
Main	H-(Private Pre-K)	Four Year Olds	1	17	C	20	C	29	C	Snack
Main	Infant A	Infants and One Year Olds	1	6	C	10	C	NA	NA	Snack
Main	I-School Age	Three Year Olds	1	14	C	20	C	28	C	Snack,Transitioning
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 125			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 153							
Total # Children this Date: 55			Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 125 Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 153							

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	Preschool	49	C
Main	Toddler	25	C

Comments

The investigative findings were not concluded on this date. The investigation remains open pending additional information. Upon completion, the findings will be reviewed with the child care program and a final copy of the report will be sent.



For additional information regarding any licensing topics discussed during this visit, please consult the Rules and Regulations Indicator Manual. This manual provides comprehensive clarification of each rule, including evaluation indicators, related best practices, and relevant considerations to support your program's continued and sustained compliance.

To access the Indicator Manual, please scan the QR code below or visit our website at <https://www.decal.ga.gov/CCS/RulesAndRegulations.aspx>.

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



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Summary Report

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The following information is associated with a Incident Investigation & Follow Up:

	Facility
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591-1-1-.26 Playgrounds(CR)

Not Met

Finding

591-1-1-.26(4) requires that playgrounds be protected from traffic or other hazards by a (4) four foot high fence or other barrier approved by this Department. Fencing material shall not present a hazard to children and shall be maintained so as to prevent children from leaving the playground area by any means other than through an approved access route. Fence gates shall be kept closed except when persons are entering or exiting the area. It was determined based on observation that the back right fence gate measured 3 feet, 9 inches in height on the Main Preschool playground when 4 feet in height was required.

Correction Deadline: 4/28/2026

Recited on 4/14/2026

Correction Deadline: 8/1/2025

Corrected on 4/14/2026

.26(6) - The previous citation was observed corrected on this date. The Consultant observed the blue slide to be free of hazards.

	Safety
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Finding

591-1-1-.36(3)(a-b) requires any Center that provides any type of transportation to obtain two (2) hours of state-approved or state-accepted transportation training, biannually, for the Director and for each person responsible for or who participates in the transportation of children. The training shall include, but is not limited to, a review of the transportation rules, a review of approved transportation forms and procedures, and instruction on the usage and completion of the forms and procedures. This training may be counted as part of the annual training requirements for Staff. It was determined based on statements and records that Staff #2 did not have the required 2-hour state-approved transportation training on file prior to them participating in the transportation of children by conducting the second check of the vehicle on the following dates and routes:

-March 30, 2026: The PM routes for Oakview Elementary, Early Learning at Terry Mill, Cedar Grove Elementary, Barack Obama Elementary, and Oakview Elementary Schools

-April 1, 2026: The PM routes for Oakview Elementary, Early Learning at Terry Mill, Cedar Grove Elementary, Barack Obama Elementary, and Oakview Elementary Schools

-April 13, 2026: The PM routes for Oakview Elementary, and Barack Obama Elementary Schools.

Correction Deadline: 4/14/2026

Correction Deadline: 9/3/2025

Corrected on 4/14/2026

.36(4)(a) - The previous citation was observed corrected on this date. The Consultant observed current annual vehicle inspections for the vehicles with tag numbers that end in 2219 & 2181.

Finding

591-1-1-.36(4)(f)1. requires that all transported children be secured in a child passenger restraining system or seat safety belt in accordance with current state and federal laws and regulations and according to manufacturer's directions. It was determined based on observation that 17 children were transported in the vehicle with tag number ending in 2181 that exceeded the seating capacity of 13.

Correction Deadline: 4/15/2026

Finding

591-1-1-.36(4)(f)2. requires that no vehicle shall exceed the manufacturer's rated seating capacity and that proof of the seating capacity is maintained on file. It was determined based on observation that 17 children were transported in the vehicle with tag number ending in 2181 that exceeded the seating capacity of 13.

Correction Deadline: 4/15/2026

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 the transportation log was missing two of twelve check marks to account for children loading and unloading the vehicle tag number BJE6948 on April 3, 2026, from Oakview Elementary to MKS Daycare.

Correction Deadline: 4/14/2026

Recited on 4/14/2026

Correction Deadline: 8/20/2025

Corrected on 4/14/2026

.36(7)(d)1. - The previous citation was observed corrected on this date. The Consultant observed first check signatures on the transportation forms for the week of March 30, 2026 and April 13, 2026

Staff Records

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

Not Met

Finding

591-1-1-.31(13) prohibits Center Staff from committing any criminal act, as defined under Georgia law, in the presence of any child enrolled in the Center and requires Center staff to comply with all applicable laws and regulations. It was determined based on observation that the registration sticker on vehicle tag # CPK2219 was expired with a date of May 2025.

Correction Deadline: 4/14/2026

Recited on 4/14/2026

Staffing and Supervision

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

Not Met

Finding

591-1-1-.32(7) requires that children be supervised at all times appropriate to the individual age, needs and capabilities of each child. Such supervision must include, but not be limited to, indoor and outdoor activities, mealtimes, naptime, transportation, field trips, and transitions between activities. "Supervision" means that the appropriate number of Staff members are physically present in the area where children are being cared for and are providing watchful oversight to the children, volunteers and Students-in-Training. The persons supervising in the child care area must be alert, positioned to maximize their ability to hear and see the children at all times, and able to respond promptly to the needs and actions of the children being supervised, as well as the actions of the volunteers and Students-in-Training, and provide timely attention to the children's actions and needs. Staff shall be attentive and participating with all children during mealtimes and shall be seated within an arm's length away from children thirty-six (36) months of age and younger. It was determined based on observation that staff was not seated within arm's reach of two 1-year-old children and one infant child during snack in the Main Infant A classroom. It was further determined that a 4-year-old child was observed lying on a mat in the office alone when the Consultant arrived at the Center.

Correction Deadline: 4/14/2026