



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: 1/24/2024 VisitType: Licensing Study

Arrival: 12:30 PM

Departure: 2:40 PM

CCLC-48022

Mother's Touch Academy

3152 Cruse Road Lawrenceville, GA 30044 Gwinnett County  
(770) 381-5200 motherstouchacademy2@gmail.com

Regional Consultant

Beth Holland

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Mailing Address  
Same

Quality Rated: ★ ★

| Compliance Zone Designation |                                    |               | <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.<br><br><b>Good Standing</b> - Program is demonstrating an acceptable level of performance in meeting the rules.<br><b>Support</b> - Program performance is demonstrating a need for improvement in meeting rules.<br><b>Deficient</b> - Program is not demonstrating an acceptable level of performance in meeting the rules. |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 01/24/2024                  | Licensing Study                    | Good Standing |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| 11/20/2023                  | Monitoring Visit                   | Good Standing |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| 04/12/2023                  | Incident Investigation & Follow Up | 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 |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|----------|------|-------------------------------|--------------|------------|--------------|-------|
| Back                           | D- left/ PreK           |                                             | 0                              | 0        | C    | 22                            | C            | NA         | NA           |       |
| Back                           | E -/ Right/ afterschool |                                             | 0                              | 0        | C    | 11                            | C            | NA         | NA           |       |
| Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 33 |                         |                                             | Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0  |          |      |                               |              |            |              |       |
| Main - Front                   | A -1L/1's and 2's       | Infants and One Year Olds and Two Year Olds | 1                              | 8        | C    | 8                             | C            | NA         | NA           | Nap   |
| Main - Front                   | B- 1R/3's               | Three Year Olds                             | 1                              | 4        | C    | 11                            | C            | NA         | NA           | Nap   |
| Main - Front                   | C - 2R/ 6wks to 18 mths | Two Year Olds                               | 1                              | 7        | C    | 8                             | C            | NA         | NA           | Nap   |
| Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 27 |                         |                                             | Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0  |          |      |                               |              |            |              |       |
| Total # Children this Date: 19 |                         |                                             | Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 60 |          |      | Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0 |              |            |              |       |

| Building     | Playground               | Playground Occupancy | Playground Compliance |
|--------------|--------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|
| Main - Front | A - left/all ages        | 11                   | C                     |
| Main - Front | B - Back left - All ages | 50                   | C                     |
| Main - Front | D- 6wks - 2 years        | 21                   | C                     |

Comments

A licensing visit was conducted on 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.dec.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.

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#### 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.

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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.ga.gov](mailto:qualityrated@dec.ga.gov) for more information. Free technical assistance is available!**

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Mariam Quarterman, Program Official

Date

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Beth Holland, Regional 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**

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

**Not Met**

**Finding**

591-1-1-.08(1) requires the Center Staff to maintain a file for each child while such child is in care and for one year after that child is no longer enrolled. In order for the file to be complete, the file shall contain the following: child's name, birth date, sex, address, living arrangement, name of school if applicable; names of both Parents, home and work addresses, and home and work telephone numbers; name(s) and addresses of the person(s) to whom the child may be released including address, telephone numbers, relationship to child and to Parent(s), and other identifying information; name(s) and telephone number(s) of person(s) to contact in emergencies when the Parent cannot be reached; name and telephone number of the child's primary source of health care; and a statement regarding known allergies, physical problems, mental health disorders, intellectual disabilities or developmental disabilities which limit the child's participation in the program. It was determined based on a review of records that two students were dropped in for care without enrollment records.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

Center staff will develop a plan that includes how to obtain all required information for currently enrolled children and how to ensure this is done for future enrollees as well. The plan will also include how and where to maintain files for the required amount of time. The plan will be implemented and followed.

Correction Deadline: 1/24/2024

## Evening Care

### 591-1-1-.32 Staffing/Supervision(CR)

Met

#### Comment

No evening care hours provided

## 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

#### 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 hazardous items were observed to be accessible to children present for care:

- Classroom A-1L/1's and 2's Plastic Zip Lock Bags, a grocery bag, a pack of baby wipes were stored in children's backpacks in the cubby area located on the front-left entrance of the classroom.

#### 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. Per the director, the center will request that parents no longer bring in their children's backpacks.

Correction Deadline: 1/25/2024

Recited on 1/24/2024

Correction Deadline: 11/20/2023

Corrected on 1/24/2024

.25(17) - The previous citation was observed to be corrected in that vines and tree limbs were observed to be trimmed.

### 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 exit gate located on the middle-right side of playground B-Back left - All ages measured approximately three feet and 11 inches in height. The playground exit gate located on the front-left side of playground A - left/all ages measured approximately three feet and 11 inches in height.

#### POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will routinely check the fence to determine if it is in good repair and remains at least 4 feet high, and will repair any hazards. The Center will train Staff to identify and report any fence hazards and to keep the fence gates closed when not in use.

Correction Deadline: 1/25/2024

Recited on 1/24/2024

**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 upon Consultants observation that the following equipment was in need of repair:

-Playground B - "Little Tikes" play structure was missing the sliding board and swings. The medium sized rainbow play structure was separating at joints of the structure and observed to be dirty and soiled. The Large "Little Tike" play structure contained cracked sharp areas around the two arches on the inside of the structure. .

**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: 1/31/2024**

**Recited on 1/24/2024**

**Correction Deadline: 12/8/2023**

**Corrected on 1/24/2024**

.26(8) - The previous citation was observed to be corrected in that six inches of resilient surface was observed.

**Correction Deadline: 11/20/2023**

**Corrected on 1/24/2024**

.26(9) - The previous citation was observed to be corrected in that no hazards were observed on this date.

**Health and Hygiene**

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

**Comment**

Staff state proper knowledge of diapering procedures.

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

**Comment**

Please ensure lids remain on trash containing organic waste.

**Comment**

Staff were observed to remind children to wash hands.

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

**Comment**

The Provider currently does not dispense/administer medication.

**Safety**

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

**Comment**

Staff were observed to maintain a positive learning environment on this date.

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

Paperwork, checklist, permission forms, annual inspection form and proper check of the vehicle after transportation were not accessible on this date. The provider will email documents within 24 hours of visit.

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**Sleeping & Resting Equipment**

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**591-1-1-.30 Safe Sleeping and Resting Requirements(CR)****Not Met****Comment**

Pleasant naptime environment observed.

**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(2)(c) requires that infants shall not sleep in equipment other than safety-approved cribs, such as, but not limited to, a car safety seat, bouncy seat, highchair, or swing. Infants who arrive at the Center asleep or fall asleep in such equipment, on the floor or elsewhere, shall be transferred to a safety-approved crib. It was determined based on observation that two of eight children were observed sleeping in highchairs on this date.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

The Center will only place infants in safe cribs to sleep and will transfer them to a safe crib when the infants are asleep in other equipment.

**Correction Deadline: 1/24/2024**

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**Staff Records**

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**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 on November 20, 2023.

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**591-1-1-.33 Staff Training****Not Met****Finding**

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, recordkeeping, 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 records that staff number #2, #3,#4,#6,#7 and #8 lacked evidence of annual training.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

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: 2/23/2024**

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

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.