



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: 1/30/2024 **VisitType:** Licensing Study

Arrival: 9:00 AM **Departure:** 2:00 PM

CCLC-50130

The Mills Academy

2545 Jolly Road College Park, GA 30349 Fulton County
(404) 768-1530 themillsacademy18@gmail.com

CCS Coordinator

Princess Walton

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Joint with: Shameka Dozier

Mailing Address

2545 jolly rd
atlanta, GA 30349

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.
01/30/2024	Licensing Study	Good Standing	
12/12/2023	TA Follow Up	NA	
11/16/2023	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	A-1L-Infants & 1's	One Year Olds	1	7	C	17	C	NA	NA	Diapering, Free Play
Main	B-2L- 2's	Infants	1	6	C	19	C	NA	NA	Free Play
Main	C-3L Back- 3's & 4's	Four Year Olds	1	16	C	37	C	52	C	Centers
Main	D-3R Back-3's, 4's & ASP	Three Year Olds	1	13	C	35	C	49	C	Centers
Main	E- 2R-2's	Two Year Olds	1	13	NC	22	C	NA	NA	Centers
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 130					Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 173					
Total # Children this Date: 55					Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 173					

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	Large	66	C
Main	Small	12	C

Comments

The purpose of this visit was to conduct a licensing study and to follow up from previous visit.

Plan of Improvement: Developed This Date 01/30/2024

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 user id 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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(Findings Report)

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The following information is associated with a Licensing Study:

Activities and Equipment

591-1-1-.03 Activities

Not Met

Finding

591-1-1-.03(2) requires the Center to keep current lesson plans on site that reflect appropriate instruction practices and activities to support children's development. The Center shall have sufficient and varied play and learning equipment and materials to support the above program of activities in all developmental areas. It was determined based on observation that all classrooms had last week's lesson plan posted and did not have the current week's lesson plan posted.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will keep current lesson plans on site that include appropriate instruction practices and activities and will have sufficient and varied play and learning equipment and materials to support the activities.

Correction Deadline: 1/30/2024

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

Technical Assistance

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.12(2) - Consultant discussed with provider to clean all classrooms, remove all furniture that is hazardous, and to replace all broken blinds in classrooms.

Correction Deadline: 1/30/2024

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

Met

Comment

Director stated that the center does not provide swimming activities.

Children's Records

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

Technical Assistance

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.08(1) - Consultant discussed with director to ensure that all forms are completely filled out and immunizations records are up to date.

Correction Deadline: 1/30/2024

591-1-1-.19 License Capacity(CR)**Met****Comment**

Consultant discussed with director to ensure that room capacity is met during nap time when combining classrooms.

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 in classroom E-2R, Lysol wipes, diapering cream, Lysol gel, cocoa oil, baby powder, and Vaseline were in a brown bin which was accessible to children. It was also observed in classroom C-3L, the back door closet was unlocked and contained a wheelbarrow, vacuum cleaner, shovel, paint and paint buckets, debris, and trash that were accessible to children.

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: 2/9/2024

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 based on observation in classroom C-3L, that the sink was clogged, and the girl's bathroom vent was not working. Consultant also observed in classroom D-3R, the sink cabinets were cracked at the bottom. In classroom E-2R, it was observed that the bathroom ceiling tiles were hanging low, classroom A-1 ceiling tile with the exit sign was hanging, classroom D-3R also had hanging ceiling tiles.

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: 2/29/2024

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.25(8) - Consultant discussed to ensure that all classrooms have covered outlets, and all cords are removed and not accessible.

Correction Deadline: 1/30/2024

591-1-1-.26 Playgrounds(CR)**Defer****Defer**

591-1-1-.26(4)-The playground is currently under construction. Consultant discussed with the owner to notify when the playground has been completed. Consultant also gave the director a deadline of 3 months for the playground to be completed.

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: 9/15/2022

Defer

591-1-1-.26(9)-(4)-The playground is currently under construction. Consultant discussed with the owner to notify when the playground has been completed. Consultant also gave the director a deadline of 3 months for the playground to be completed.

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: 9/15/2022

591-1-1-.15 Food Service & Nutrition**Not Met****Technical Assistance**

591-1-1-.15(3) - Consultant discussed with director to ensure that all bottles are labeled, and are covered.

Correction Deadline: 1/30/2024

Finding

591-1-1-.15(4) requires that a feeding chair or similar equipment designed for feeding children shall be provided for the use of each child being fed who is capable of sitting up but who is unable to sit unassisted at a table and must be cleaned with a disinfectant after each use. Such chair or similar equipment shall have a broad base to prevent tipping, a surface that the child cannot raise, a strap or other device which prevents the child from sliding out of the chair, and a feeding surface free of cracks. It was determined based on observation that in the infant classroom, the infant chairs were missing straps.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will inspect feeding equipment to ensure it meets each of the listed criteria and to verify a feeding chair or equipment is provided for each child who requires one. The Center will train staff and monitor to ensure that the feeding equipment is cleaned with a disinfectant after each use.

Correction Deadline: 2/9/2024

Recited on 1/30/2024

Finding

591-1-1-.15(5) requires that the Center provide a menu listing all meals and snacks to be served during the current week except for School-age Centers where the food may be provided by the Parent(s) by agreement between the School-age Center and the Parent(s). Substitutions shall be recorded on the posted menu and menus shall be retained at the Center for six (6) months. It was determined based on observation that the center did not have an updated food menu posted.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will list all of the current week's meals and snacks and all substitutions on the menu and keep past menus on file for six months and will implement a system to monitor this.

Correction Deadline: 1/30/2024

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 the diaper changing pad was not disinfected after changing a child's diaper.

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: 1/30/2024

Recited on 1/30/2024

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

591-1-1-.17(7) requires that children wash their hands with liquid soap and warm running water upon arrival for care, when moving from one child care group to another, upon re-entering the child care area after outside play, before and after eating meals and snacks, handling or touching food, playing in water; after toileting and diapering, playing in sand, touching animals or pets, and contact with bodily fluids and after contamination by any other means. It was determined based on observation in classroom A-1L, after diapering, a staff member did not wash the infant hands.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will train Staff on required hand washing for children and Staff will ensure children's hands are washed when required. The Director will monitor for compliance.

Correction Deadline: 1/30/2024

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 after diapering, staff did not wash their hands.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will ensure liquid soap and warm running water are available for hand washing, train Staff on the hand washing requirements, review the requirements with Staff periodically, and monitor hand washing.

Correction Deadline: 1/30/2024

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

Director stated that the center 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.

591-1-1-.13 Field Trips(CR)**Met****Comment**

Center does not participate in field trips at this time.

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

Director stated that the center does not provide transportation currently.

Sleeping & Resting Equipment

591-1-1-.30 Safe Sleeping and Resting Requirements(CR)**Technical Assistance****Technical Assistance**

591-1-1-.30(1)(a)3 - Consultant discussed with director to ensure all cribs have fitted sheets

Correction Deadline: 1/30/2024

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.30(1)(d) - Consultant discussed with director to ensure that the cribs are spaced 12 inches apart. It was also discussed that all resting equipment shall be arranged to avoid obstructing access to exit doors,

Correction Deadline: 1/30/2024

Staff Records

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

Criminal record checks were observed to be complete.

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.33(2) - Consultant discussed with director to ensure that all staff have staff orientation in their files.

Correction Deadline: 1/31/2024

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.

Staffing and Supervision**591-1-1-.32 Staff:Child Ratios and Group Size(CR)****Not Met****Finding**

591-1-1-.32(1) requires the Center to maintain the required Staff:child ratios as follows: under 1 year or under 18 months if not walking = 1:6; 1 year and walking = 1:8; 2 years = 1:10; 3 years = 1:15; 4 years = 1:18; 5 years = 1:20; and 6 years and older = 1:25. A Center must establish groupings of children for care with maximum group sizes as follows: under 1 year = 12; under 18 months/not walking = 12; 1 year and walking = 16; 2 years = 20; 3 years = 30; 4 years = 36; 5 years = 40; and 6 years and older = 50. It was determined based on observation in classroom E-2 R, there was one teacher to thirteen two year olds.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will hire additional Staff or reschedule current Staff to meet required Staff:child ratios and will organize children into groups that meet requirements.

Correction Deadline: 1/30/2024

591-1-1-.32 Supervision(CR)**Technical Assistance****Technical Assistance**

591-1-1-.32(7) - Consultant discussed with teacher to ensure that children are supervised at all times.

Correction Deadline: 1/30/2024