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: 8/1/2024 **VisitType:** Complaint Investigation & Licensing Study **Arrival:** 12:20 PM **Departure:** 6:40 PM

CCLC-22108
MKS Learning Center
3385 Flat Shoals Road Decatur, GA 30034 DeKalb County
(404) 241-7280 director@mkslearningcenter.org

Regional Consultant
Jessica Johnson
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jessica.johnson@decal.ga.gov

Mailing Address
Same

Quality Rated:

Compliance Zone Designation		
08/01/2024	Complaint Closure	Good Standing
08/01/2024	Complaint Investigation & Licensing Study	Good Standing
12/19/2023	Complaint Closure	Good Standing

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.

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	2	7	C	8	C	NA	NA	Nap
Main	C		0	0	C	8	C	NA	NA	
Main	D		0	0	C	9	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
Main	E-2yr	Three Year Olds	1	9	C	10	C	NA	NA	Nap
Main	F-2yr	Two Year Olds	1	7	C	10	C	NA	NA	Nap
Main	G-3yr	Six Year Olds and Over	1	15	C	30	C	41	C	Lunch
Main	H-(Private Pre-K)	Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds	2	11	C	20	C	29	C	Nap
Main	Infant A	Infants and One Year Olds	2	10	C	10	C	NA	NA	Floor Play,Nap
Main	I-School Age	Three Year Olds	2	11	C	20	C	28	C	Nap
		Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 125			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 153					
Total # Children this Date: 70		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
An on-site inspection was conducted on August 1, 2024 with the Director Shae Pinkney. Staff files, children's files, training, and background checks were all reviewed. An on-site complaint investigation was conducted on August 1, 2024.

Plan of Improvement: Developed This Date 08/01/2024

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.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 techincal assistance is available!**

Summary Report

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The following information is associated with a CI/LS:

Activities and Equipment

591-1-1-.12 Equipment & Toys(CR) **Not Met**

Finding
591-1-1-.12(4) requires that equipment and furniture is secured if it is of a weight or mass that could cause injury from tipping, falling, or being pulled or pushed over. It was determined based on observation that the television in classroom G was not secured to the furniture and wobbly.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
The Center will ensure that the identified equipment or furniture and any other such existing or future items are secured adequately and will have a system for checking these for stability.

Correction Deadline: 8/9/2024 **Prior Visits: 05/18/2022**

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

Comment
Center does not provide swimming activities.

Children's Records

Records Reviewed: 5 **Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 1**

Child # 4 Not Met

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.08(1)(a)-Work Number Missing

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

Technical Assistance
591-1-1-.08(1) - The Consultant discussed with the Director to update the work telephone numbers in the children files.

Correction Deadline: 8/1/2024 **Prior Visits: 05/18/2022**

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.

591-1-1-.25 Physical Plant - Safe Environment(CR) **Not Met**

Comment
Please secure cleaning tools (i.e., broom, plunger) out of reach of children.

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 hazards were observed:

Classroom E
- Three packages of diaper wipes in the cubbies accessible to children in care.
- A hanging radio cord was at the block shelf.
- Toilet brush cleaner, broom and dust pan were in the restroom accessible to children in care.

Classroom G
- A toilet brush cleaner was in both restrooms accessible to children in care.
- A hanging radio cord was near the back wall.

Classroom H
- A plastic grocery bag was in the cubby accessible to children in care.
- Vaseline was in an orange book bag accessible to children in care.
- Two plastic grocery bags were stored under the white shelf on the far left side of the class.

Classroom I
- A broom and dust pan were stored in the restroom accessible to children in care.
- A toilet brush was the restroom accessible to children in care.
- A Ziploc bag and a plastic grocery bag were stored in the cubbies.

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: 8/1/2024 **Prior Visits: 05/18/2022**

591-1-1-.26 Playgrounds(CR) **Not Met**

Finding
591-1-1-.26(8) requires climbing and swinging equipment to have a resilient surface beneath the equipment and the fall zone from such equipment must be adequately maintained by the Center to assure continuing resiliency. It was determined based on observation that approximately three inches of resilient surface was observed near the blue slide on the right side when six inches was required. It was determined based on observation that approximately two and a half inches of resilient surface was observed near the twisted blue slide on the right side when six inches was required.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
The Center will add additional resilient surfacing to the fall zones where needed and check daily, adding resilient surfacing as needed to maintain adequate resiliency.

Correction Deadline: 8/15/2024 **Prior Visits: 08/17/2023**

Technical Assistance
591-1-1-.26(9) - The Consultant discussed with the Director spray painting the exposed roots on the Preschool playground.

Correction Deadline: 8/1/2024 **Prior Visits: 09/20/2022**

Finding
591-1-1-.26(9) requires the playground to be kept clean, free from litter and free of hazards, such as but not limited to rocks, exposed tree roots and exposed sharp edges of concrete. It was determined based on observation that the following hazards were observed:

Preschool Playground
- Vegetation growing on the fence.
- A broken PVC pipe with exposed nails on back left side.
- Exposed Tarp under the swings on the right side which posed a potential tripping hazard.

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: 8/15/2024 **Prior Visits: 09/20/2022**

Food Service

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

Comment
CACFP Meal Pattern Requirements effective October 1, 2017 will be implemented October 1, 2018: 3 Components for breakfast: Grains, Vegetables, Fruits or both, Milk
5 Components for lunch – Grains, Meat/Meat alternates, Fruits, Vegetable, and Milk OR Grains, Meat/Meat alternates, 2 different types of vegetables, and Milk
2 of 5 Components for snack

Provided Updated CACFP Infant Meal pattern and Child/Adult Meal pattern flyers.

The Crediting Handbook for the CACFP can be located on DECAL and USDA’s website:
DECAL
http://decal.ga.gov/CACFP/Handbook.aspx
USDA
http://www.fns.usda.gov/cacfp/cacfp-handbooks

Technical Assistance
591-1-1-.15(3) - The Consultant discussed with the Director that children's bottles must be refrigerated at a temperature of forty (40) degrees Fahrenheit or less.

Correction Deadline: 8/1/2024 **Prior Visits: 08/17/2023**

Finding
591-1-1-.15(3) requires baby bottles and formula to be labeled with the individual child's name; supplied by the Parent daily in bottles; and refrigerated at a temperature of forty (40) degrees Fahrenheit or less. Only the current day's formula or breast milk shall be served. If formula must be provided by the Center, only commercially prepared, ready-to-feed formula shall be used. Refrigerated or frozen breast milk shall only be heated or thawed under warm running water or in a container of warm water. It was determined based on observation that children's bottles were not labeled with the individual child's name in classroom A.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
The Center will train Staff to follow the required procedures, ensure that parents are fully informed, and will review and monitor regularly.

Correction Deadline: 8/1/2024 **Prior Visits: 08/17/2023**

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

Technical Assistance
591-1-1-.18(10) - The Consultant discussed with the Director that garbage must be stored in trash containers with lids.

Correction Deadline: 8/1/2024

Health and Hygiene

591-1-1-.07 Children's Health **Not Met**

Finding
591-1-1-.07(5) requires Center Staff to not permit children to wear around their necks or attach to their clothing pacifiers or other hazardous items. It was determined based on observation that a one-year-old child was observed with a pacifier clip attached to their clothing.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
The Center will instruct Staff regarding this safety requirement.

Correction Deadline: 8/1/2024

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) **Met**

Comment
The Provider currently does not dispense/administer medication.

Policies and Procedures

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

Comment
591-1-1-.21(1)(p) - The Consultant discussed with the Director that the Center to have a written plan for handling emergencies, including but not limited to severe weather, loss of electrical power or water and death, serious injury or loss of a child, a threatening event, or natural disaster which may occur at the Center; to have in place procedures for evacuation, relocation, shelter-in-place, lock-down, communication and reunification with families, and continuity of operations. The plan must apply to all children in care and include specific accommodations for infants and toddlers, children with disabilities, and children with chronic medical conditions and shall include assurance that no Center Personnel will impede in any way the delivery of emergency care or services to a child by licensed or certified emergency health care professionals.

Correction Deadline: 8/6/2024

Technical Assistance
591-1-1-.21(1)(q) - The Consultant discussed with the Director that the Center must have in the Center policies and procedures a description of the safe sleep practices followed by the Center that includes the following information: the initial placement of Infants on their backs to sleep; no cover or other soft items in crib; appropriate sleep clothing for Infants to be provided by Parent; individual crib, cot or mat and bedding provided and changing and cleaning practices for these items; Infants who fall asleep in other equipment, on the floor or elsewhere will be moved to a crib to sleep; and no swaddling or positioning devices used.

Correction Deadline: 8/6/2024

Technical Assistance
591-1-1-.21(3) -The Consultant discussed with the Director updating the the Center emergency drills for fire, tornado and other emergency situations. The fire drills will be conducted monthly and tornado and other emergency situation drills will be conducted every six months. The Center shall maintain documentation of the dates and times of these drills for two years.

Correction Deadline: 8/6/2024

Safety

591-1-1-.05 Animals **Met**

Comment
Animals maintained clean and appropriately caged.

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

Comment
Age-appropriate discussion and/or redirection observed.

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

Comment
Field trip documentation observed to be complete.

591-1-1-.36 Transportation(CR) **Not Met**

Comment
A current/completed inspection was observed for all vehicles used in transporting children this date.

Comment
591-1-1-.36(4)(a) - The Consultant did not observe the vehicles onsite during the visit. The Director stated that vehicles were being repaired.

Correction Deadline: 8/6/2024

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 five of five check marks to account for children unloading the vehicle tag number BJE694 on April 29, 2024 from Oakview Elementary to MKS Daycare.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
The driver/other designated person will immediately document in writing with a check/mark/symbol each time a child gets on and off the vehicle.

Correction Deadline: 8/2/2024

Sleeping & Resting Equipment

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

Comment
Discussed SIDS and infant sleeping position.

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) requires the Center to provide a safe sleep environment in accordance with American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) and American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) recommendations as listed in these rules for all infants. Center Staff shall place an infant to sleep on the infant's back in a crib unless the Center has been provided a physician's written statement authorizing another sleep position for that particular infant that includes how the infant shall be placed to sleep and a time frame that the instructions are to be followed. When an infant can easily turn over from back to front and back again, Staff shall continue to put the infant to sleep initially on the infant's back but allow the infant to roll over into his or her preferred position and not re-position the infant. Sleepers, sleep sacks and wearable blankets that fit according to the commercial manufacturer's guidelines and will not slide up around the infant's face may be used when necessary for the comfort of the sleeping infant. Swaddling shall not be used unless the Center has been provided a physician's written statement authorizing its use for a particular infant that includes instructions and a time frame for swaddling the infant. Center Staff shall not place objects or allow objects to be placed in or on the crib with an infant such as but not limited to toys, pillows, quilts, comforters, bumper pads, sheepskins, stuffed toys, or other soft items and shall not attach objects or allow objects to be attached to a crib with a sleeping infant, such as, but not limited to, crib gyms, toys, mirrors and mobiles. It was determined based on observation that a one-year-old child was observed sleeping with a bib attached around their neck.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
The Center will take all steps necessary to provide a safe sleep environment for infants as listed in these rules; will train Staff to follow these rules; and will monitor for compliance.

Correction Deadline: 8/1/2024

Staff Records

Records Reviewed: 20 **Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 10**

Staff # 2 Not Met
Date of Hire: 01/24/2024

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(3)-Health & Safety Certificate,.31(2)(b)2.-Staff Qualifications-Education Missing,.14(2)-First Aid Missing,.14(2)-CPR missing

Staff # 3 Not Met
Date of Hire: 01/26/2009

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.31(2)(b)2.-Staff Qualifications-Education Missing

Staff # 7 Not Met
Date of Hire: 06/07/2023

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.31(2)(b)2.-Staff Qualifications-Education Missing

Staff # 11 Not Met
Date of Hire: 05/15/2017

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.31(2)(b)2.-Staff Qualifications-Education Missing

Staff # 12 Not Met
Date of Hire: 08/07/2023

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(3)-Health & Safety Certificate,.14(2)-First Aid Missing,.14(2)-CPR missing

Staff # 15 Not Met

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.14(2)-First Aid Missing,.14(2)-CPR missing,.33(3)-Health & Safety Certificate

Staff # 16 Not Met

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.14(2)-First Aid Missing,.14(2)-CPR missing

Staff # 17 Not Met
Date of Hire: 08/12/2019

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(4)-Food Prep Training Missing 4 hrs.

Staff # 18 Not Met
Date of Hire: 08/26/2023

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(3)-Health & Safety Certificate

Staff # 20 Not Met

Date of Hire: 04/14/2024

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(3)-Health & Safety Certificate,.14(2)-CPR missing,.14(2)-First Aid Missing

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

Comment
Criminal record checks were observed to be complete.

Comment
591-1-1-.09(1)(c) - The Consultant discussed with the Director that the Center must ensure that every Employee has a valid and current satisfactory Comprehensive Records Check Determination on file prior to being present at the Center while any child is present for care or before an individual age 17 or older resides in the Center. The Comprehensive Records Check Determination must have a Records Check Clearance Date that is no older than the preceding 12 months of the hire date; provided, however, if the Employee has had a lapse of employment from the child care industry that lasted for 180 days (6 months) or longer, a new satisfactory Comprehensive Records Check Determination is required.

Correction Deadline: 8/1/2024

591-1-1-.14 First Aid & CPR(CR) **Not Met**

Comment
Evidence observed of 50% of center staff certified in First Aid and CPR.

Finding
591-1-1-.14(2) requires a Staff member who is trained in CPR and first aid to be on the premises and on any field trip whenever any child is present. In addition, Staff who provide direct care to children must satisfactorily obtain certification in first aid and CPR by December 29, 2016 if employed prior to September 30, 2016 and within 90 days of their hire date if employed after September 30, 2016. It was determined based on a review of records that Staff # 2 hired on January 15, 2024, Staff # 15 hired on November 22, 2024, and Staff # 20 hired on April 14, 2024, did not complete the first aid and CPR within the 90 days of hire.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
The Center will develop a schedule to ensure there is always a staff person with current first aid and CPR training present and will develop and implement a plan to ensure all staff members have satisfactorily completed first aid and CPR training by the specified date.

Correction Deadline: 9/1/2024

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

Finding
591-1-1-.33(3) requires each Staff member with direct care responsibilities to complete health and safety orientation training within the first 90 days of employment. The state-approved training hours obtained will count toward required first year training hours. The training must address the following health and safety topics: prevention and control of infectious diseases (including immunizations); prevention of sudden infant death syndrome and use of safe sleeping practices; administration of medication, consistent with standards for parental consent; prevention of and response to emergencies due to food and allergic reactions; building and physical premises safety, including identification of and protection from hazards that can cause bodily injury such as electrical hazards, bodies of water, and vehicular traffic; prevention of shaken baby syndrome, abusive head trauma and child maltreatment; emergency preparedness and response planning for emergencies resulting from a natural disaster or a human-caused event (such as violence at a child care facility); handling and storage of hazardous materials and the appropriate disposal of bio contaminants; precautions in transporting children; recognition and reporting of child abuse and neglect; and child development. It was determined based on a review of records that Staff # 2 hired on January 24, 2024, Staff #12 hired on August 7, 2023, Staff #15 hired on November 22, 2024, Staff #18 hired on August 26, 2023, and Staff #20 hired on April 15, 2024, did not complete the health and safety orientation training within the first 90 days of employment.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
The Center will develop and implement a plan to schedule and track this training for all employees based on their hire dates and will ensure that the training includes all required components as required.

Correction Deadline: 8/31/2024 **Prior Visits: 05/18/2022, 10/06/2021**

Finding
591-1-1-.33(4) requires within the first year of employment, the Director and person with primary responsibility for food preparation shall have four clock hours of training in food nutrition planning, preparation, serving, proper dish washing and food storage. It was determined based on a review of records that staff # 17 hired on August 12, 2019, did not have the four clock hours of training in food nutrition planning, preparation, serving, proper dish washing and food storage on file on this date.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
The Center will schedule food preparation training, as required, and follow up to ensure the training is completed.

Correction Deadline: 8/31/2024

591-1-1-.31 Staff(CR) **Not Met**

Finding
591-1-1-.31(2)(b)2. requires teachers and lead caregivers to meet minimum academic requirements and qualifying experience at the time of employment. It was determined based on a review of records that Staff # 2 hired on January 24, 2024, Staff # 3 hired on January 26, 2024, Staff # 7 hired on June 7, 2024, and Staff # 11 hired on May 15, 2017, did not have the minimum academic requirements and qualifying experience, required for a lead teacher.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
A teacher/lead caregiver will be hired that meets the minimum academic requirements and qualifying work experience.

Correction Deadline: 9/1/2024

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.