



**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:** 2/26/2026 **VisitType:** Monitoring Visit

**Arrival:** 12:15 PM **Departure:** 2:30 PM

**CCLC-9096**

**Mt. Zion Learning Center**

186 Will Waters Road Hazlehurst, GA 31539 Jeff Davis County  
(912) 375-7429

Regional Consultant

Connie Boatright

Phone: (912) 544-9701

Fax: (912) 544-9700

connie.boatright@dec.al.ga.gov

**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. |
|-----------------------------|------------------|---------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 02/26/2026                  | Monitoring Visit | Good Standing |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| 07/10/2025                  | Licensing Study  | Good Standing |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| 08/07/2024                  | 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 - 3rd Left           | One Year Olds                      | 1     | 1        | C                             | 14         | C            | NA                                                            | NA           | Nap                   |
| Main                           | B - 2nd Left           | Three Year Olds                    | 1     | 7        | C                             | 14         | C            | NA                                                            | NA           | Nap                   |
| Main                           | C - 1st Left           | Two Year Olds                      | 1     | 7        | C                             | 14         | C            | NA                                                            | NA           | Nap                   |
| Main                           | D - 1st Right          | Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds | 1     | 14       | C                             | 16         | C            | NA                                                            | NA           | Nap                   |
| Main                           | E 2nd Right            |                                    | 0     | 0        | C                             | 16         | C            | NA                                                            | NA           | Not In Use            |
| Main                           | F - Last Room on the R | Infants and One Year Olds          | 2     | 5        | C                             | 17         | C            | NA                                                            | NA           | Feeding,Nap,Diapering |
| Main                           | Gym                    |                                    | 0     | 0        | C                             | 256        | C            | NA                                                            | NA           |                       |
| Main                           | K - Second Hall        |                                    | 0     | 0        | C                             | 14         | C            | NA                                                            | NA           | Not In Use            |
| Main                           | L - Second Hall        |                                    | 0     | 0        | C                             | 14         | C            | NA                                                            | NA           | Not In Use            |
|                                |                        | Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 195    |       |          | Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0 |            |              | Building @35 capacity limited by Heath Department Limitations |              |                       |
| Total # Children this Date: 34 |                        | Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 195    |       |          | Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0 |            |              |                                                               |              |                       |

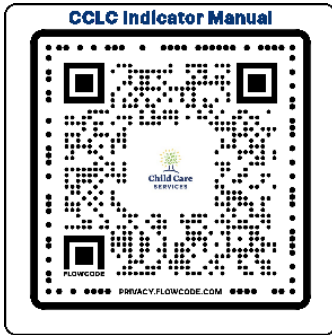
| Building | Playground     | Playground Occupancy | Playground Compliance |
|----------|----------------|----------------------|-----------------------|
| Main     | Playground - A | 12                   | C                     |
| Main     | Playground - B | 53                   | C                     |
| Main     | Playground - C | 143                  | C                     |

| Enrolled Children |         |         |         |         |                    |                   |
|-------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|--------------------|-------------------|
| Under 1 years     | 1 years | 2 years | 3 years | 4 years | 5 years (Prekonly) | 5 years and older |
| 6                 | 7       | 14      | 8       | 7       | 0                  | 4                 |

#### Comments

The Consultant discussed the Monitoring Visit with the Center Director and emailed a copy via DocuSign. The Consultant provided Chop, Look, and Listen flyers to the Center Director.

Plan of Improvement: Developed This Date



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.dec.al.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

You have received permission to operate and the form received with this report is intended to serve as a temporary license which is **valid for thirty(30) days**. Your actual license/ will be emailed to you upon receipt of the licensing fee. You may pay the licensing fee either online at <http://www.dec.al.ga.gov/> or by certified check or money order mailed to: Bright from the Start, 2 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive SE, Suite 670 East Tower, Atlanta, GA 30334

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](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.

---

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



**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

**Summary Report**

**Date:** 2/26/2026 **VisitType:** Monitoring Visit

**Arrival:** 12:15 PM **Departure:** 2:30 PM

**CCLC-9096**

**Mt. Zion Learning Center**

186 Will Waters Road Hazlehurst, GA 31539 Jeff Davis County  
(912) 375-7429

Regional Consultant

Connie Boatright

Phone: (912) 544-9701

Fax: (912) 544-9700

connie.boatright@dec.al.ga.gov

**Mailing Address**  
Same

The following information is associated with a Monitoring Visit:

**Activities and Equipment**

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

Met

**Comment**

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

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

N/A

**Comment**

Center does not provide swimming activities.

**Facility**

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

Met

**Comment**

Licensed capacity observed to be routinely met by center on this date. The Consultant observed 37 children present during this visit.

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

Met

**Comment**

The Center appeared clean and well maintained on this date.

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

Met

**Comment**

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

**Correction Deadline: 7/24/2025**

**Corrected on 2/26/2026**

.26(4) - The previous citation was observed to be corrected. The bolt were cut back to no longer than 2 threads.

**Correction Deadline: 7/20/2025**

**Corrected on 2/26/2026**

.26(6) - The previous citation was observed to be corrected. The blue infant bucket swing, green alligator, and black Little Tikes cars were removed from the playground. The uneven edge at the top of the play toy ship was repaired.

**Correction Deadline: 7/10/2025**

Corrected on 2/26/2026

.26(9) - The previous citation was observed to be corrected. The home was filled with dirt, the thorny vines was removed and the PVC pipe and sprinkler was secured. Additionally, the PVC pipe over the sewer drain was fixed with conduit and secured.

## Health and Hygiene

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

Met

### Comment

Proper diapering procedures observed.

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

Met

Correction Deadline: 7/10/2025

Corrected on 2/26/2026

.17(7) - The previous citation was corrected. The Consultant observed staff to wash hands before and after a diaper change. Additionally, other staff stated proper hand washing procedures.

Correction Deadline: 7/10/2025

Corrected on 2/26/2026

.17(8) - The previous citation was observed to be corrected. The Consultant observed staff to wash an infants hands after a diaper change.

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

N/A

### 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.

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)

Not Met

### 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 1 4-month-old infant and 1 1-month-old infant were sleeping in a bouncy rocker.

**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: 2/26/2026**

|                      |
|----------------------|
| <b>Staff Records</b> |
|----------------------|

**Records Reviewed: 12**

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

Staff # 1

Not Met

Date of Hire: 12/01/2025

Reminder - Health & Safety training is required within 90 calendar days of hired

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

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

Staff # 4

Not Met

Date of Hire: 11/03/2025

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.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**

Director provided 2 file(s) for employees hired since last visit.

---

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

**Not Met**

**Finding**

591-1-1-.14(1)(a) requires all Staff who provide direct care to children must obtain certification in a biennial training program in pediatric cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and a triennial training program in pediatric first aid within the first 45 days of employment. Current and valid evidence of the successful completion of such training shall be maintained on the Center's premises. The hours obtained completing this certification will not count towards the required annual training hours. It was determined based on review of staff records that staff # 1 and 4 have been employed more than 45 days and have not completed the required pediatric cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and a triennial training program.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

All caregiver Staff will complete the required training. The Director will send copies via email verification of completed CPR/First Aid certification to the consultant upon completion and will develop a plan to ensure all caregiver Staff have completed this training within the first 45 days of employment and that evidence of successful completion of the training is on file available for inspection.

**Correction Deadline: 3/7/2026**

**Finding**

591-1-1-.14(2)(b) requires that there must always be one staff person present in each classroom where children are present that has current and valid pediatric cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and pediatric first aid training. It was determined based on observation that upon the Consultants arrival, staff # 1 and 4 were in classroom F supervising 4 infants and 1 1-year-old child, and had not completed pediatric cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and pediatric first aid training as required.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

The Director will schedule and/or position caregiver Staff throughout the Center to ensure at least one currently pediatric CPR and First Aid trained Staff person is present in each classroom where children are present.

**Correction Deadline: 2/26/2026**

---

**591-1-1-.33 Staff Training**

**Met**

**Comment**

Complete documentation of transportation observed. on this date.

**Comment**

Staff observed to be compliant with applicable laws and regulations.

|                                 |
|---------------------------------|
| <b>Staffing and Supervision</b> |
|---------------------------------|

**Comment**

Center observed to maintain appropriate staff:child ratios.

**Comment**

Adequate supervision observed on this date.