



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: 6/17/2026 VisitType: Incident Investigation & Follow Up Arrival: 9:30 AM Departure: 6:30 PM

CCLC-39038

Chestnut Mountain Academy

4720 Winder Hwy Flowery Branch, GA 30542 Hall County
(770) 967-7105

Special Investigations Unit Sr. Specialist

Brittany Mathews

Phone: (229) 317-9647

Fax: (229) 317-9646

brittany.mathews@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.
06/17/2026	Incident Investigation & Follow Up	Good Standing	
05/04/2026	Licensing Study	Good Standing	
10/20/2025	Monitoring Visit	Good Standing	
			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	A- 1L		0	0	C	21	C	NA	NA	
Main	B- 2L	Infants and One Year Olds	2	6	C	12	C	NA	NA	Nap,Floor Play
Main	C- 3L	One Year Olds	1	5	C	11	C	NA	NA	Centers
Main	D- 4L	Four Year Olds and Five Year Olds	1	14	C	21	C	NA	NA	Outside
Main	E- 5L	Six Year Olds and Over	1	11	C	24	C	NA	NA	Centers
Main	F- 3R	Two Year Olds	2	10	C	15	C	NA	NA	Diapering,Free Play
Main	G- 2R		0	0	C	24	C	NA	NA	
Main	H- 1R	Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds	1	11	C	23	C	NA	NA	Outside
			Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 151			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0				
Total # Children this Date: 57			Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 151			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0				

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	Playground Left	96	C
Main	Playground RT	25	C

Comments

- The following items were discussed during the visit:
- Correcting Previously Cited Rule Violations Timely
 - Weather Watch Chart



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(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 on observation that the yellow swing chain coverings were observed to be peeling creating a potential pinching and/or scratching hazard located on the front-right side of Playground Left.

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. The Center will remove the yellow chain coverings to prevent a potential scratching and/or pinching hazard.

Correction Deadline: 6/17/2026

Recited on 6/17/2026

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 on Playground Left:

- Ant mounds were not observed on the front side of the concrete basketball court and on the back side of the concrete basketball court.
- The two black mats leading the basketball court and three black mats leading the wooden canopy sand box area were discarded.
- The wooden barrier surrounding the green and yellow swings was observed to have a broken wooden board located on the front-left side creating a potential entrapment 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. The Center will remove or ensure the black mats are flushed with the ground, treat and monitor the playgrounds for ant mounds, and repair the broken wooden board.

Correction Deadline: 6/17/2026

Recited on 6/17/2026

Health and Hygiene

Finding

591-1-1-.10(2) requires Centers first licensed after March 1, 1991, and Centers that renovate existing plumbing facilities, to have a hand washing sink with running heated water located adjacent to the diapering area. Flush sinks shall not be used for hand washing. Cleansing procedures in other facilities shall be approved by the Department. It was determined based on observation that the children's sink located in classroom H-1R located on the front-right side of the classroom adjacent to the diaper changing table left handle heated water was not working.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will ensure that a hand washing sink is located adjacent to each diapering area, that flush sinks are not used for handwashing, and that the department has approved cleansing procedures in other facilities, if applicable.

Correction Deadline: 6/17/2026

Recited on 6/17/2026

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 located in classroom B-2L contained a quilted pattern making the diaper changing pad porous. It was further determined based on observation that a diaper changing pad was placed on top of a blue chest of drawer with straps unsecuring the changing pad to the furniture located on the back-left side of classroom F-3R.

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. The Center will further remove the diaper changing pad from the chest of drawer and ensure that it's placed on a changing table with railings.

Correction Deadline: 6/17/2026

Recited on 6/17/2026

Safety

591-1-1-.36 Transportation(CR)

Met

Correction Deadline: 5/5/2026

Corrected on 6/17/2026

.36(4)(b) - The previous citation was observed corrected on this date. The Consultant observed that the center's vehicle, tag number BKA9452, third row back seat was without tear or exposed foam.

Correction Deadline: 5/5/2026

Corrected on 6/17/2026

.36(4)(f)1. - The previous citation was observed corrected on this date. The Consultant observed that the center's vehicle, tag number BKA9452, first front row seat and the second middle row seat were not missing the seat belt buckle.

Correction Deadline: 5/5/2026

Corrected on 6/17/2026

.36(7)(a) - The previous citation was observed corrected on this date. The Consultant observed that the Center did have evidence of a transportation agreement form on file for seven school-age children to receive school transportation service.

Correction Deadline: 5/5/2026

Corrected on 6/17/2026

.36(7)(b) - The previous citation was observed corrected on this date. The Consultant observed that seven school-age children had evidence of an emergency medical information form on file to receive school transportation service.

Sleeping & Resting Equipment

Correction Deadline: 5/4/2026

Corrected on 6/17/2026

.30(1)(a)2 - The previous citation was observed corrected on this date. The Consultant observed ten eleven cribs mattresses were observed without gaps and were tight-fitting.

Staff Records

Correction Deadline: 5/4/2026

Corrected on 6/17/2026

.14(2)(b) - The previous citation was observed corrected on this date. The Consultant observed that Staff #14 was no longer employed at the center.