



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

Cover Sheet

Date: 9/20/2022 **VisitType:** Licensing Study

Arrival: 12:10 PM

Departure: 3:15 PM

CCLC-22108

MKS Learning Center

3385 Flat Shoals Road Decatur, GA 30034 DeKalb County
 (404) 241-7280 infomkslearningcenter@gmail.com

Regional Consultant

Verlyn Gant

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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. 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.
09/20/2022	Licensing Study	Good Standing	
07/22/2022	Complaint Closure	Good Standing	
07/14/2022	Complaint 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
Main	B-1yr		0	0	C	8	C	NA	NA	
Main	C	One Year Olds	1	7	C	8	C	NA	NA	Nap
Main	D		0	0	C	9	C	NA	NA	
Main	E-2yr	One Year Olds and Three Year Olds	1	5	C	10	C	NA	NA	Nap
Main	F-2yr	Two Year Olds	1	8	C	10	C	NA	NA	Nap
Main	G-3yr		0	0	C	30	C	41	C	
Main	H-(Private Pre-K)	PreK	1	8	C	20	C	29	C	Nap
Main	Infant A	Infants	1	3	C	10	C	NA	NA	Nap
Main	I-School Age		0	0	C	20	C	28	C	
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 125					Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 153					
Total # Children this Date: 31					Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 153					

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	Preschool	49	C
Main	Toddler	25	C

Comments

An in-person inspection was conducted on September 20, 2022 with the Director. Background checks were all reviewed on September 20, 2022.

An Administrative Review was conducted on September 20, 2022. Staff files, children's files, and training documentation were all reviewed.

The Consultant completed the exit conference, and a copy of the Licensing Study Visit report was given to the Director on September 20, 2022.

Plan of Improvement: Developed This Date 09/20/2022

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.state.ga.us/CCS/Regulations.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



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.state.ga.us for more information. Free technical assistance is available!

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)

Estella Freeman, Program Official

Date

Verlyn Gant, Consultant

Date



Bright from the Start Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning
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Findings Report

Date: 9/20/2022 **VisitType:** Licensing Study

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The following information is associated with a Licensing Study:

Activities and Equipment

591-1-1.03 Activities

Technical Assistance

Technical Assistance

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.

Please ensure that the current lesson plan is in each classroom reflecting appropriate instruction practices and activities to support children's development.

Correction Deadline: 9/20/2022

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)

N/A

Comment

Center does not provide swimming activities.

Children's Records

Records Reviewed: 5

Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 2

Child # 1

Not Met

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.08(3)-Address of Release Person Missing

Child # 2

Met

Child # 3

Met

Child # 4

Met

Child # 5

Not Met

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.08(3)-Address of Release Person Missing

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, mental retardation or developmental disabilities which limit the child's participation in the program. It was determined based on a review of records that two of five children's enrollment records did not include the address of the release person as required.

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: 9/20/2022**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****Comment**

Please secure cleaning tools (i.e., broom, plunger) out of reach of children in the I classroom.

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 a staff member's purse was stored in an unlocked cupboard at low level 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: 9/20/2022**591-1-1-.26 Playgrounds(CR)****Not Met**

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:

- The swing on the left side of the pre-school play area had a protruding nail on the right side, which posed a potential hazard.
- The yellow seat in the house on the toddler playground was broken and posed a potential entrapment hazard.
- The tree roots in the pre-school play area were exposed posing 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: 9/20/2022

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

591-1-1-.15(1) requires that meals and snacks are served, with serving sizes dependent upon the age of the child, that meet nutritional guidelines as established by the United States Department of Agriculture Child and Adult Care Food Program. Meals and snacks shall be varied daily, and additional servings of nutritious food shall be offered to children over and above the required daily minimum, if not contraindicated by special diets. It was determined based on observation that the center had milk in the refrigerator that was 4 days past the expiration date.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

Center Staff will prepare menus and/or serve foods that meet the USDA guidelines and will offer and serve seconds to children.

Correction Deadline: 9/20/2022

Finding

591-1-1-.15(7) requires that food be served according to manufacturer's instructions and recommendations. Foods that are associated with young children's choking incidents, such as, but not limited to, peanuts, hot dogs, raw carrots, popcorn, fish with bones, cheese cubes, grapes and any other food that is of similar shape and size of the trachea/windpipe shall not be served to the children less than four (4) years of age. Children older than four (4) years of age may be served these foods provided that the foods are cut in such a way as to minimize choking. Food shall not be accessible or served to children until it has been chopped, diced, cut or mashed and is appropriate for each child's age and individual eating, chewing and swallowing ability. It was determined based on a review of records that the menu for the month of September 2022, included hot dogs, which shall not be served to children less than four (4) years of age.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will train Staff and monitor food served and accessible to children to ensure that the food does not present a choking hazard.

Correction Deadline: 9/20/2022

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
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Comment

Proper hand washing of children and staff was discussed with staff members on this date.

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

Documentation for medication dispensing observed complete.

Policies and Procedures

591-1-1-.21 Operational Policies & Procedures	Met
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Correction Deadline: 7/14/2022

Corrected on 9/20/2022

.21(4) - Previous citation was observed to be corrected during this visit, in that based on discussion and a review of children's files, the gives the family a copy of the center's policy and procedures as required.

Safety

591-1-1-.05 Animals	N/A
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Comment

Center does not keep animals on premises.

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

Age-appropriate discussion and/or redirection observed.

591-1-1-.13 Field Trips(CR)	N/A
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Comment

Center does not participate in field trips at this time.

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

Complete documentation of transportation observed.

Sleeping & Resting Equipment

591-1-1-.30 Safe Sleeping and Resting Requirements(CR)	Met
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Comment

Discussed SIDS and infant sleeping position.

Comment

Pleasant naptime environment observed.

Staff Records

Records Reviewed: 16	Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 1
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Staff # 1

Met

Date of Hire: 08/15/2022

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

Staff # 2

Met

Records Reviewed: 16**Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 1**

Date of Hire: 08/02/2022

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

Staff # 3

Met

Date of Hire: 01/23/2020

Staff # 4

Met

Date of Hire: 01/26/2009

Staff # 5

Met

Staff # 6

Met

Date of Hire: 12/03/2018

Staff # 7

Met

Date of Hire: 02/14/2022

Staff # 8

Met

Date of Hire: 11/04/2019

Staff # 9

Met

Date of Hire: 05/22/2017

Staff # 10

Not Met

Date of Hire: 05/26/2022

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(3)-Health & Safety Certificate

Staff # 11

Met

Date of Hire: 06/30/2022

Staff # 12

Met

Date of Hire: 08/12/2019

Staff # 13

Met

Staff # 14

Met

Staff # 15

Met

Date of Hire: 04/23/2007

Staff # 16

Met

Staff Credentials Reviewed: 8**591-1-1-.09 Criminal Records and Comprehensive Background Checks(CR)****Met**

Comment

Criminal record checks were observed to be complete.

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 member #10 did not complete the Health and Safety Orientation training within the first 90 days of employment as required.

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: 10/20/2022**591-1-1-.31 Staff(CR)****Met****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.