



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: 1/16/2026 **VisitType:** Monitoring Visit

Arrival: 1:10 PM **Departure:** 2:45 PM

CCLC-23135

Mountain Area Christian Academy

14090 Old Hwy 76 Morganton, GA 30560 Fannin County
(706) 374-6222

Regional Consultant

Megan OMary

Phone: (706) 451-0920

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megan.omary@decal.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. 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.
01/16/2026	Monitoring Visit	Good Standing	
01/28/2025	Licensing Study	Good Standing	
07/29/2024	Monitoring Visit	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-Room 104	Two Year Olds and Three Year Olds	1	7	C	18	C	NA	NA	Nap
Main	B-Room 105	Two Year Olds and Three Year Olds	1	8	C	17	C	NA	NA	Nap
Main	C-Room 106	Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds	1	6	C	17	C	NA	NA	Nap
Main	D-Room 107	Four Year Olds and Five Year Olds	1	4	C	20	C	NA	NA	Nap
Main	E-Room 108		0	0	C	16	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
Main	F- Room 109		0	0	C	17	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
Main	G- Room 103	One Year Olds	1	8	C	18	C	NA	NA	Snack
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 75			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0		Building @35 capacity limited by Fire Marshall Limitations					
Total # Children this Date: 33			Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 75		Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0					

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	Playground	49	C

Enrolled Children						
Under 1 years	1 years	2 years	3 years	4 years	5 years (Prekonly)	5 years and older
0	8	11	8	8	1	0

Comments

Findings of this report were reviewed with Director.

Plan of Improvement: No Plan Developed

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 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@decgal.ga.gov for more information. Free technical assistance is available!



Summary Report

Date: 1/16/2026 VisitType: Monitoring Visit

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The following information is associated with a Monitoring Visit:

Activities and Equipment

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

Not Met

Finding

591-1-1-.12(1) requires each Employee and child in attendance to use all indoor and outdoor furniture, activity materials, and equipment in a safe and appropriate manner and in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions, recommendations, and intended use. All equipment and furniture shall be used only by the age-appropriate group of children. It was determined based on observation that there were six 1-year-old children in Room G- Room 103 that were seated at a table in bucket seats that were not buckled in.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will ensure Staff are trained in and children are taught the proper use of all furniture, materials and equipment; will implement a plan for this information to be reviewed with both groups on an ongoing basis; and for monitoring proper and age-appropriate usage.

Correction Deadline: 1/16/2026

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

N/A

Comment

Center does not provide swimming activities.

Children's Records

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

Met

Correction Deadline: 1/28/2025

Corrected on 1/16/2026

.08(1) - The previous citation was observed corrected on this date. Center changed application requirements to include missing information.

Facility

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

Met

Comment

Licensed capacity observed to be routinely met by center on this date.

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

Met

Correction Deadline: 1/28/2025

Corrected on 1/16/2026

.25(13) - The previous citation was observed corrected on this date. The Center had not offered routine transportation or field trips since the previous visit.

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

Met

Comment

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

Health and Hygiene

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

Met

Comment

Staff stated proper knowledge of diapering procedures.

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

Met

Comment

Proper hand washing observed throughout the center on this date.

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

N/A

Comment

The Provider currently does not dispense/administer medication.

Policies and Procedures

591-1-1-.21 Operational Policies & Procedures

Met

Correction Deadline: 2/2/2025

Corrected on 1/16/2026

.21(3) - The previous citation was observed corrected on this date. Fire drills were performed monthly in 2025.

Safety

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

Met

Comment

Staff were observed to maintain a positive learning environment on this date.

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

Met

Correction Deadline: 1/29/2025

Corrected on 1/16/2026

.36(7)(c)2. - The previous citation was observed corrected on this date. Center is not doing transportation or field trips at this time.

Sleeping & Resting Equipment

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

Met

Comment

Pleasant naptime environment observed.

Staff Records

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

Met

Comment

Criminal record checks were observed to be complete.

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

Met

Comment

At least one staff person with current and valid pediatric first aid and pediatric CPR observed in each classroom where children were present.

Correction Deadline: 2/2/2025

Corrected on 1/16/2026

.24(1) - The previous citation was observed corrected on this date. The Center will secure required information for all Personnel. The Center will ensure that complete information is in the personnel file for all Directors, Employees, Provisional Employees, Personnel, Staff, Students-in-Training, Volunteers, Clerical, Housekeeping, Maintenance and other Support Staff.

591-1-1-.33 Staff Training

Met

Correction Deadline: 1/30/2026

Corrected on 1/16/2026

.33(3)(a)-(k) - The previous citation was observed corrected on this date. All Staff had required Health and Safety Orientation training.

Correction Deadline: 2/27/2025

Corrected on 1/16/2026

.33(5) - The previous citation was observed corrected on this date. All required staff had 10 hours of annual training.

591-1-1-.31 Staff(CR)

Met

Correction Deadline: 4/28/2025

Corrected on 1/16/2026

.31(2)(b)2. - The previous citation was observed corrected on this date. Previous lead staff member had moved to an assistant teacher. Director was working to hire more lead Staff.

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)

Not Met

Finding

591-1-1-.32(7) requires that children be supervised at all times appropriate to the individual age, needs and capabilities of each child. Such supervision must include, but not be limited to, indoor and outdoor activities, mealtimes, naptime, transportation, field trips, and transitions between activities. "Supervision" means that the appropriate number of Staff members are physically present in the area where children are being cared for and are providing watchful oversight to the children, volunteers and Students-in-Training. The persons supervising in the child care area must be alert, positioned to maximize their ability to hear and see the children at all times, and able to respond promptly to the needs and actions of the children being supervised, as well as the actions of the volunteers and Students-in-Training, and provide timely attention to the children's actions and needs. Staff shall be attentive and participating with all children during mealtimes and shall be seated within an arm's length away from children thirty-six (36) months of age and younger. It was determined based on observation that the Staff in Room G- Room 103 were not seated within arm's reach of the one-year-old children during mealtimes.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will train Staff and monitor to ensure they are providing supervision and watchful oversight to the children at all times.

Correction Deadline: 1/16/2026