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: 9/14/2026 **VisitType:** Licensing Study **Arrival:** 9:30 AM **Departure:** 3:00 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: (404) 947-1033
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Joint with: Marybeth Wheeler

Mailing Address
Same

Quality Rated: ★ ★

Compliance Zone Designation		
09/14/2026	Licensing Study	Good Standing
02/26/2026	Monitoring Visit	Good Standing
07/10/2025	Licensing Study	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	A - 3rd Left	One Year Olds	2	4	C	14	C	NA	NA	Nap,Transitioning,Outside
Main	B - 2nd Left		0	0	C	14	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
Main	C - 1st Left	Two Year Olds	1	6	C	14	C	NA	NA	Centers,Nap
Main	D - 1st Right	Four Year Olds	1	4	C	16	C	NA	NA	Transitioning,Outside,Centers,Nap,Lunch
Main	E 2nd Right	Three Year Olds	2	11	C	16	C	NA	NA	Lunch,Nap,Circle Time,Transitioning,Outside
Main	F - Last Room on the R	Infants and One Year Olds	2	7	C	17	C	NA	NA	Centers,Floor Play,Diapering,Lunch,Nap
Main	Gym		0	0	C	256	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
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.: 375				Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0				
Total # Children this Date: 32		Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 375				Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0				

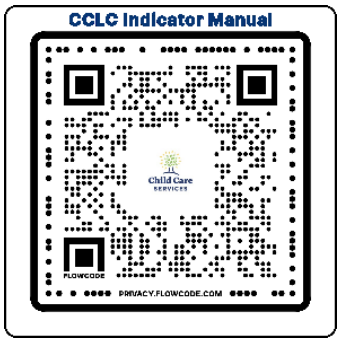
Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	Playground - A	12	C
Main	Playground - B	53	C

Main	Playground - C	143	C

Enrolled Children					
Infant (0-12 months)	**Toddler (1-2 yrs)**	**Preschool (3-5yrs/full time care)**	**School Age (before/after care only)**	**GA PreK only**	**Summer Only**
5	12	15	8	0	0

Comments
Consultant discussed the Licensing study with provider.

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.



For additional information regarding the full compliance inspection results of this program or any licensed program in the state, access the Child Care Services Compliance-at-a Glance website by scanning this QR code or visiting: https://families.decal.ga.gov.

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

Date: 9/14/2026 **VisitType:** Licensing Study **Arrival:** 9:30 AM **Departure:** 3:00 PM

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The following information is associated with a Licensing Study:

Activities and Equipment

591-1-1-.03 Activities **Met**

Comment
Discussed with provider to post current lesson plans in all class rooms in use.

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 one 9-month-0ld infant was sitting in a red bucket feeding seat located in classroom F and was not wearing a safety strap as required Additionally, one 10-month-old infant was sitting in a pink bumpo seat located in classroom F, and was not wearing a safety strap as required.

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: 9/14/2026

Technical Assistance
.591-1-1-.12(2) - The Center Director will ensure that all equipment and furniture be free from hazardous conditions such as, but not limited to, sharp rough edges or toxic paint; and be kept clean (Left blue Kitchenette door located in classroom D was not secured. Two knobs were missing on the wooden kitchenette located in the inside playground)

Correction Deadline: 9/14/2026

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**

Comment
Parent agreements observed obtained/completed.

Comment
Parent authorizations obtained/completed.

Comment
Records were observed to be complete and well organized.

Comment
591-1-1-.08(6) - The consultant observed 32 children present and 32 children signed in.

Correction Deadline: 9/14/2026

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 on this date. Consultant observed 32 children present.

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

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 and pictures taken that the following hazards were accessible to the children;
Classroom A:
-One plastic zip lock bag containing child clothing was observed in a bottom storage drawer was accessible to the 1-year-old children.
---Two adult purses and a large plastic bag was located in the white cabinet on the right back corner under the sleeping mats and the safety latch was not working.

Classroom B:
---One bag is baby wipes labeled warning to avoid suffocation, keep plastic bags away from children and a dirty diaper was located on the diaper changing table and accessible to the children.

Classroom C:
---One bag of wipes labeled warning to avoid suffocation, keep plastic bags away from children were located on the back of the toilet and within reach of the 2-year-old children.

Classroom D:
---Two plastic zip lock bags and a large roll of plastic trash bags were stored within reach of the 4-year-old children.
---A plate of sausage and waffles were stored on the staff desk and accessible to the children.

Classroom E:
---Five zip lock bags were located in child cubbies, and one zip lock bag was located in the child science area and accessible to the 3-year-old children.

Gym:
---Two brooms and two dust pans were stored by the trash can by the child eating table and accessible to all 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: 9/14/2026

Technical Assistance
591-1-1-.25(3) - The Center Director will ensure that the Center and surrounding premises to be kept clean, free of debris and in good repair. Hygienic measures such as, but not limited to, screened windows and proper waste disposal procedures shall be utilized to minimize the presence of rodents, flies, roaches and other vermin at the Center (White cabinet door located on the right back corner of classroom A was peeling and one of two metal door handles on the far entrance door to the gym was not tightly secured).

Correction Deadline: 9/14/2026

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

Comment
Discussed maintenance of resilient surface. Please fluff and redistribute.

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 and pictures taken that the following hazards were observed accessible to the children.
Playground B
- The end of four wooden poles surrounding the swings were splintering and the protective black plastic is not tightly secured.

Playground C
- Two of four swing chains are peeling and rusting.
- Five Bolts and a metal curved pipe was sticking out of the support bar under the green metal pavilion.
- One out of four orange seats on the merry-go-round has a one inch crack on the right top side of the seat..
- The end of four wooden poles surrounding the swings were splintering and the protective black plastic is not tightly secured.
-One short pipe covering the sewer drain was not secured and a wire was showing and accessible to the children.

-

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.

Correction Deadline: 9/24/2026

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 and pictures taken that three active ant beds were located on playground C and accessible to children.

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: 9/24/2026

Food Service

591-1-1-.15 Food Service & Nutrition **Met**

Comment
591-1-1-.15(2)(f) - Discussed that food for infants or children less than one (1) year of age be cut into pieces one-quarter inch or smaller and food for toddlers shall be cut into pieces one-half inch or smaller to prevent choking.

Correction Deadline: 9/14/2026

591-1-1-.18 Kitchen Operations **Met**

Comment
Kitchen appears clean and well organized on this date.

Health and Hygiene

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

Comment
Proper diapering procedures observed.

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

Comment
Proper hand washing observed throughout the center on this date.

591-1-1-.20 Medications(CR) **Not Met**

Comment
The Provider currently does not dispense/administer medication.

Finding
591-1-1-.20(4) requires the Center to keep medication in a cabinet or container that is locked or otherwise not accessible to the children and to be stored separate from cleaning chemicals, supplies or poisons. Medications requiring refrigeration shall be placed in a leak-proof container in a refrigerator that is not accessible to the children. It was determined based on observation and pictures taken that one 1.7 ounce bottle of diaper rash spray labeled keep out of reach of children, one 3 ounce tube of mineral sun screen lotion labeled keep out of reach of children, and one 4.8 ounce of Destin diaper rash cream labeled keep out of reach of children were located in zip lock bags in child cubbies and accessible to the 3-year-old children in classroom E.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
The Center will train Staff on the safe and proper storage of medication and monitor to ensure that the rule is met.

Correction Deadline: 9/14/2026

Policies and Procedures

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

Comment
Program observed complete emergency drills

591-1-1-.27 Posted Notices **Met**

Comment
Please make sure that all required signs are posted and up to date (Communicable Disease).

591-1-1-.29 Required Reporting **Met**

Comment
Thank you for reporting as required.

Safety

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

Comment
Center does not keep animals on premises.

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

Comment
Age-appropriate discussion and/or redirection observed.

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) **Met**

Comment
Discussed SIDS and infant sleeping position.

Comment
Pleasant naptime environment observed.

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.

Correction Deadline: 2/26/2026

Corrected on 9/14/2026
.30(2) - The previous citation was observed to be corrected.

Staff Records

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

Comment
Criminal record checks were observed to be complete.

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

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

Comment
Evidence observed of 100% of center Staff certified in First Aid and CPR containing emergency care for infants and children on this date.

Correction Deadline: 3/7/2026

Corrected on 9/14/2026
.14(1)(a) - Previous citation was corrected on this date.

Correction Deadline: 2/26/2026

Corrected on 9/14/2026
.14(2)(b) - Previous citation was corrected on this date.

591-1-1-.24 Personnel Records **Met**

Comment
591-1-1-.24(1) - Please ensure all staff records contain a Social Security Card and Driver License.

Correction Deadline: 9/19/2026

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

Comment
Documentation observed of required staff training.

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
Staff observed to provide direct supervision and be attentive to children's needs.