



**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:** 4/13/2023 **VisitType:** Complaint Investigation Follow Up **Arrival:** 11:20 AM **Departure:** 12:25 PM

**CCLC-22108**

**MKS Learning Center**

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

**Enforcement Unit Consultant**

Verlyn Gant

Phone: (404) 591-6059

Fax: (404) 591-6060

verlyn.gant@dec.al.ga.gov

**Mailing Address**  
Same

**Quality Rated:** ★

| <b>Compliance Zone Designation</b> |                                            |               | <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. |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|---------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 04/13/2023                         | Complaint Investigation Follow Up          | Good Standing |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| 03/03/2023                         | Complaint Closure                          | Good Standing |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| 02/10/2023                         | Complaint Investigation & 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                           | 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             | Three Year Olds                    | 1                               | 8        | C    | 10                              | C            | NA         | NA           | Nap            |
| Main                           | F-2yr             | Two Year Olds                      | 1                               | 9        | C    | 10                              | C            | NA         | NA           | Nap            |
| Main                           | G-3yr             |                                    | 0                               | 0        | C    | 30                              | C            | 41         | C            |                |
| Main                           | H-(Private Pre-K) | Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds | 1                               | 10       | C    | 20                              | C            | 29         | C            | Nap            |
| Main                           | Infant A          | Infants                            | 1                               | 5        | C    | 10                              | C            | NA         | NA           | Nap,Floor Play |
| 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: 39 |                   |                                    | Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 125 |          |      | Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 153 |              |            |              |                |

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

**Comments**

An in-person complaint investigation was conducted on April 13, 2023 with the Director.

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

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Estella Freeman, Program Official

Date

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Verlyn Gant, Consultant

Date



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(Findings Report)

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The following information is associated with a Complaint Investigation Follow Up:

**Children's Records**

**Records Reviewed: 5**

**Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 4**

Child # 1 Not Met

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.08(1)(a)-Work Address Missing,.08(1)(a)-Work Number Missing

Child # 2 Not Met

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.08(1)(a)-Work Address Missing,.08(1)(a)-Work Number Missing

Child # 3 Not Met

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.08(1)-Doctor, Clinic, Phone Numbers

Child # 5 Not Met

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.08(1)(a)-Work Address Missing,.08(1)(a)-Work Number Missing

**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 one of five children's enrollment records did not include the name and telephone number of the child's primary source of health care; and three of five children's enrollment records did not include the parents work address, and or telephone number.

**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: 4/27/2023**

**Recited on 4/13/2023**

|          |
|----------|
| Facility |
|----------|

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

**Correction Deadline: 2/10/2023**

**Corrected on 4/13/2023**

**.25(13) - Previous citation was observed to be corrected during this visit, in that based on observation there were no cleaning material or plastic bags accessible to children.**

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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 swings had rust on the chains.

**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: 4/27/2023**

**Recited on 4/13/2023**

|                         |
|-------------------------|
| Policies and Procedures |
|-------------------------|

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**591-1-1-.22 Parental Access****Met**

**Correction Deadline: 2/28/2023**

Corrected on 4/13/2023

.22 - Previous citation was observed to be corrected during this visit, in that based on discussion, parents now have access to their children's classrooms.

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

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

Met

Correction Deadline: 2/10/2023

Corrected on 4/13/2023

.09(1)(j) - Previous citation was observed to be corrected during this visit, in that based on a review of documentation, new staff members were electronically ported as required.