



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: 3/5/2026

VisitType: Initial Licensing Study

Arrival: 9:30 AM **Departure:** 3:40 PM

CCLC-67962

St. Mary's Early Learning Academy

200 Krayons Ct Saint Marys, GA 31558 Camden County
(912) 576-4769

Application Services Unit Consultant

Toni Williams

Phone: (770) 302-7628

Fax: (770) 302-8357

toni.williams@dec.al.ga.gov

Mailing Address

Same

Quality Rated: No

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.
03/05/2026	Initial Licensing Study	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

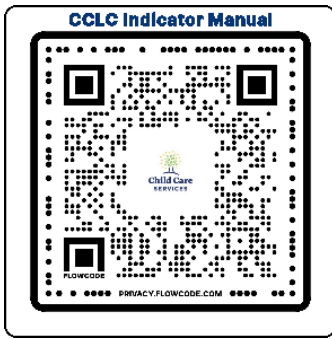
Building	Room	Age Group	Staff	Children	NC/C	Max 35 SF.	35 SF. Comp.	Max 25 SF.	25 SF. Comp.	Notes
Main	1L-6 weeks-6 months		0	0	C	11	C	NA	NA	
Main	1R-6 month-12 month		0	0	C	11	C	NA	NA	
Main	2L-12month-24 month		0	0	C	19	C	NA	NA	
Main	2R-Two year old		0	0	C	23	C	NA	NA	
Main	3L-Two Year Old		0	0	C	23	C	NA	NA	
Main	3R-Three Year Old Room		0	0	C	17	C	NA	NA	
Main	4L-Three Year old		0	0	C	16	C	NA	NA	
Main	6L-Four-Twelve Year Olds		0	0	C	21	C	NA	NA	
			Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 153			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0		Building @35 capacity limited by Fire Marshall Limitations		
Total # Children this Date: 0			Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 153			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0				

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	AL- Playground A	50	C
Main	AR-Playground C	19	C
Main	BL-Playground B	33	C
Main	BR-Playground D	64	C

Comments

The child care program received a final license on this date. The facility carries liability insurance. The total capacity was limited to 153 by the fire marshal.

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>.

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

You have received permission to operate and the form received with this report is intended to serve as a temporary license which is **valid for thirty(30) days**. Your actual license/ will be emailed to you upon receipt of the licensing fee. You may pay the licensing fee either online at <http://www.decal.ga.gov/> or by certified check or money order mailed to: Bright from the Start, 2 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive SE, Suite 670 East Tower, Atlanta, GA 30334

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



Summary Report

Date: 3/5/2026 **VisitType:** Initial Licensing Study **Arrival:** 9:30 AM **Departure:** 3:40 PM

CCLC-67962

St. Mary's Early Learning Academy

200 Krayons Ct Saint Marys, GA 31558 Camden County
(912) 576-4769

Application Services Unit Consultant

Toni Williams

Phone: (770) 302-7628

Fax: (770) 302-8357

toni.williams@dec.al.ga.gov

Mailing Address
Same

The following information is associated with a Initial Licensing Study:

Activities and Equipment

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

Not Met

Comment

Equipment and furniture observed to be properly secured, as applicable.

Comment

The consultant discussed adding a variety of art supplies to all classrooms.

Finding

591-1-1-.12(2) requires 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. It was determined based on observation that the cribs in the infant's room were chipped in places and needed repair. Also the dramatic play playset stoves and microwaves were in need of repair and stable.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will ensure that equipment and furniture are secured and free from hazards.

Correction Deadline: 4/15/2026

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

N/A

Comment

Center does not provide swimming activities. No pool observed on site.

Facility

591-1-1-.06 Bathrooms

Met

Comment

Please monitor bathrooms for necessary supplies and ensure that each bathroom ventilation is checked and cleaned.

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

Met

Comment

Licensed capacity observed to be routinely met by center. The overall licensed capacity is 153 children per the Fire Marshall.

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

Technical Assistance

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.25(11) - The provider was advised to tape down the carpet in the 3-year old classroom to ensure it doesn't become a tripping hazard.

Correction Deadline: 4/4/2026

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.25(3) - The consultant discussed with the provider to ensure that there are trash cans with liners in every classroom.

Correction Deadline: 3/5/2026

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

591-1-1-.26(4) requires that playgrounds be protected from traffic or other hazards by a (4) four foot high fence or other barrier approved by this Department. Fencing material shall not present a hazard to children and shall be maintained so as to prevent children from leaving the playground area by any means other than through an approved access route. Fence gates shall be kept closed except when persons are entering or exiting the area. It was determined based on the observation that the beige fence on the BL playground was leaning and needed repair. Also there were gaps on the sides and bottom of the fences that were greater than the 31/2 allowed.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will routinely check the fence to determine if it is in good repair and remains at least 4 feet high, and will repair any hazards. The Center will train Staff to identify and report any fence hazards and to keep the fence gates closed when not in use.

Correction Deadline: 5/14/2026

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.26(8) - The consultant advised the provider to refluff the resilient surfacing on the playground area anywhere there is equipment 4 feet or higher. Also it was advised that the fall zone on playground BL and BR needed expanding to meet the 14 feet in the front and back.

Correction Deadline: 3/15/2026

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 both playground AR and BR had exposed tree roots. Also there was exposed sharp edges of concrete on playground AL and BL which caused a tripping hazard and needed repair.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will ensure that the tree roots will be painted and the concrete edges are made smooth to the ground.

Correction Deadline: 4/16/2026

Health and Hygiene**591-1-1-.10 Diapering Areas & Practices(CR)****Met****Comment**

Staff stated proper procedures. Sinks with warm running water observed adjacent to proper diapering surfaces in all classrooms approved for diapering.

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

There were no children enrolled on this date. Proper hand washing of children and staff was discussed with the director on this date.

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

The consultant discussed with the provider the proper medication documentation and procedures.

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

There were no children enrolled on this date. The center's discipline policy was reviewed on this date. Regulations regarding proper discipline were discussed with the director on this date.

Comment

Center does not provide routine transportation or field trips. Consultant discussed transportation requirements if/when the facility decides to incorporate transportation. The center will contact their regional consultant and complete the required two (2) hours transportation training prior to transporting children.

Sleeping & Resting Equipment

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

Consultant observed (11) Eleven of (11) eleven cribs meeting safety compliance with Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) and American Society of Testing and Materials International (ASTM) safety standards manufactured in (2012 & 2018). Consultant discussed safe sleeping requirements with the Owner and Director during the inspection visit.

Comment

The correct number of mats, sheets and blankets were observed in seven of the nine classrooms on this date. The provider had proof of ordering additional mats and some were delivered during the visit. Cleaning and disinfecting of mats was discussed with the director on this date.

Staff Records

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

Four (4) of four (4) staff records were observed to have comprehensive satisfactory Criminal Background Check determination letters on file.

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

The consultant discussed with the provider to add triple antibiotic ointment to there first aid kit.

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

The consultant discussed with the provider that the Director must complete 4 hours of nutrition training.

Correction Deadline: 4/4/2026

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**

There were no children enrolled on this date. Proper ratios and classroom capacities were discussed with the director on this date.

591-1-1-.32 Supervision(CR)**Met****Comment**

A supervision plan was created on this date for playground BR. There was a blind spot on the side of the building. The provider presented a safety plan

Comment

There were no children enrolled on this date. Proper supervision of children, including being prompt to children's needs, was discussed with the director on this date.