



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: 5/4/2026

VisitType: Licensing Study

Arrival: 10:30 AM **Departure:** 3:00 PM

CCLC-39038

Chestnut Mountain Academy

4720 Winder Hwy Flowery Branch, GA 30542 Hall County
 (770) 967-7105

CCS Coordinator

Margarita Collier

Phone: (770) 342-7934

Fax: (678) 891-5989

margarita.collier@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.
05/04/2026	Licensing Study	Good Standing	
10/20/2025	Monitoring Visit	Good Standing	
04/20/2025	Complaint Closure	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- 1L	Four Year Olds	1	9	C	21	C	NA	NA	Transitioning,St ory,Circle Time,Lunch
Main	B- 2L	Infants and One Year Olds	2	6	C	12	C	NA	NA	Floor Play,Nap,Diaper ing,Free Play,Transitionin g,Lunch
Main	C- 3L	One Year Olds	1	6	C	11	C	NA	NA	Centers
Main	D- 4L	GA PreK	2	14	C	21	C	NA	NA	Circle Time,Centers,St ory
Main	E- 5L	GA PreK	2	16	C	24	C	NA	NA	Centers
Main	F- 3R	Two Year Olds	2	10	C	15	C	NA	NA	Art
Main	G- 2R	Four Year Olds and Five Year Olds	2	10	C	24	C	NA	NA	Art
Main	H- 1R	Three Year Olds	1	7	C	23	C	NA	NA	Circle Time,Transitioni ng
		Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 150			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0			Building @35 capacity limited by Heath Department Limitations		
Total # Children this Date: 78		Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 150			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0					

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	Playground Left	96	C
Main	Playground RT	25	C

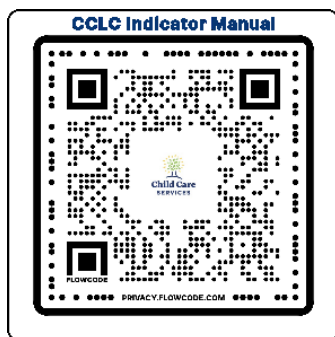
Enrolled Children						
Under 1 years	1 years	2 years	3 years	4 years	5 years (Prekonly)	5 years and older
9	8	11	11	28	28	20

Comments

Discussed the following with the Director during the visit :

- Chop, Look, and Listen Information
- Updated Child Care Learning Center Indicator Manual

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



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Summary Report

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The following information is associated with a Licensing Study:

Activities and Equipment

591-1-1-.03 Activities

Met

Comment

Age-appropriate activities observed throughout the center.

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

Met

Comment

A variety of equipment and toys were observed throughout the center on this date. Continue to monitor toys for normal wear and tear.

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

Technical Assistance

Technical Assistance

Please ensure that the parents' work address is documented in children's files as needed.

Correction Deadline: 5/4/2026

Facility

591-1-1-.06 Bathrooms

Met

Comment

Restroom and diaper changing ventilation was observed to be working during the visit. Discussed monitoring the restroom vents for normal wear and tear.

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

Comment

Please be mindful to keep items that pose a hazard inaccessible to children.

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 yellow swing chain coverings were observed to be peeling creating a potential pinching and/or scratching hazard located on the front-right side of Playground Left.

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. The Center will remove the yellow chain coverings to prevent a potential scratching and/or pinching hazard.

Correction Deadline: 5/14/2026

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 the following hazards were observed on Playground Left:

- Three ant mounds were observed on the front side of the concrete basketball court and one ant mound was observed on the back side of the concrete basketball court.
- Two black mats leading the basketball court and three black mats leading the wooden canopy sand box area were not flushed with the ground and created a potential tripping hazard.
- The wooden barrier surrounding the green and yellow swings was observed to have a broken wooden board located on the front-left side creating a potential entrapment 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. The Center will remove or ensure the black mats are flushed with the ground, treat and monitor the playgrounds for ant mounds, and repair the broken wooden board.

Correction Deadline: 5/4/2026

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

Please ensure that infant feeding forms are updated regularly.

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

Kitchen appears clean and well organized on this date.

Health and Hygiene**591-1-1-.07 Children's Health****Technical Assistance****Technical Assistance**

Discussed ensuring that infants do not have their pacifier attached to their clothing,.

Correction Deadline: 5/4/2026

591-1-1-.10 Diapering Areas & Practices(CR)**Not Met****Comment**

Proper diapering procedures observed.

Finding

591-1-1-.10(2) requires Centers first licensed after March 1, 1991, and Centers that renovate existing plumbing facilities, to have a hand washing sink with running heated water located adjacent to the diapering area. Flush sinks shall not be used for hand washing. Cleansing procedures in other facilities shall be approved by the Department. It was determined based on observation that the children's sink located in classroom H-1R located on the front-right side of the classroom adjacent to the diaper changing table.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will ensure that a hand washing sink is located adjacent to each diapering area, that flush sinks are not used for handwashing, and that the department has approved cleansing procedures in other facilities, if applicable.

Correction Deadline: 5/4/2026

Finding

591-1-1-.10(4) requires that if diapers are changed on a diaper changing surface, the surface shall be smooth, nonporous, and equipped with a guard or rails to prevent falls. Between each diaper change, the diaper changing surface shall be cleaned with a disinfectant and dried with a single-use disposable towel. It was determined based on observation that the diaper changing pads located in classrooms F-3R and B-2L contained a quilted pattern making the diaper changing pad porous. It was further determined based on observation that the diaper changing pad was placed on top of a blue chest of drawer with the straps securing the changing pad to the furniture located on the back-left side of classroom F-3R.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will ensure there is a smooth, nonporous changing surface that has a guard or rails for safety in each classroom that houses children wearing diapers. Center Staff will be trained and have adequate supplies to properly clean the diaper changing surface between each diaper change. The Center will further remove the diaper changing pad from the chest of drawer and ensure that it's placed on a changing table with railings.

Correction Deadline: 5/4/2026

Technical Assistance

Please ensure that diaper changing surfaces are smooth and nonporous. Discussed monitoring diaper changing pads for normal wear and tear.

Correction Deadline: 5/4/2026

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

Met

Comment

Proper hand washing observed throughout the center on this date.

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

Met

Comment

Please document N/A or none if no adverse reaction is observed.

Policies and Procedures

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

Met

Comment

Program observed complete emergency drills

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)

Met

Comment

Center does not participate in field trips at this time.

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

Not Met

Comment

Please ensure to replace the thermometer and insect strip preparation to vehicle tag #BKA9552.

Comment

The following vehicles were observed to have a current vehicle inspection report on file:

- Vehicle tag #PNZ9140 - Expires February 14, 2027
- Vehicle tag #BKA9452 - Expires February 13, 2027

Finding

591-1-1-.36(4)(b) requires that the interior of a transportation vehicle be clean, in safe repair and free of hazardous items, objects and/or other non-essential items which could cause injury. It was determined based on observation that the third row back seat was torn with exposed foam.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will maintain that all transportation vehicles are clean, in safe repair, and free from hazards. The Center will repair the hole to ensure that children are unable to access the foam and the springs within the seat.

Correction Deadline: 5/5/2026

Finding

591-1-1-.36(4)(f)1. requires that all transported children be secured in a child passenger restraining system or seat safety belt in accordance with current state and federal laws and regulations and according to manufacturer's directions. It was determined based on observation that the first front row seat and the second middle row seat were missing the seat belt buckle.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will ensure that manufacturer directions and state and federal laws are met when using child passenger restraining systems and seat safety belts. The Center will replace the seat belt buckles to ensure that children are able to buckle their seat belts while being transported.

Correction Deadline: 5/5/2026

Finding

591-1-1-.36(7)(a) requires that each vehicle contains current information including: the full names of all children to be transported, each child's pick-up location, pick-up time, delivery location, alternate delivery location if a Parent is not at home and name of person authorized to receive each child. In addition, the vehicle shall contain current information identifying the Center's name, telephone number and the name of the driver of the vehicle. It was determined based on review of records that the Center did not have evidence of a transportation agreement form on file for seven school-age children to receive school transportation service.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will ensure that the Center's information and the children's information is included on each vehicle.

Correction Deadline: 5/5/2026

Finding

591-1-1-.36(7)(b) requires that an emergency medical information record be maintained in the vehicle for each child being transported. The emergency medical information record for each child shall include a listing of the child's full name, date of birth, allergies, special medical needs and conditions, current prescribed medications that the child is required to take on a daily basis for a chronic condition, the name and telephone number of the child's doctor, the local medical facility that the Center uses in the area where the Center is located and the telephone numbers where the Parents can be reached. It was determined based on review of records that seven school-age children did not have evidence of an emergency medical information form on file to receive school transportation service.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will obtain a complete emergency medical information record for each child that is transported and maintain a copy on the vehicle.

Correction Deadline: 5/5/2026

Sleeping & Resting Equipment

591-1-1-.30 Safe Sleeping and Resting Requirements(CR)**Not Met****Finding**

591-1-1-.30(1)(a)2 requires that a crib mattress is firm, tight-fitting without gaps, at least 2 inches thick and covered with a waterproof, washable material. Before a change of occupant, each mattress shall be cleaned with a disinfectant. It was determined based on observation that seven cribs were observed to have gaps measuring one inch creating a potential entrapment hazard for enrolled infants present for care during the visit.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will ensure that a crib mattress is firm, tight-fitting without gaps, at least 2 inches thick. The Center will monitor the crib mattresses for normal wear and tear and replace the mattresses as needed.

Correction Deadline: 5/4/2026**Staff Records****Records Reviewed: 18****Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 1**

Staff # 14

Not Met

Date of Hire: 11/03/2025

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.14(2)-First Aid Missing,.14(2)-CPR missing

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

The Director provided three files for Staff hired since the previous visit was conducted on October 20, 2025. The Consultant observed three of three newly hired Staff to have evidence of a current satisfactory comprehensive determination letter on file.

591-1-1-.14 First Aid & CPR(CR)**Not Met****Finding**

591-1-1-.14(2)(b) requires that there must always be one staff person present in each classroom where children are present that has current and valid pediatric cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and pediatric first aid training. It was determined based on review of records that Staff #14, date of hire November 3, 2025, did not have evidence of a current first aid and CPR training card on file. Staff #14 was observed to provide care for seven 3-year-old children in classroom H-1R.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Director will schedule and/or position caregiver Staff throughout the Center to ensure at least one currently pediatric CPR and First Aid trained Staff person is present in each classroom where children are present.

Correction Deadline: 5/4/2026**591-1-1-.33 Staff Training****Met****Comment**

Complete documentation of transportation observed. on this date.

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**

Discussed naptime ratios.

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

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