



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: 7/16/2025 **VisitType:** Complaint Investigation & Monitoring Visit

Arrival: 10:45 AM **Departure:** 5:00 PM

CCLC-22108
MKS Learning Center
3385 Flat Shoals Road Decatur, GA 30034 DeKalb County
(404) 241-7280 director@mkslearningcenter.org

Regional Consultant
Jessica Johnson
Phone: (770) 357-5090
Fax:
jessica.johnson@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.
07/16/2025	Complaint Investigation & Monitoring Visit	Support	
07/08/2025	Complaint Closure	Good Standing	
06/20/2025	Complaint Investigation Follow Up	Deficient	

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	6	C	8	C	NA	NA	Centers
Main	D		0	0	C	9	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
Main	E-2yr	Two Year Olds	1	5	C	10	C	NA	NA	Centers
Main	F-2yr	Two Year Olds	1	8	C	10	C	NA	NA	Circle Time
Main	G-3yr	Five Year Olds and Six Year Olds and Over	4	28	C	30	C	41	C	Centers
Main	H-(Private Pre-K)	Four Year Olds	2	15	C	20	C	29	C	Centers
Main	I-School Age	Three Year Olds	2	15	C	20	C	28	C	Centers
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 115					Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 153					
Total # Children this Date: 77					Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 153					

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

Enrolled Children						
Under 1 years	1 years	2 years	3 years	4 years	5 years (Prekonly)	5 years and older
4	10	13	18	15	0	27

Comments

On this date, Jessica Johnson (JJ), Consultant, reviewed the visit form with Director Shae Pinkney. The complaint closure visit report was left open on this date because additional information was required. Upon completion, a copy of the report will be sent to the child care program via email.

Plan of Improvement: To Be Submitted 07/30/2025

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!



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Summary Report

Date: 7/16/2025 VisitType: Complaint Investigation & Monitoring Visit Arrival: 10:45 AM Departure: 5:00 PM

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The following information is associated with a CI/MV:

Activities and Equipment

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

Met

Comment

Please ensure adding equipment and toys to enhance variety in classroom G.

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

Met

Comment

Center does not provide swimming activities.

Facility

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

Met

Comment

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

Correction Deadline: 6/20/2025

Prior Visits: 05/07/2025

Corrected on 7/16/2025

.19(1) - The previous citation was observed corrected on this date. No hazards were observed.

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 that the following hazards were observed:

Classroom E

- One packages of diaper wipes were observed in the cubbies accessible to children in care.
- Diapering creams were observed stored in unlocked containers in the cubbies accessible to children in care.

Classroom F

- A toilet brush cleaner was observed stored in the restroom.

Correction Deadline: 7/16/2025

Prior Visits: 05/18/2022

Recited on 7/16/2025

Finding

591-1-1-.25(3) requires 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. It was determined based on observation that the back exit door in classroom G was observed to be not clean. It was further determined that the inside of the bathroom door was observed to be not clean in classroom E. It was also determined that the back exit door in classroom I was observed to be not clean.

Correction Deadline: 7/30/2025

Prior Visits: 05/18/2022

Recited on 7/16/2025

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

Not Met

Correction Deadline: 8/1/2025

Prior Visits: 08/17/2023

Corrected on 7/16/2025

.26(4) - The previous citation was observed corrected on this date as fence was observed repaired.

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.26(4) - Please ensure that the Center monitors the back fence on Playground Preschool. Please ensure that Playground Preschool is protected from traffic or other hazards by a (4) four foot high fence or other barrier approved by this Department.

Correction Deadline: 7/16/2025

Prior Visits: 08/17/2023

Defer

591-1-1-.26(6)- Evaluation of the previous citation was deferred on this date to the next regulatory visit. The playground structure was observed blocked off with caution tape.

Correction Deadline: 8/1/2025

Prior Visits: 05/18/2022

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:

Playground Toddler

- Bug spray was observed on the front window sill.
- A banana spider was observed on the large blue and red playground equipment.
- A banana spider was observed on the swings.

Playground Preschool

- Water balloons pieces were observed throughout the playground.
 - A water hose was observed on the back fence.
 - Approximately two inches of standing water was observed in a small inflatable which caused a potential drowning hazard.
- -----

Correction Deadline: 7/16/2025

Prior Visits: 09/20/2022

Health and Hygiene

591-1-1-.07 Children's Health

Met

Correction Deadline: 6/20/2025

Prior Visits: 08/01/2024

Corrected on 7/16/2025

.07(5) - The previous citation was observed corrected on this date as no infants were observed sleeping with a bib attached to their neck.

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)

Met

Comment

The Provider currently does not dispense/administer medication.

Policies and Procedures

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.21(1)(a-o) - Discussed updating the Center's Policies and Procedures to include: behavior management (suspension/expulsion policies) and information regarding shaken baby syndrome.

Correction Deadline: 7/21/2025

Safety**591-1-1-.11 Discipline(CR)****Not Met****Finding**

591-1-1-.11(2) requires that Personnel not: physically or sexually abuse a child or engage or permit others to engage in sexually overt conduct in the presence of any child enrolled in the Center; inflict corporal/physical punishment upon a child; shake, jerk, pinch or handle a child roughly; verbally abuse or humiliate a child which includes, but is not limited to, the use of threats, profanity or belittling remarks about a child or his family; isolate a child in a dark room, closet or unsupervised area; use mechanical or physical restraints or devices to discipline children; use medication to discipline or control children's behavior without written medical authorization issued by a licensed professional and given with the parent's written consent; restrict unreasonably a child from going to the bathroom; punish toileting accidents; force-feed a child or withhold feeding a child regularly scheduled meals and/or snacks; force or withhold naps; allow children to discipline or humiliate other children; or confine a child for disciplinary purposes to a swing, highchair, infant carrier, walker or jump seat. It was determined based on observation that a staff member was heard yelling and using loud voice tones towards children in classroom I-School Age.

Correction Deadline: 7/16/2025

Prior Visits: 06/20/2025

Recited on 7/16/2025

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

591-1-1-.36(4)(a)-Evaluation of the previous citation was deferred on this date to the next regulatory visit. Per the Director, the Center has not completed transportation since May 2025 and the vehicle has not been in use.

Correction Deadline: 5/12/2025

Prior Visits: 08/17/2023**Defer**

591-1-1-.36(7)(c)2.-Evaluation of the previous citation was deferred on this date to the next regulatory visit. Per the Director, the Center has not completed transportation since May 2025.

Correction Deadline: 5/7/2025

Prior Visits: 08/01/2024**Defer**

591-1-1-.36(7)(d)1.-Evaluation of the previous citation was deferred on this date to the next regulatory visit. Per the Director, the Center has not completed transportation since May 2025.

Correction Deadline: 5/8/2025

Prior Visits: 05/07/2025**Sleeping & Resting Equipment****591-1-1-.30 Safe Sleeping and Resting Requirements(CR)****Met****Comment**

Discussed SIDS and infant sleeping position.

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: 6/20/2025

Prior Visits: 06/20/2025

Corrected on 7/16/2025

.30(1)(b) - The previous citation was observed corrected on this date as no children were observed sleeping in the office space.

Correction Deadline: 6/20/2025

Prior Visits: 05/07/2025

Corrected on 7/16/2025

.30(2)(c) - The previous citation was observed corrected on this date as infants were observed sleeping in the crib.

Staff Records

Records Reviewed: 26

Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 2

Staff # 11

Not Met

Date of Hire: 06/07/2023

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.31(2)(b)2.-Staff Qualifications-Education Missing

Staff # 14

Not Met

Date of Hire: 04/17/2017

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.31(2)(b)2.-Staff Qualifications-Education Missing

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

Met

Correction Deadline: 6/20/2025

Prior Visits: 06/20/2025

Corrected on 7/16/2025

.09(1)(a) - The previous citation was observed corrected on this date as the criminal records checks were observed complete.

Correction Deadline: 6/20/2025

Prior Visits: 06/20/2025

Corrected on 7/16/2025

.09(1)(c) - The previous citation was observed corrected on this date as the criminal records checks were observed complete.

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

Met

Correction Deadline: 8/1/2025

Corrected on 7/16/2025

.14(2) - The previous citation was observed corrected on this date as Staff # 10 and 17 had the first aid and CPR certification on file. Staff # 8 was no longer employed at the program.

591-1-1-.33 Staff Training

Technical Assistance

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.33(1) - Discussed that effective July 1, 2025 all Employees, including volunteers, independent contractors, students-in-training, etc. must complete an employee orientation form.

Correction Deadline: 7/16/2025

Correction Deadline: 8/1/2025

Prior Visits: 08/01/2024

Corrected on 7/16/2025

.33(4) - The previous citation was observed corrected on this date as Staff # 22 completed the nutrition training.

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.33(5)(a) Discussed that effective July 1, 2025 each staff person is required to have two hours of language & literacy training annual. Additionally staff must obtain two hours of ongoing health & safety annually.

Correction Deadline: 8/15/2025

Defer

591-1-1-.31(2)(b)2.-Evaluation of the previous citation was deferred on this date to the next regulatory visit. The Center has a previous correction deadline of August 1, 2025.

Correction Deadline: 8/1/2025**Prior Visits: 08/01/2024****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****Correction Deadline: 6/20/2025****Prior Visits: 06/22/2022****Corrected on 7/16/2025**

.32(7) - The previous citation was observed corrected on this date as adequate supervision was observed.