



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: 8/26/2025 **VisitType:** Licensing Study

Arrival: 1:00 PM **Departure:** 3:45 PM

CCLC-55057
The Marks Academy
1125 South Hairston Rd. Stone Mountain, GA 30088 DeKalb County
(404) 296-7881 drjgriffey@gmail.com

Regional Consultant
Roslyn Williams
Phone: (770) 357-7020
Fax: (770) 357-7019
roslyn.williams@dec.al.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.
08/26/2025	Licensing Study	Good Standing	
08/21/2024	Licensing Study	Good Standing	
10/25/2023	Licensing Study	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 Building	A-R-GA Pre K	GA PreK	2	16	C	27	C	NA	NA	Transitioning
Main Building	B-BR-Two-Year-Olds	Two Year Olds	2	6	C	19	C	NA	NA	Snack,Transitioning,Nap
Main Building	C-BM-Infants/ One-Year-Olds	Infants and One Year Olds	2	5	C	12	C	NA	NA	Nap,Snack
Main Building	D-L-Private (School Age)	Three Year Olds	1	8	C	15	C	NA	NA	Nap
Main Building	E-BL-Three-Four-Year-Olds	Six Year Olds and Over	1	15	C	32	C	NA	NA	Homework
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 105			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0							
Total # Children this Date: 50			Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 105			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0				

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main Building	Main Playground	196	C

Enrolled Children						
Under 1 years	1 years	2 years	3 years	4 years	5 years (Prekonly)	5 years and older
3	7	9	10	29	0	24

Plan of Improvement: Developed This Date

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!



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

(Findings Report)

Date: 8/26/2025 **VisitType:** Licensing Study

Arrival: 1:00 PM **Departure:** 3:45 PM

CCLC-55057

The Marks Academy

1125 South Hairston Rd. Stone Mountain, GA 30088 DeKalb
County
(404) 296-7881 drjgriffey@gmail.com

Regional Consultant

Roslyn Williams

Phone: (770) 357-7020

Fax: (770) 357-7019

roslyn.williams@decal.ga.gov

Mailing Address

Same

The following information is associated with a LS:

Activities and Equipment

Records Reviewed: 15

Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 3

Staff # 4

Not Met

Date of Hire: 08/02/2021

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.36(3)(a-b)-2 hrs. Transportation Training missing

Staff # 5

Not Met

Date of Hire: 07/08/2023

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

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

Staff # 14

Not Met

Date of Hire: 08/02/2021

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.09-Criminal Records Check Missing

591-1-1-.03 Activities

Technical Assistance

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.03(1) - Please ensure that all lesson plans are dated for the current week.

Correction Deadline: 8/26/2025

Prior Visits: 10/13/2022

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

Technical Assistance

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.12(1) - Please ensure that children remain buckled in high chairs during feeding at all times.

Correction Deadline: 8/26/2025

Prior Visits: 10/25/2023

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

N/A

Comment

Center does not provide swimming activities.

Children's Records

Records Reviewed: 15

Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 3

Staff # 4 Not Met

Date of Hire: 08/02/2021

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.36(3)(a-b)-2 hrs. Transportation Training missing

Staff # 5 Not Met

Date of Hire: 07/08/2023

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

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

Staff # 14 Not Met

Date of Hire: 08/02/2021

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.09-Criminal Records Check Missing

591-1-1-.08 Children's Records

Met

Correction Deadline: 8/23/2024

Prior Visits: 10/25/2023

Corrected on 8/26/2025

.08(1) The previous citation was observed corrected on this date. The children's files were complete.

Facility

Records Reviewed: 15

Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 3

Staff # 4 Not Met

Date of Hire: 08/02/2021

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.36(3)(a-b)-2 hrs. Transportation Training missing

Staff # 5 Not Met

Date of Hire: 07/08/2023

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

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

Staff # 14 Not Met

Date of Hire: 08/02/2021

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.09-Criminal Records Check Missing

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****Correction Deadline: 8/21/2024****Prior Visits: 08/21/2024****Corrected on 8/26/2025****.25(12) - The previous citation was observed corrected on this date.****Correction Deadline: 8/21/2024****Prior Visits: 10/13/2022****Corrected on 8/26/2025****.25(13) - The previous citation was observed corrected on this date. The consultant observed that potentially hazardous items. were stored out of the reach of children.****Correction Deadline: 9/20/2024****Prior Visits: 10/13/2022****Corrected on 8/26/2025****.25(3) - The previous citation was observed corrected on this date. The consultant observed that the vent covers had been repaired.**

591-1-1-.26 Playgrounds(CR)**Not Met****Correction Deadline: 9/13/2024****Prior Visits: 11/24/2021****Corrected on 8/26/2025****.26(4) - The previous citation was observed corrected on this date. The fence had been repaired and measured four feet high.****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 three PVC pipes that surround the swings were detached and posed a potential entrapment. It was further determined that peeling paint was accessible to children on the large round silver climber.

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: 9/5/2025**Prior Visits: 11/24/2021****Recited on 8/26/2025**

Health and Hygiene

Records Reviewed: 15**Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 3**

Staff # 4

Not Met

Date of Hire: 08/02/2021

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.36(3)(a-b)-2 hrs. Transportation Training missing

Staff # 5

Not Met

Date of Hire: 07/08/2023

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

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

Staff # 14

Not Met

Date of Hire: 08/02/2021

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.09-Criminal Records Check Missing

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

Staff stated proper knowledge of diapering procedures.

Finding

591-1-1-.17(10) requires that if used potty chairs be emptied in a flush toilet after each use, cleaned with a disinfectant and stored in the bathroom. If a sink is used, the sink shall also be disinfected. It was determined based on observation that in the infant room, potty chairs were stored in the classroom instead of the bathroom as required.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will instruct staff to ensure the sanitary use of potty chairs and sinks.

Correction Deadline: 8/26/2025

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

N/A

Comment

The Provider currently does not dispense/administer medication.

Policies and Procedures

Records Reviewed: 15

Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 3

Staff # 4

Not Met

Date of Hire: 08/02/2021

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.36(3)(a-b)-2 hrs. Transportation Training missing

Staff # 5

Not Met

Date of Hire: 07/08/2023

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

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

Staff # 14

Not Met

Date of Hire: 08/02/2021

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.09-Criminal Records Check Missing

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

Technical Assistance

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.21(1)(a-o) - Discussed updating the Center's policies and procedures to include the program's practices regarding the expulsion and suspension of children enrolled for care within the description of behavior management and discipline actions used by the Center. Also discussed to ensure a description of the practices followed by the Center to prevent shaken baby syndrome and abusive head trauma in children up to five years of age that includes the following information: how to recognize, respond to, and report the signs and symptoms of shaken baby syndrome and abusive head trauma; strategies to assist staff members in understanding how to care for infants and how to cope with a crying, fussing, or distraught child; strategies to ensure staff members understand the brain development of children up to five years of age; and a list of prohibited behaviors when dealing with children.

Correction Deadline: 8/31/2025

Safety

Records Reviewed: 15

Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 3

Staff # 4

Not Met

Date of Hire: 08/02/2021

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

Records Reviewed: 15**Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 3**

.36(3)(a-b)-2 hrs. Transportation Training missing

Staff # 5

Not Met

Date of Hire: 07/08/2023

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

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

Staff # 14

Not Met

Date of Hire: 08/02/2021

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.09-Criminal Records Check Missing

591-1-1.11 Discipline(CR)**Met****Comment**

Staff were observed to maintain a positive learning environment on this date.

591-1-1.36 Transportation(CR)**Met****Comment**

Paperwork, checklist, permission forms, annual inspection form and proper check of the vehicle after transportation were discussed with the director.

Sleeping & Resting Equipment

Records Reviewed: 15**Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 3**

Staff # 4

Not Met

Date of Hire: 08/02/2021

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.36(3)(a-b)-2 hrs. Transportation Training missing

Staff # 5

Not Met

Date of Hire: 07/08/2023

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

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

Staff # 14

Not Met

Date of Hire: 08/02/2021

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.09-Criminal Records Check Missing

591-1-1.30 Safe Sleeping and Resting Requirements(CR)**Not Met**

Finding

591-1-1-.30(2) requires the Center to provide a safe sleep environment in accordance with American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) and American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) recommendations as listed in these rules for all infants. Center Staff shall place an infant to sleep on the infant's back in a crib unless the Center has been provided a physician's written statement authorizing another sleep position for that particular infant that includes how the infant shall be placed to sleep and a time frame that the instructions are to be followed. When an infant can easily turn over from back to front and back again, Staff shall continue to put the infant to sleep initially on the infant's back but allow the infant to roll over into his or her preferred position and not re-position the infant. Sleepers, sleep sacks and wearable blankets that fit according to the commercial manufacturer's guidelines and will not slide up around the infant's face may be used when necessary for the comfort of the sleeping infant. Swaddling shall not be used unless the Center has been provided a physician's written statement authorizing its use for a particular infant that includes instructions and a time frame for swaddling the infant. Center Staff shall not place objects or allow objects to be placed in or on the crib with an infant such as but not limited to toys, pillows, quilts, comforters, bumper pads, sheepskins, stuffed toys, or other soft items and shall not attach objects or allow objects to be attached to a crib with a sleeping infant, such as, but not limited to, crib gyms, toys, mirrors and mobiles. It was determined based on observation that two infants were asleep on the floor in the infant room.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will take all steps necessary to provide a safe sleep environment for infants as listed in these rules; will train Staff to follow these rules; and will monitor for compliance.

Correction Deadline: 8/26/2025

Prior Visits: 11/24/2021

Staff Records

Records Reviewed: 15

Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 3

Staff # 4

Not Met

Date of Hire: 08/02/2021

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.36(3)(a-b)-2 hrs. Transportation Training missing

Staff # 5

Not Met

Date of Hire: 07/08/2023

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

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

Staff # 14

Not Met

Date of Hire: 08/02/2021

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.09-Criminal Records Check Missing

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

Not Met

Finding

591-1-1-.09(1.)(b) requires the Center to ensure that every Director has a valid and current satisfactory Comprehensive Records Check Determination on file prior to being present at the Center while any child is present for care or before an individual age 17 or older resides in the Center. The Comprehensive Records Check Determination must have a Records Check Clearance Date that is no older than the preceding 12 months of the hire date; provided, however, if the Director has had a lapse of employment from the child care industry that lasted for 180 days (6 months) or longer, a new satisfactory Comprehensive Records Check Determination is required. It was determined based on review of records that staff person #14 did not have a current satisfactory Record Check Determination on file. A one day letter was left.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

IMMEDIATE CORRECTION - The Center will to ensure that the Director has a valid and current satisfactory Comprehensive Records Check Determination on file prior to being present at the Center while any child is present for care or before an individual age 17 or older resides in the Center. The Comprehensive Records Check Determination must have a Records Check Clearance Date that is no older than the preceding 12 months of the hire date; provided, however, if the Director has had a lapse of employment from the child care industry that lasted for 180 days (6 months) or longer, a new satisfactory Comprehensive Records Check Determination is required. The program's owner or an officer/member of the corporation must view the A to Z Background Check video units pertaining to this records check rule and return the signed affidavit within one week from this visit date. The center will to ensure the CRC rules are maintained.

Correction Deadline: 8/26/2025

Finding

591-1-1-.09(1)(l)3. requires the Center to immediately require a new Comprehensive Records Check Determination for a Director, Employee or Provisional Employee at least once every five years. It was determined based on review of records that staff person #14 did not have a new Records Check Determination on file. A one day letter was left.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

IMMEDIATE CORRECTION - The Center will to ensure that each Director, Employee and Provisional Employee has a Comprehensive Records Check Determination on file that has been issued within the past five years. The program's owner or an officer/member of the corporation must view the A to Z Background Check video units pertaining to this records check rule and return the signed affidavit within one week from this visit date. The Center will to ensure CRC rules are maintained.

Correction Deadline: 8/26/2025

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

591-1-1-.14(1)(a) -Discussed that effective July 1, 2025, new staff are required to obtain pediatric First Aid and pediatric CPR training within 45 days of employment. It was further discussed that programs must have at least one person with current pediatric First Aid and pediatric CPR training in each classroom at all times.

Correction Deadline: 9/25/2025

591-1-1-.24 Personnel Records**Technical Assistance****Technical Assistance**

591-1-1-.24(1) - Discussed that all Employees, including volunteers, independent contractors, students-in-training, etc. should have a completed initial program orientation form on file.

Correction Deadline: 8/31/2025

591-1-1-.33 Staff Training**Technical Assistance****Technical Assistance**

591-1-1-.33(5)(a) - Discussed that effective July 1, 2025, all staff are required to obtain at least two hours in evidence based, developmentally appropriate language and literacy practices and at least two hours in on-going child development and health and safety related topics as part of their 10 hours of annual training.

Correction Deadline: 9/25/2025

591-1-1-.31 Staff(CR)**Met****Comment**

Staff observed to be compliant with applicable laws and regulations.

Staffing and Supervision

Records Reviewed: 15**Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 3**

Staff # 4

Not Met

Date of Hire: 08/02/2021

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.36(3)(a-b)-2 hrs. Transportation Training missing

Staff # 5

Not Met

Date of Hire: 07/08/2023"Missing/Incomplete Components"

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

Staff # 14

Not Met

Date of Hire: 08/02/2021

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.09-Criminal Records Check Missing

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)**Not Met****Finding**

591-1-1-.32(7) requires that children be supervised at all times appropriate to the individual age, needs and capabilities of each child. Such supervision must include, but not be limited to, indoor and outdoor activities, mealtimes, naptime, transportation, field trips, and transitions between activities. "Supervision" means that the appropriate number of Staff members are physically present in the area where children are being cared for and are providing watchful oversight to the children, volunteers and Students-in-Training. The persons supervising in the child care area must be alert, positioned to maximize their ability to hear and see the children at all times, and able to respond promptly to the needs and actions of the children being supervised, as well as the actions of the volunteers and Students-in-Training, and provide timely attention to the children's actions and needs. Staff shall be attentive and participating with all children during mealtimes and shall be seated within an arm's length away from children thirty-six (36) months of age and younger. It was determined based on observation that staff was not seated with 2-year-old children during snack time.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will train Staff and monitor to ensure they are providing supervision and watchful oversight to the children at all times.

Correction Deadline: 8/26/2025