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: 9/17/2026 **VisitType:** Licensing Study **Arrival:** 9:00 AM **Departure:** 3:15 PM

CCLC-67962
St. Mary's Early Learning Academy
200 Krayons Ct Saint Marys, GA 31558 Camden County
(912) 576-4769

Regional Consultant
Jerica Davis
Phone: (404) 991-0281
Fax:
jerica.davis@decal.ga.gov

Mailing Address
Same

Quality Rated: No

Compliance Zone Designation		
09/17/2026	Licensing Study	Good Standing
06/23/2026	Monitoring Visit	Good Standing
03/05/2026	Initial Licensing Study	Good Standing

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.

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	Infants	2	7	C	11	C	NA	NA	Nap,Floor Play
Main	1R-6 month-12 month	Infants	2	7	C	11	C	NA	NA	Nap,Feeding,Floor Play
Main	2L-12month-24 month	One Year Olds	3	15	C	19	C	NA	NA	Diapering,Circle Time,Outside
Main	2R-Two year old	One Year Olds	3	10	C	23	C	NA	NA	Field Trip,Feeding
Main	3L-Two Year Old	GA PreK	2	15	C	23	C	NA	NA	Centers,Circle Time
Main	3R-Three Year Old Room	Two Year Olds	2	11	C	17	C	NA	NA	Diapering,Centers
Main	4L-Three Year old	Two Year Olds	2	12	C	16	C	NA	NA	Centers
Main	5L-Four-Twelve Year old	Three Year Olds	1	12	C	23	C	NA	NA	Circle Time,Story,Breakfast
Main	6L-Four-Twelve Year Olds	Three Year Olds	2	312	C	21	NC	NA	NA	Outside,Centers,Circle Time
		Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 164				Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0				
Total # Children this Date: 401		Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 164				Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0				

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	AL- Playground A	50	C
Main	AR-Playground C	19	C

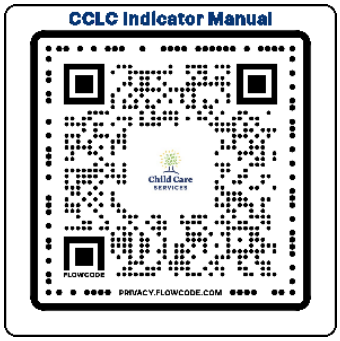
Main	BL-Playground B	33	C
Main	BR-Playground D	64	C

Enrolled Children

Infant (0-12 months)	Toddler (1-2 yrs)	Preschool (3-5yrs/full time care)	School Age (before/after care only)	GA PreK only	Summer Only
16	57	30	0	16	0

Comments
The visit report was reviewed with the Director on this date.

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.



For additional information regarding the full compliance inspection results of this program or any licensed program in the state, access the Child Care Services Compliance-at-a Glance website by scanning this QR code or visiting: https://families.decal.ga.gov.

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

Summary Report

Date: 9/17/2026 **VisitType:** Licensing Study **Arrival:** 9:00 AM **Departure:** 3:15 PM

CCLC-67962
St. Mary's Early Learning Academy
200 Krayons Ct Saint Marys, GA 31558 Camden County
(912) 576-4769

Regional Consultant
Jerica Davis
Phone: (404) 991-0281
Fax:
jerica.davis@decal.ga.gov

Mailing Address
Same

The following information is associated with a Licensing Study:

Activities and Equipment

591-1-1-.12 Equipment & Toys(CR) **Technical Assistance**

Comment
A variety of equipment and toys were observed throughout the center on this date.

Technical Assistance
Please ensure that all equipment and furniture are secured if it is of a weight or mass that could cause injury from tipping, falling, or being pulled or pushed over. Please ensure child chairs are not stored on table tops when children are present.

Correction Deadline: 9/17/2026

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 **Met**

Comment
Records were observed to be complete and well organized.

Facility

591-1-1-.06 Bathrooms **Met**

Comment
Bathrooms observed to be clean and well maintained.

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) **Technical Assistance**

Technical Assistance
Please ensure all electrical cords are secured and out of reach of children.

Correction Deadline: 9/17/2026

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

Comment
Discussed maintenance of resilient surface. Please fluff and redistribute the resilient surfacing under the swings.

Food Service

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

Comment
Center menu meets USDA guidelines.

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

Comment
Kitchen appears clean and well organized on this date.

Health and Hygiene

591-1-1-.10 Diapering Areas & Practices(CR) **Technical Assistance**

Technical Assistance
Please ensure 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. Please ensure all changing pads are smooth and nonporous. Fabric and quilted changing pads are not permitted.

Correction Deadline: 9/17/2026

591-1-1-.17 Hygiene(CR) **Not Met**

Finding
591-1-1-17(7) requires that children wash their hands with liquid soap and warm running water upon arrival for care, when moving from one child care group to another, upon re-entering the child care area after outside play, before and after eating meals and snacks, handling or touching food, playing in water; after toileting and diapering, playing in sand, touching animals or pets, and contact with bodily fluids and after contamination by any other means. It was determined based on observation that a staff member in classroom 2R changed two 1-year-old children's diapers and wiped their hands with a wet wipe after changing and did not wash the two child's hands with liquid soap and warm running water as required.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
The Center will train Staff on required handwashing for children and Staff will ensure children's hands are washed when required. The Director will monitor for compliance.

Correction Deadline: 9/17/2026

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

Comment
Discussed proper medication documentation and procedures. Discussed how to complete the medication authorization form and what information is needed for medications that are give on an "as-needed" basis.

Safety

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
Center does not provide routine transportation.

Sleeping & Resting Equipment

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

Technical Assistance
Please ensure that a crib that is safety approved in compliance with Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) and American Society of Testing and Materials International (ASTM) safety standards be provided for each infant. An infant is defined as all children under 12 months and all children under 18 months who are not walking. Pack-n-play cribs are not permitted for use in Child Care Learning Centers.

Correction Deadline: 9/27/2026

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 in classroom 1L 6 weeks- 6 months, there were two sleep sacks observed in cribs that had sleeves and one sleep sack that was made of a thick material that was in use that posed a potential safe-sleep hazard. Additionally, in classroom 1R, there was one sleep sack that was made of a thick material that posed a potential safe-sleep hazard.

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: 9/17/2026

Staff Records

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

Comment
Criminal record checks were observed to be complete.

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

Correction Deadline: 7/14/2026

Corrected on 9/17/2026
.14(2)(b) - This citation was observed corrected on this date. There was at least one staff member who was certified in CPR and First Aid present in each classroom on this date.

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

Technical Assistance
Please ensure the center maintains a personnel file on the Director, all Employees, Provisional Employees, Personnel, Staff, Students-in-Training, Volunteers, Clerical, Housekeeping, Maintenance, and other Support Staff for the duration of the term of employment plus one calendar year, and it shall contain the following: identifying information to include: name, date of birth, social security number, current address and current telephone number; employment history; as applicable to the position held: evidence of education and qualifying work experience; evidence of all training required by these rules which shall include: title of training, date of training, trainer's signature, location of training and number of clock hours obtained; a statement completed by the staff member that the information provided is true and accurate; any other records required by these rules; and as applicable to the position held, evidence of required orientation including date and signature of person providing the orientation. Please ensure all new staff have a completed application and completed orientation form prior to being assigned to children.

Correction Deadline: 9/22/2026

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
Center observed to maintain appropriate staff:child ratios.

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

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