



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: 5/18/2026 VisitType: Licensing Study

Arrival: 9:40 AM Departure: 3:00 PM

CCLC-22108

MKS Learning Center

3385 Flat Shoals Road Decatur, GA 30034 DeKalb County
(404) 241-7280

Regional Consultant

Jessica Johnson

Phone: ()

Fax: Jessica Johnson

jessica.johnson@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.
05/18/2026	Licensing Study	Good Standing	
05/13/2026	TA Follow Up	NA	
05/07/2026	Incident Investigation Closure	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	One Year Olds	1	6	C	8	C	NA	NA	Outside, Transitioning
Main	C		0	0	C	8	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
Main	D		0	0	C	9	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
Main	E-2yr	Two Year Olds	1	3	C	10	C	NA	NA	Centers
Main	F-2yr	Two Year Olds	1	9	C	10	C	NA	NA	Outside
Main	G-3yr	Four Year Olds	1	9	NC	30	C	41	C	Transitioning
Main	H-(Private Pre-K)	Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds and Five Year Olds	1	11	C	20	C	29	C	Centers
Main	Infant A	Infants and One Year Olds	2	6	C	10	C	NA	NA	Floor Play, Free Play
Main	I-School Age	Three Year Olds	1	16	NC	20	C	28	C	Story
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 125					Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 153					
Total # Children this Date: 60					Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 153					

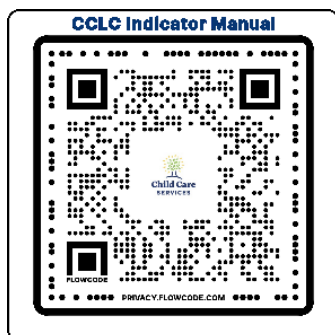
Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	Preschool	49	C
Main	Toddler	25	C

Enrolled Children						
Under 1 years	1 years	2 years	3 years	4 years	5 years (Prekonly)	5 years and older
5	8	15	17	9	0	37

Comments

On this date, Jessica Johnson (JJ), Consultant, reviewed the visit report with Director Shae Pinkney. A joint visit was conducted with Consultant LaTanya Swift.

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

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

Technical Assistance

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.03(2) - Please ensure that current lesson plans are posted in the classrooms.

Correction Deadline: 5/18/2026

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

Technical Assistance

Comment

Discussed adding equipment and toys to enhance variety in classroom G-3yr.

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.12(4) - Please ensure to remove the rust from the leg chairs throughout the building.

Correction Deadline: 5/18/2026

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.12(8) - Please ensure the toys for children under three years of age to be age-appropriate; non- toxic and lead-free; too large to be swallowed by a child and not capable of causing asphyxiation or strangulation; free of sharp pieces, edges or points; free of small parts which may be pried off by a child, free of rust; and easily cleaned with a disinfectant daily.

Correction Deadline: 5/18/2026

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

N/A

Comment

Center does not provide swimming activities.

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.

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.25(17) -Please ensure that the Center premises are free of plants and shrubs which are poisonous or hazardous.

Correction Deadline: 5/18/2026

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.25(3) - Please ensure tightening the toilet seat in the second restroom in classroom G-3yr and repairing the chipping paint on the cabinet above the sink.

Correction Deadline: 5/18/2026

591-1-1-.26 Playgrounds(CR)**Technical Assistance****Comment**

Discussed maintenance of resilient surface. Please fluff and redistribute.

Correction Deadline: 4/28/2026

Corrected on 5/18/2026

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

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.26(6) - Discussed replacing the rusted swing chains on Playground Preschool.

Correction Deadline: 5/28/2026

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.26(6) - Please ensure adding barriers to equipment to make it inaccessible to children in care.

Correction Deadline: 5/28/2026

Food Service**591-1-1-.15 Food Service & Nutrition****Technical Assistance****Comment**

CACFP Meal Pattern Requirements effective October 1, 2017 will be implemented October 1, 2018: 3

Components for breakfast: Grains, Vegetables, Fruits or both, Milk

5 Components for lunch – Grains, Meat/Meat alternates, Fruits, Vegetable, and Milk OR Grains, Meat/Meat alternates, 2 different types of vegetables, and Milk

2 of 5 Components for snack

Provided Updated CACFP Infant Meal pattern and Child/Adult Meal pattern flyers.

The Crediting Handbook for the CACFP can be located on DECAL and USDA's website:

DECAL

<http://decalfga.gov/CACFP/Handbook.aspx>

USDA

<http://www.fns.usda.gov/cacfp/cacfp-handbooks>

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.15(3) - Please ensure that the refrigerator in classroom Infant A has a temperature of forty (40) degrees Fahrenheit or less.

Correction Deadline: 5/18/2026

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

591-1-1-.07(5) requires Center Staff to not permit children to wear around their necks or attach to their clothing pacifiers or other hazardous items. It was determined based on observation that a 1-year-old child in classroom B-1yr was observed with a pearl necklace around their neck on this date.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will instruct Staff regarding this safety requirement.

Correction Deadline: 5/18/2026

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

Proper diapering procedures observed.

Finding

591-1-1-.10(5) requires that Center Staff shall not leave infants or children unattended while being diapered or having their clothes changed on the diaper changing surface. It was determined based on observation that a staff person in classroom B-1yr did not keep one hand on a 1-year-old while on the diapering table. The person was observed to turn around and reach for a pair of gloves.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will ensure Staff are trained, procedures are reviewed periodically and diaper changing is monitored periodically.

Correction Deadline: 5/18/2026

591-1-1-.17 Hygiene(CR)**Technical Assistance****Comment**

Proper hand washing observed throughout the center on this date.

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.17(2) - Please ensure to wipe children's noses in classroom B-1yr.

Correction Deadline: 5/18/2026

591-1-1-.20 Medications(CR)**N/A****Comment**

The Provider currently does not dispense/administer medication.

Policies and Procedures

591-1-1-.21 Operational Policies & Procedures**Technical Assistance****Technical Assistance**

591-1-1-.21(3) - Please ensure that the Center conduct drills for fire, tornado and other emergency situations. The fire drills will be conducted monthly and tornado and other emergency situation drills will be conducted every six months.

Correction Deadline: 5/23/2026

Comment

Program observed complete emergency preparedness plan.

Safety

591-1-1-.05 Animals**Met****Comment**

Center does not keep animals on premises.

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

Age-appropriate discussion and/or redirection observed.

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**

The vehicle had an approved fire extinguisher and first aid kit on this date.

Finding

591-1-1-.36(3)(a-b) requires any Center that provides any type of transportation to obtain two (2) hours of state-approved or state-accepted transportation training, biannually, for the Director and for each person responsible for or who participates in the transportation of children. The training shall include, but is not limited to, a review of the transportation rules, a review of approved transportation forms and procedures, and instruction on the usage and completion of the forms and procedures. This training may be counted as part of the annual training requirements for Staff. It was determined based on a review of records that Staff #16 hired on July 8, 2020, did not have the required 2-hour state-approved transportation training on file prior to the visit.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will ensure that the Director, Center Staff, and any person responsible for the transportation of children has completed the required transportation training.

Correction Deadline: 5/18/2026

Recited on 5/18/2026

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.36(4)(b) - Please ensure to remove the litter from both vehicles in use.

Correction Deadline: 5/19/2026

Correction Deadline: 4/15/2026

Corrected on 5/18/2026

.36(4)(f)1. - The previous citation was observed corrected on this date as 10 children were observed on the vehicle.

Correction Deadline: 4/15/2026

Corrected on 5/18/2026

.36(4)(f)2. - The previous citation was observed corrected on this date as 10 children were observed on the vehicle.

Correction Deadline: 4/14/2026

Corrected on 5/18/2026

.36(7)(c)2. - The previous citation was observed corrected on this date as the transportation logs were observed complete.

Sleeping & Resting Equipment

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

Technical Assistance

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.

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.30(1)(a)3 - Please ensure that each crib have a tight-fitting sheet.

Correction Deadline: 5/18/2026

Staff Records

Records Reviewed: 19

Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 5

Staff # 6

Not Met

Date of Hire: 05/26/2023

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training

Staff # 9

Not Met

Date of Hire: 08/13/2024

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training,.31(2)(b)2.-Staff Qualifications-Education Missing

Staff # 12

Not Met

Date of Hire: 04/17/2017

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

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

Staff # 16

Not Met

Date of Hire: 07/08/2020

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

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

Staff # 19

Not Met

Date of Hire: 06/09/2025

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training,.31(2)(b)2.-Staff Qualifications-Education Missing

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

Comment

At least one staff person with current and valid pediatric first aid and pediatric CPR observed in each classroom where children were present.

Comment

Complete first aid kits observed in center and on vehicles on this date.

591-1-1-.33 Staff Training

Not Met

Finding

591-1-1-.33(5)(a) requires that every calendar year after the first year of employment, all supervisory and caregiver Personnel, except independent contractors, Students-in-Training and volunteers, shall attend ten (10) clock hours of diverse training which is offered by an accredited college, university or vocational program or other Department-approved source. It was determined based on a review of records that Staff # 6 hired on May 26, 2023, Staff # 9 hired on August 13, 2024, Staff # 19 hired on June 9, 2025, did not complete the 10 clock hours of diverse training for the 2025 calendar year.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will plan and schedule the required 10 hours of annual training each year and follow up to ensure the training is completed.

Correction Deadline: 12/31/2026

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.33(5)(b)1. - Please ensure that Staff complete at least 2 hours in evidence based, developmentally appropriate language and literacy practices yearly.

Correction Deadline: 6/17/2026

Comment

Complete documentation of transportation observed. on this date.

591-1-1-.31 Staff(CR)

Not Met

Correction Deadline: 4/14/2026

Corrected on 5/18/2026

.31(13) - The previous citation was observed corrected on this date as the vehicle tag was observed replaced and current.

Finding

591-1-1-.31(2)(b)2. requires teachers and lead caregivers to meet minimum academic requirements and qualifying experience at the time of employment. It was determined based on a review of records that Staff # 9 hired on August 13, 2024, Staff # 12 hired on April 17, 2017, and Staff # 19 hired on June 9, 2025, did not have the lead caregivers academic requirements as of this date.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

A teacher/lead caregiver will be hired that meets the minimum academic requirements and qualifying work experience.

Correction Deadline: 6/18/2026

Staffing and Supervision

591-1-1-.32 Staff:Child Ratios and Group Size(CR)

Not Met

Finding

591-1-1-.32(1) requires the Center to maintain the required Staff:child ratios as follows: under 1 year or under 18 months if not walking = 1:6; 1 year and walking = 1:8; 2 years = 1:10; 3 years = 1:15; 4 years = 1:18; 5 years = 1:20;and 6 years and older = 1:25. A Center must establish groupings of children for care with maximum group sizes as follows: under 1 year = 12; under 18 months/not walking = 12; 1 year and walking = 16; 2 years = 20; 3 years = 30; 4 years = 36; 5 years = 40; and 6 years and older = 50. It was determined based on observation that a Staff:child ratio of 1:16 was observed in classroom I-School Age. A second staff person was needed to meet the minimum ratio of 2:16 for 3-year-old children.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will hire additional Staff or reschedule current Staff to meet required Staff:child ratios and will organize children into groups that meet requirements.

Correction Deadline: 5/18/2026

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

Met

Comment

Adequate supervision observed on this date.

Correction Deadline: 5/5/2026

Corrected on 5/18/2026

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