



**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:** 10/28/2024 **VisitType:** Incident Investigation/Monitoring Visit

**Arrival:** 8:20 AM **Departure:** 1:00 PM

**CCLC-50130**

**The Mills Academy**

2545 Jolly Road College Park, GA 30349 Fulton County  
(404) 768-1530 themillsacademy18@gmail.com

Regional Consultant

Shameka Dozier

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**Mailing Address**

Same

**Quality Rated:** ★ ★

| Compliance Zone Designation |                                         |               | <b>Compliance Zone Designation</b> - 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.<br><br><b>Good Standing</b> - Program is demonstrating an acceptable level of performance in meeting the rules.<br><b>Support</b> - Program performance is demonstrating a need for improvement in meeting rules.<br><b>Deficient</b> - Program is not demonstrating an acceptable level of performance in meeting the rules. |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------------|---------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 10/28/2024                  | Incident Investigation/Monitoring Visit | Good Standing |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| 09/09/2024                  | Licensing Study                         | Deficient     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| 03/12/2024                  | TA Follow Up                            | NA            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |

**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-Infants & 1's       | One Year Olds                                        | 1                             | 8        | C    | 17         | C            | NA         | NA           | Free Play   |
| Main                            | B-2L- 2's                | Infants                                              | 2                             | 8        | C    | 19         | C            | NA         | NA           | Floor Play  |
| Main                            | C-3L Back- 3's &4's      |                                                      | 0                             | 0        | C    | 37         | C            | 52         | C            |             |
| Main                            | D-3R Back-3's, 4's & ASP |                                                      | 0                             | 0        | C    | 35         | C            | 49         | C            |             |
| Main                            | E- 2R-2's                | Two Year Olds                                        | 1                             | 10       | C    | 22         | C            | NA         | NA           | Circle Time |
| Main                            | F -1R-Cafeteria          | Two Year Olds and Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds | 2                             | 25       | NC   | 0          | NC           | NA         | NA           |             |
| Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 130 |                          |                                                      | Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0 |          |      |            |              |            |              |             |
| Total # Children this Date: 51  |                          |                                                      | Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0 |          |      |            |              |            |              |             |

| Building | Playground | Playground Occupancy | Playground Compliance |
|----------|------------|----------------------|-----------------------|
| Main     | Large      | 66                   | C                     |
| Main     | Small      | 12                   | C                     |

| Enrolled Children |         |         |         |         |                    |                   |
|-------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|--------------------|-------------------|
| Under 1 years     | 1 years | 2 years | 3 years | 4 years | 5 years (Prekonly) | 5 years and older |
| 11                | 14      | 18      | 15      | 15      | 0                  | 13                |

## Comments

The purpose of this visit was to conduct a monitoring visit and to follow up from previous visit.

Plan of Improvement: Developed This Date 10/28/2024

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.state.ga.us/CCS/RuleAndRegulations.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](http://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.state.ga.us](mailto:qualityrated@dec.state.ga.us) for more information. Free technical assistance is available!**



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**(Findings Report)**

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The following information is associated with a Monitoring Visit:

**Activities and Equipment**

**591-1-1-.03 Activities**

**Met**

**Correction Deadline: 9/9/2024**

**Corrected on 10/28/2024**

.03(2) - Previous citation of classrooms not having current week's lesson plans posted was observed to be corrected on this date.

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

**Met**

**Comment**

A variety of equipment and toys were observed throughout the center.

**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**

Please monitor bathrooms for necessary supplies.

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

**Not Met**

**Finding**

591-1-1-.19(1) requires a Center to provide 35 square feet of usable space per child, which will determine the Center's License capacity. It was determined based on observation that the cafeteria has a capacity of fourteen and housed a total of twenty-seven children.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

The Center will limit the number of children in this space to the licensed capacity.

**Correction Deadline: 10/28/2024**

**591-1-1-.25 Physical Plant - Safe Environment(CR)**

**Not Met**

**Correction Deadline: 9/9/2024**

Corrected on 10/28/2024

.25(13) - Previous citation of classrooms D-3R, E-2R, and C-3L having hazardous items and equipment that were accessible to children was observed to be corrected on this date. Consultant also observed the back door storage closet in classroom C-2L locked.

**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 in classroom C-3L, the ceiling tile over the circle time carpet was hanging low with the insulation exposed. The tiles located in the back left corner of the classroom were pushed inward exposing a gap between the tiles as well as other tiles that were hanging low. The pink bathroom on the right side of classroom D-3R had low hanging ceiling tiles on the front right side of the classroom over the library area.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

The Center will have the Center and surrounding areas cleaned, make repairs where needed, and remove all debris is removed. The Center will implement a plan to keep areas clean and in good repair that includes regular monitoring.

**Correction Deadline: 11/4/2024**

Recited on 10/28/2024

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

**Met**

**Correction Deadline: 9/9/2024**

Corrected on 10/28/2024

.26(4) - Previous citation of the back right gate being left open was observed to be corrected on this date.

**Correction Deadline: 9/9/2024**

Corrected on 10/28/2024

.26(9) - Previous citation of trash and other hazardous equipment on the large playground that were accessible was observed to be corrected on this date. Consultant discussed with the director to ensure that the playgrounds are checked daily.

**Food Service**

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

**Met**

**Correction Deadline: 9/9/2024**

Corrected on 10/28/2024

.15(2)(a) - Previous citation of a bottle being propped up with a blanket while an infant was feeding in classroom B-2L was observed to be corrected on this date.

**Correction Deadline: 9/9/2024**

Corrected on 10/28/2024

.15(3) - Previous citation of frozen breast milk in the freezer dated for August 30th with no name in classroom A-1L, classroom B-2L having two cans of Similac and one can of Enfamil formula with children's name labeled on it was observed to be corrected on this date. Per the staff statements, bottles are no longer being prepared by the staff.

**Correction Deadline: 10/4/2024**

Corrected on 10/28/2024

.15(4) - Previous citation of six infant chairs with missing straps in classroom B-2L was observed to be corrected on this date.

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

**Met**

**Comment**

Kitchen appears clean and well organized.

**Health and Hygiene**

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

**Comment**

Proper diapering procedures observed.

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

**Correction Deadline: 9/9/2024**

**Corrected on 10/28/2024**

.17(8) - Previous citation of staff not washing their hands after diapering in classroom A-1L was observed to be corrected on this date as consultant observed staff to wash hands after diapering.

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

**Comment**

The Provider currently does not dispense/administer medication.

|  |               |
|--|---------------|
|  | <b>Safety</b> |
|--|---------------|

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|                     |     |
|---------------------|-----|
| 591-1-1-.05 Animals | Met |
|---------------------|-----|

**Comment**

Animals maintained clean and appropriately caged.

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|----------------------------|-----|
| 591-1-1-.11 Discipline(CR) | Met |
|----------------------------|-----|

**Comment**

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

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|-----------------------------|-----|
| 591-1-1-.13 Field Trips(CR) | N/A |
|-----------------------------|-----|

**Comment**

Center does not participate in field trips at this time.

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|                                |     |
|--------------------------------|-----|
| 591-1-1-.36 Transportation(CR) | N/A |
|--------------------------------|-----|

**Comment**

Center does not provide routine transportation.

|  |                                         |
|--|-----------------------------------------|
|  | <b>Sleeping &amp; Resting Equipment</b> |
|--|-----------------------------------------|

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

**Correction Deadline: 9/9/2024**

**Corrected on 10/28/2024**

.30(1)(a)3 - Previous citation of classroom B-2L having three cribs that did not have tight fitting sheets with an infant sleeping in one crib was observed to be corrected on this date as consultant observed tight fitting crib sheets.

**Correction Deadline: 9/9/2024**

**Corrected on 10/28/2024**

.30(1)(d) - Previous citation of six of eight cribs in classroom B-2L not having a minimum spacing of twelve inches between them was observed to be corrected on this date as consultant observed all cribs to have correct spacing.

**Correction Deadline: 9/9/2024**

**Corrected on 10/28/2024**

.30(2) - Previous citation of an infant sleeping on their stomach on top of a red pillow under with a blanket covering them in classroom B-2L was observed to be corrected on this date. Staff stated proper knowledge of safe infant sleeping.

|  |                      |
|--|----------------------|
|  | <b>Staff Records</b> |
|--|----------------------|

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

Correction Deadline: 9/9/2024

Corrected on 10/28/2024

.09(1)(a) - Previous citation of staff being present at the facility while children were present without submitting both a Records Check Application to the Department and Fingerprints to an authorized fingerprinting site was observed to be corrected on this date.

Correction Deadline: 9/9/2024

Corrected on 10/28/2024

.09(1)(c) - Previous citation of staff staff being present at the facility without a valid and current satisfactory Comprehensive Records Check Determination on file prior to being present was observed to be corrected on this date.

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|----------------------------------------|-----|
| 591-1-1-.09 Criminal Records Check(CR) | Met |
|----------------------------------------|-----|

**Comment**

Criminal records checks were observed to be complete.

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|-----------------------------|-----|
| 591-1-1-.14 First Aid & CPR | Met |
|-----------------------------|-----|

Correction Deadline: 10/18/2024

Corrected on 10/28/2024

.14(1) - Previous citation of the facility not having at least fifty percent (50%) of the caregiver Staff to successfully complete a biennial training program in cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and a triennial training program in first aid was observed to be corrected as consultant observed fifty percent (50%) of staff to successfully complete biennial training.

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|-------------------------------|-----|
| 591-1-1-.24 Personnel Records | Met |
|-------------------------------|-----|

Correction Deadline: 9/13/2024

Corrected on 10/28/2024

.24(1) - Previous citation of staff not having a full personnel file completed was observed to be corrected as consultant observed completed files for staff.

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|----------------------------|-----|
| 591-1-1-.33 Staff Training | Met |
|----------------------------|-----|

**Comment**

Documentation observed of required staff training.

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|-----------------------|---------|
| 591-1-1-.31 Staff(CR) | Not Met |
|-----------------------|---------|

**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 review of records that staff #2, #4, and #8 who are listed as lead teachers did not meet minimum academic requirements. Consultant observed professional learning plans in staff files that were not filled out completely. as there was no name of a state approved trainer or a College/ University.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

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

Correction Deadline: 11/8/2024

Recited on 10/28/2024

|                          |
|--------------------------|
| Staffing and Supervision |
|--------------------------|

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|                                                   |         |
|---------------------------------------------------|---------|
| 591-1-1-.32 Staff:Child Ratios and Group Size(CR) | Not Met |
|---------------------------------------------------|---------|

Correction Deadline: 9/9/2024

**Corrected on 10/28/2024**

**.32(1) - Previous citation of classroom A-1L having one teacher to ten one year olds and classroom B-2L having one teacher to nine infants was observed to be corrected on this date.**

**Finding**

591-1-1-.32(4) requires that children under three years old be housed in separate physical areas from older children and cannot be mixed with older children except at specified times and circumstances. It was determined based on observation that the cafeteria housed ( four) two-year-old children with twenty-one children that were three and four-years-old.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

The Center will maintain separation of these children under three years old.

**Correction Deadline: 10/28/2024**

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

**Met**

**Comment**

Discussed combining children of mixed ages.