



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: 8/17/2023 **VisitType:** Licensing Study **Arrival:** 9:45 AM **Departure:** 2:00 PM

CCLC-22108

MKS Learning Center

3385 Flat Shoals Road Decatur, GA 30034 DeKalb County
 (404) 241-7280 infomkslearningcenter@gmail.com

Regional Consultant

Cassandra Jakes-Beasley

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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.
08/17/2023	Licensing Study	Good Standing	
05/19/2023	Complaint Closure	Good Standing	
04/13/2023	Complaint Investigation Follow Up	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	B-1yr	One Year Olds	2	4	C	8	C	NA	NA	Floor Play,Outside
Main	C	One Year Olds	2	4	C	8	C	NA	NA	Outside,Floor Play
Main	D	One Year Olds	2	7	C	9	C	NA	NA	Floor Play,Outside
Main	E-2yr	Three Year Olds	2	9	C	10	C	NA	NA	Outside,Floor Play
Main	F-2yr	Three Year Olds	2	8	C	10	C	NA	NA	Outside,Floor Play
Main	G-3yr		0	0	C	30	C	41	C	Not In Use
Main	H-(Private Pre-K)	Four Year Olds	2	9	C	20	C	29	C	Transitioning
Main	Infant A	Infants	2	8	C	10	C	NA	NA	Nap,Floor Play
Main	I-School Age		0	0	C	20	C	28	C	Not In Use
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 125					Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 153					
Total # Children this Date: 49			Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 125			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 153				

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

Comments

The purpose of the visit was to conduct the Licensing Study. Criminal records and children files were reviewed.

Plan of Improvement: Developed This Date 08/17/2023

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.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.ga.gov for more information. Free technical assistance is available!

Estella Freeman, Program Official

Date

Cassandra Jakes-Beasley, Regional Consultant

Date



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(Findings Report)

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The following information is associated with a Licensing Study:

Activities and Equipment

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)

Met

Comment

Center does not provide swimming activities.

Children's Records

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

Not Met

Correction Deadline: 4/27/2023

Corrected on 8/17/2023

.08(1) -The previous citation corrected. All children files were updated to include the name and telephone number of the child's primary source of health care and included the parents work address, and or telephone number.

Finding

591-1-1-.08(2) requires Center Staff to maintain a file for each child that includes evidence of age-appropriate immunizations or a signed affidavit against such immunizations for each child enrolled in the center on a form approved by the Department, and to allow no child to continue enrollment in the Center for more than thirty (30) days without such evidence. It was determined based on a review four of five children records lacked immunization records.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

Center staff will have and use a plan to track immunization forms for all enrolled children and to ensure the form or affidavit are obtained from the parent or guardian within 30 days of enrollment. Parents will be informed their child cannot remain enrolled in the center without this documentation.

Correction Deadline: 8/27/2023

Finding

591-1-1-.08(6) requires the Center to maintain records of a child's daily arrival and departure for the twelve (12) preceding months that the Parent or person(s) authorized by the Parent documents, in written or electronic format, each time the Parent or authorized person drops off and picks up the child. The documentation shall include at least the date, the child's name, the arrival and departure times, and the signature or initials of the Parent or authorized person at the time of arrival and departure. These records shall be made available to the Department in printed or written form upon request. It was determined based on review and statement the center did not have documentation of arrival and departure records of each child in a written or electronic format documented by the parent or persons authorized by the parent.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will maintain arrival and departure records as required, will ensure the documentation includes all of the required information, and will provide the records to the Department when requested.

Correction Deadline: 8/17/2023

	Facility
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591-1-1-.19 License Capacity(CR)	Met
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Comment

Licensed capacity observed to be routinely met by center.

591-1-1-.25 Physical Plant - Safe Environment(CR)	Not Met
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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 hazardous items were stored in unlocked cabinets drawers in the following classrooms. The safety latch was broken on cabinet drawers in classroom E, F, G and H. Plastic bags and teacher supplies were observed.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will identify all hazardous items and keep them in a locked area inaccessible to children. The Center will inform all Staff about hazardous items and the safe storage of those items.

Correction Deadline: 8/17/2023

591-1-1-.26 Playgrounds(CR)	Not Met
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Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.26(4) 591-1-1-.26(4) requires that playgrounds be protected from traffic or other hazards by a (4) four foot high fence or other barrier approved by this Department. Fencing material shall not present a hazard to children and shall be maintained so as to prevent children from leaving the playground area by any means other than through an approved access route. Fence gates shall be kept closed except when persons are entering or exiting the area. Please ensure that the gates are pulled tight to prevent gaps greater than 3.5 inches.

Correction Deadline: 8/17/2023

Correction Deadline: 4/27/2023

Corrected on 8/17/2023

.26(6) - The previous citation was corrected based on the swings chains were replaced.

Finding

591-1-1-.26(8) requires climbing and swinging equipment to have a resilient surface beneath the equipment and the fall zone from such equipment must be adequately maintained by the Center to assure continuing resilience. It was determined based on observation there was one to zero inch of measurable wood chips in the fall zone of the swings and climbing structure on the preschool playground, six inches were required. On the Infant toddler playground there was zero inch of measurable resilient surface in the fall zone of the infant swings, three inches were required.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will add additional resilient surfacing to the fall zones where needed and check daily, adding resilient surfacing as needed to maintain adequate resiliency.

Correction Deadline: 8/27/2023

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 raised and protruding tree roots were exposed on the right side of the Preschool playground and there was a piece of padding exposed in front of the double slide. On the infant toddler playground five end caps were cracked on the play structure, creating a breeding/nesting area for insects. In addition there were two holes, two to three inches deep at the entrance to the shady area of this equipment, creating a potential tripping hazard.

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: 8/17/2023

Food Service**591-1-1-.15 Food Service & Nutrition****Not Met****Finding**

591-1-1-.15(3) requires baby bottles and formula to be labeled with the individual child's name; supplied by the Parent daily in bottles; and refrigerated at a temperature of forty (40) degrees Fahrenheit or less. Only the current day's formula or breast milk shall be served. If formula must be provided by the Center, only commercially prepared, ready-to-feed formula shall be used. Refrigerated or frozen breast milk shall only be heated or thawed under warm running water or in a container of warm water. It was determined based on observation 14 infant bottles were labeled with the child's first name and one bottle was not labeled.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will train Staff to follow the required procedures, ensure that parents are fully informed, and will review and monitor regularly.

Correction Deadline: 8/17/2023

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

Staff state proper knowledge of diapering procedures.

591-1-1-.17 Hygiene(CR)**Met****Comment**

Proper hand washing observed throughout the center.

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

The Provider currently does not dispense/administer medication.

Safety

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

Met

Comment

Age-appropriate discussion and/or redirection observed.

Correction Deadline: 4/13/2023

Corrected on 8/17/2023

.11(1) - The previous citation was corrected. 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

Please include the delivery time back to the center on the transportation agreements

Finding

591-1-1-.36(4)(a) requires an annual safety check for each vehicle. The annual safety check, completed by a trained individual, should include a check of the: tires, headlights, horn, taillights, turn signals, brake lights, brakes, suspension, exhaust system, steering, windows, windshields and windshield wipers. A copy of the annual safety check will be kept in the Center or on the vehicle and should include evidence of any repairs and/or replacements that were identified as needed on the inspection report. It was determined based on review the center did not have on file an Annual Vehicle Safety Inspection Certificate. The certificate was dated 8/6/22.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will obtain the annual vehicle inspection.

Correction Deadline: 8/22/2023

Sleeping & Resting Equipment

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

Not Met

Finding

591-1-1-.30(1)(a)2 requires that a crib mattress is firm, tight-fitting without gaps, at least 2 inches thick and covered with a waterproof, washable material. Before a change of occupant, each mattress shall be cleaned with a disinfectant. It was determined based on observation three of eight crib mattress were not firm in the infant A classroom and two were not firm in infant B classroom.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The center will ensure that a crib mattress is firm, tight-fitting without gaps, at least

Correction Deadline: 8/17/2023

Staff Records

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

Met

Comment

Director provided 7 file(s) for employees hired since last visit.

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

Met

Comment

Evidence observed of 50% of center staff certified in First Aid and CPR.

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.