



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: 11/24/2021 **VisitType:** Initial Licensing Study

Arrival: 1:30 PM

Departure: 2:30 PM

CCLC-55057

The Marks Academy

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

Mailing Address
Same

Regional Consultant

Melissa McFarlin

Phone: (770) 359-5224

Fax: (770) 302-9130

melissa.mcfarlin@dec.al.ga.gov

Joint with: Angela Byrd

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.
11/24/2021	Initial Licensing Study	Good Standing	

Ratios/License Capacity

Comments

A follow up visit was conducted on November 23, 2021, to remeasure the facility due to calculation errors in the system. Previous Initial Licensing Study was conducted October 20, 21, calculation errors with capacities and classroom information not being reflected on the Cover page. KOALA Support deleted the previous visits due to errors, created a new visit with the date November 24, 2021. The exit conference was conducted virtually on November 24, 2021, at 2:30 pm with Joannie Marks. Permission to Operate will be issued upon completion of the Exit Conference and signature pages are returned to the consultant. Facility does carry Liability Insurance.

Plan of Improvement: No Plan Developed

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.al.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

You have received permission to operate and the form received with this report is intended to serve as a temporary license which is **valid for thirty(30) days**. Your actual license/ will be emailed to you upon receipt of the licensing fee. You may pay the licensing fee either online at <http://www.decal.ga.gov/> or by certified check or money order mailed to: Bright from the Start, 2 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive SE, Suite 670 East Tower, Atlanta, GA 30334

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), e-mail the following information to CCSRefutations@decal.ga.gov.

- 1) Facility name, license number and visit date
- 2) Your name, title/relationship to the facility, e-mail address & up to two phone number(s) where you can be reached
- 3) Specific rule number(s) that you are refuting, along with your concerns or questions regarding the rule citation

Refutations must be submitted to Child Care Services (CCS) within 10 business days of the completion date.

A sample form for submitting a refutation can be found at: <http://decal.ga.gov/ChildCareServices/RefutationInformation.aspx>

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 New Deadlines:

Your program must be Quality Rated by December 31, 2020 in order to continue to receive Childcare and Parent Services (CAPS).

Get started today! Sign up by completing a short online application: <https://qualityrated.decal.ga.gov/>
Request free technical assistance to help you earn your star rating by contacting the Quality Rated help desk at 855-800-7747 or qualityrated@decal.ga.gov

Joannie Marks, Program Official

Date

Melissa McFarlin, Consultant

Date

Angela Byrd, Consultant

Date



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Findings Report

Date: 11/24/2021 **VisitType:** Initial Licensing Study **Arrival:** 1:30 PM **Departure:** 2:30 PM

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The following information is associated with a Initial Licensing Study:

Activities and Equipment

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

Met

Comment

A visit was conducted on this date, equipment and furniture observed to be properly secured.

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

Met

Comment

A visit was conducted on this date, center does not provide swimming activities. No pool observed on site.

Facility

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

Met

Comment

The total Licensed capacity of the Center measured at 105 children, based on measurements of five (5) of five (5) classrooms, Licensed this date.

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

Met

Comment

A visit was conducted on this date, no hazards observed accessible to children.

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

Not Met

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.26(4) - The provider will ensure that the fencing on the playground is maintained in good condition with no loose wires. The center will also ensure the gap in the fence in the back of the playground near the garden area is carefully monitored and repaired as necessary to prevent entrapment hazards. The gap measured less than 3.5 inches on this date.

Correction Deadline: 11/23/2021

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.26(4) - The provider will ensure that the farm wire used in the garden area is covered or replaced with a fencing material that is solid, sturdy and smooth. The provider will also repair the loose boards on the gate in the garden area as the boards should be sturdy and of good repair to prevent entrapment hazards. The center will also ensure that the overgrown tree limbs that cover the fence in the back of the garden area is removed to ensure the fence measures at four (4) feet in height and no hazards are present.

The consultant was advised by the provider that the garden is currently not in use. The consultant did not observe any children present in that area.

Correction Deadline: 11/23/2021

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 resiliency. It was determined based on the consultant's observation that resilient surfacing in the fall zones did not have adequate resilient surfacing of six (6) inches or more to prevent injuries.

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: 12/3/2021

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.26(9) - The center will ensure that the playground is free of hazards, such as but not limited to exposed tree roots. The center will spray paint the tree roots to prevent tripping hazards.

Correction Deadline: 11/23/2021

Health and Hygiene

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

Met

Comment

A visit was conducted on this date, staff stated proper knowledge of diapering procedures.

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

Met

Comment

A visit was conducted on this date. Proper hand washing observed throughout the center.

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

Met

Comment

A visit was conducted on this date, the Provider currently does not dispense/administer medication.

Safety

591-1-1-.05 Animals

Met

Comment

Turtles maintained clean and appropriately kept in the GA Pre K classroom.

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

A visit was conducted on this date, the staff were observed to maintain a positive learning environment.

591-1-1-.13 Field Trips(CR)**Met****Comment**

A virtual visit was conducted on this date, the center does not participate in field trips at this time.

591-1-1-.36 Transportation(CR)**Met****Comment**

The center is currently using one (1) van for transportation. The visit conducted on this date was a follow up visit, transportation will need to be evaluated during the monitoring visit.

Sleeping & Resting Equipment

591-1-1-.30 Safe Sleeping and Resting Requirements(CR)**Technical Assistance****Comment**

A virtual visit was conducted on this date, the consultant observed six (6) of six (6) cribs in the Infant Classroom with the manufacturing dates, November 5, 2012 and November 6, 2012, used for sleeping and resting, to meet Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) and American Society for Testing and Materials International (ASTM) safety standards. The center will use cots for walking one (1) year old children. The consultant also discussed all Infant Safe Sleeping and Resting requirements with Center Director. Further, the Consultant observed a pleasant nap time environment, and discussed cot and mat disinfecting requirements with Center Director and Owner on this date.

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.30(1)(d) - Consultant discussed sleeping arrangement with provider. The center will ensure to reduce the transfer of airborne diseases, sleeping and resting equipment shall be arranged with a minimum of twenty-four inch (24") corridor between each row of sleeping or resting equipment. The center will also ensure a minimum of twelve inches (12") between each piece of sleeping or resting equipment in each row of equipment. Children will be placed on cots and mats so that one child's head is toward another child's feet in the same row.

Correction Deadline: 11/23/2021

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.30(2) - Center Staff will ensure to not place objects or allow objects to be placed in or on the cribs or use cribs as storage when cribs are not occupied with children.

Correction Deadline: 11/23/2021

Staff Records

Records Reviewed: 15**Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 0**

Staff # 1	Met
Staff # 2	Met
Staff # 3	Met
Staff # 4	Met
Staff # 5	Met

Records Reviewed: 15**Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 0**

Staff # 6	Met
Staff # 7	Met
Staff # 8	Met
Staff # 9	Met
Staff # 10	Met
Staff # 11	Met
Staff # 12	Met
Staff # 13	Met
Staff # 14	Met
Staff # 15	Met

Staff Credentials Reviewed: 4

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

Fifteen (15) of fifteen (15) staff Criminal record checks were observed to be complete.

Comment

591-1-1-.09(1)(j) - Consultant discussed portability request information with the provider. Consultant discussed how to port a staff member, advised once a staff member is hired the staff member must be ported under the center. The staff member may not be on the premises while children are present until the staff member has been successfully ported over.

Correction Deadline: 11/23/2021

591-1-1-.33 Staff Training **Met****Comment**

The visit conducted on this date was a follow up visit, staff files will need to be evaluated during the monitoring visit.

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

A visit was conducted on this date, 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**

A visit was conducted on this date, the center observed to maintain appropriate staff:child ratios.

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

Comment

Please see supervision plan below, created on previous visit report.

Diapering Supervision Plan

During diapering, an additional Staff person will be present to assist with supervising children, due to wall facing diapering surfaces located in the two-year-old classroom.

Playground Equipment and designated paths – Playground B and C

Swings, slides and climbing Playground Equipment, are located on the main-center of Playgrounds B and C. Infants and toddlers also utilize the playgrounds at a different time from children ages three (3) years and older. During all use of the Playground Equipment, Center Staff will closely monitor, supervise, provide watchful oversight, and remain within close proximity of children. Staff will also ensure that children use all Playground equipment safely and appropriately, and will provide prompt and timely response to the needs of all children at all times. Further, Staff will ensure that children use the main designated paths between all Playground equipment to move and transition around the Playground area.