



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: 5/8/2024 **VisitType:** Licensing Study

Arrival: 7:30 AM **Departure:** 12:15 PM

CCLC-31511

Mountain Academy for Kids

1523 Old Hwy 5 North Ellijay, GA 30540 Gilmer County
(706) 636-4881 cindyhall@ellijay.com

Regional Consultant

Amanda Schofield

Phone: (404) 463-3585

Fax:

amanda.schofield@decal.ga.gov

Mailing Address

Same

Quality Rated: ★ ★

<u>Compliance Zone Designation</u>			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.
05/08/2024	Licensing Study	Good Standing	
09/14/2022	Licensing Study	Good Standing	
05/25/2022	Monitoring Visit	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	A-(Left, 1st LF)	Two Year Olds	1	6	C	15	C	NA	NA	Circle Time
Main	B-Left, 2nd LF)	Infants	2	6	C	18	C	NA	NA	Feeding, Floor Play
Main	C-(Left, 2nd RT)	One Year Olds	1	7	C	14	C	NA	NA	Centers
Main	D-(Left, 1st RT/Right Side)		0	0	C	10	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
Main	D-(LF, 1st RT, Left Side)	Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds	1	7	C	10	C	NA	NA	Centers
Main	E-(Right 1st RT)	Three Year Olds	1	14	C	20	C	NA	NA	Centers
Main	F-(Right Side End Room)		0	0	C	49	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
			Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 136			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0				
Total # Children this Date: 40			Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 136			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0				

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	Playground (Preschool)	32	C
Main	Playground (School AGE Rt Side)	44	C
Main	Playground (Infant Toddler)	26	C

Comments

The purpose of this visit was to conduct a Licensing Study. Staff files, children files, and criminal records checks were reviewed.

Reminders:

Please be sure to enter all temporary closures in DECAL KOALA under the Required Report tab whenever your facility is closed temporarily for one day or more.

Incident Reports are to be submitted via DECAL KOALA with all signed staff statements for staff and the director. Consultant left a copy of Required Reporting Guidelines.

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.decgal.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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(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

Consultant observed a variety of equipment and toys throughout the center.

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

N/A

Comment

Per director 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-.19 License Capacity(CR)

Met

Comment

Licensed capacity observed to be routinely met by center.

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

Technical Assistance

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.25 - Please ensure that all hazardous items and/or equipment (i.e., purses, bags, brooms, diaper wipes, etc.) are stored in a locked cabinet and/or container inaccessible to children at all time

Comment

Center appears clean and well maintained.

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 the following items below:

-The rubber padding on the playground had several deep cracks that risk a 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: 6/14/2024

Recited on 5/8/2024

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

Met

Comment

Consultant observed bottles fully labeled with child's full name and date.

591-1-1-.18 Kitchen Operations

Met

Comment

Kitchen appears clean and well organized.

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

Met

Comment

Staff stated proper knowledge of diapering procedures.

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

Met

Comment

Consultant observed proper hand washing throughout the center the center .

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

N/A

Comment

The Provider currently does not dispense/administer medication.

Safety**591-1-1-.05 Animals**

N/A

Comment

Center does not keep animals on premises.

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

Met

Comment

Consultant observed positive staff and child interaction on this date.

591-1-1-.13 Field Trips(CR)

N/A

Comment

Center does not participate in field trips at this time.

591-1-1-.36 Transportation(CR)

Met

Comment

Complete documentation of transportation observed.

Sleeping & Resting Equipment

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

Technical Assistance

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.30 - Please ensure that cribs/cots are labeled for individual use.

Comment

Discussed SIDS and infant sleeping position.

Staff Records

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

Technical Assistance

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.09(1) - The consultant discussed the following criminal record check reminders with the provider:

New records checks will be required to be completed if a staff member experiences a six month break in service from the childcare 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. A re-check maybe needed under the following circumstances:
- When the family childcare learning home knows or reasonably should know that a provider, Employee or Provisional Employee, Resident has been arrested or charged for any covered crime.
- When there is a lapse of employment from the childcare industry that lasted for 180 calendar days (6 months) or longer.
- When the Department so requests.

Comment

Criminal record checks were observed to be complete.

Comment

Director provided five staff files for employees hired since last visit September 14, 2022.

591-1-1-.33 Staff Training

Met

Comment

Please ensure that every calendar year after the first year of employment, all supervisory and caregiver personnel, obtain (10) clock hours of diverse training.

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

Adequate supervision observed on this date.