



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: 11/24/2025 **VisitType:** POI Follow Up

Arrival: 1:00 PM **Departure:** 4:15 PM

CCLC-57835

Decatur Scholars Academy

5271 Snapfinger Woods Drive Decatur, GA 30035 DeKalb County
(770) 864-5574

Regional Consultant

Jessica Johnson

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Fax:

jessica.johnson@decal.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.
11/24/2025	POI Follow Up	Good Standing	
09/30/2025	Monitoring Visit	Deficient	
06/24/2025	Complaint Closure	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	Office		0	0	C	6	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
Main	Room A		0	0	C	12	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
Main	Room B	One Year Olds	1	9	NC	12	C	NA	NA	Nap
Main	Room C	Two Year Olds	2	11	C	16	C	NA	NA	Nap
Main	Room D	Infants and One Year Olds	2	6	C	16	C	NA	NA	Nap
Main	Room E		0	0	C	24	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
Main	Room F	Three Year Olds	1	14	C	24	C	NA	NA	Nap
Main	Room G		0	0	C	53	C	NA	NA	
Main	Room H		0	0	C	22	C	NA	NA	
Main	Room I	Five Year Olds and Six Year Olds and Over	2	14	C	44	C	NA	NA	Centers
Main	Room J	Six Year Olds and Over	2	18	C	50	C	NA	NA	TV
Main	Room Q		0	0	C	10	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
Main	Room R		0	0	C	11	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
Main	Room S		0	0	C	10	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
Main	Room T		0	0	C	16	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
Main	Room U		0	0	C	11	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
Main	Room V		0	0	C	11	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
Main	Room W		0	0	C	11	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
Main	Room X		0	0	C	12	C	NA	NA	Not In Use

Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 371

Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	Playground	36	C
Main	School Age Playground	304	C

Comments

On this date, Jessica Johnson (JJ), Consultant, reviewed the visit report with Director Donald Woodard.

Plan of Improvement: Developed This Date

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!



Summary Report

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The following information is associated with a POI Follow Up:

Activities and Equipment

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

Met

Correction Deadline: 9/30/2025

Corrected on 11/24/2025

.35(6) - The previous citation was observed corrected on this date as no field trips have been held since the previous visit.

Facility

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

Defer

Correction Deadline: 10/30/2025

Corrected on 11/24/2025

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

Defer

591-1-1-.26(8)- Evaluation of the previous citation was deferred on this date to the next regulatory visit. The Consultant discussed the use of mats with the program. Discussed that resilient surface materials may be uniform or loose fill materials. Uniform materials are rubber mats/surfaces or similar materials held in place by a binder. Test data must be obtained from the manufacturer of the material when it is used. The test data should include the ASTM International (ASTM) Standard Specifications and should be maintained on file at the center. Examples of acceptable loose fill materials include sand, pea gravel, wood chips, wood mulch, and shredded rubber. Resilient surface materials should not include sharp jagged edges, splintered wood, large pieces, etc.

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: 10/30/2025

Safety

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

Met

Correction Deadline: 9/30/2025

Corrected on 11/24/2025

.13(2) - The previous citation was observed corrected on this date as no field trips have been held since the previous visit.

Correction Deadline: 10/1/2025

Corrected on 11/24/2025

.36(7)(d)1. - The previous citation was observed corrected on this date as the transportation logs were observed complete.

Correction Deadline: 9/30/2025

Corrected on 11/24/2025

.36(7)(d)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)

Not Met

Finding

591-1-1-.30(2) requires the Center to provide a safe sleep environment in accordance with American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) and American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) recommendations as listed in these rules for all infants. Center Staff shall place an infant to sleep on the infant's back in a crib unless the Center has been provided a physician's written statement authorizing another sleep position for that particular infant that includes how the infant shall be placed to sleep and a time frame that the instructions are to be followed. When an infant can easily turn over from back to front and back again, Staff shall continue to put the infant to sleep initially on the infant's back but allow the infant to roll over into his or her preferred position and not re-position the infant. Sleepers, sleep sacks and wearable blankets that fit according to the commercial manufacturer's guidelines and will not slide up around the infant's face may be used when necessary for the comfort of the sleeping infant. Swaddling shall not be used unless the Center has been provided a physician's written statement authorizing its use for a particular infant that includes instructions and a time frame for swaddling the infant. Center Staff shall not place objects or allow objects to be placed in or on the crib with an infant such as but not limited to toys, pillows, quilts, comforters, bumper pads, sheepskins, stuffed toys, or other soft items and shall not attach objects or allow objects to be attached to a crib with a sleeping infant, such as, but not limited to, crib gyms, toys, mirrors and mobiles. It was determined that an infant was observed sleeping with a pacifier clip attached to their clothing.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will take all steps necessary to provide a safe sleep environment for infants as listed in these rules; will train Staff to follow these rules; and will monitor for compliance.

Correction Deadline: 11/24/2025

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.30(2) - Discussed that sleepers, sleep sacks and wearable blankets that fit according to the commercial manufacturer's guidelines and will not slide up around the infant's face may be used when necessary for the comfort of the sleeping infant, however swaddling shall not be used unless the Center has been provided a physician's written statement authorizing its use for a particular infant that includes instructions and a time frame for swaddling the infant.

Correction Deadline: 11/24/2025

Staff Records

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

Met

Comment

Criminal record checks were observed to be complete.

Correction Deadline: 9/30/2025

Corrected on 11/24/2025

.09(1)(j) - The previous citation was corrected on this date as the Consultant observed criminal records checks complete.

591-1-1-.14 First Aid & CPR(CR)

Met

Correction Deadline: 10/30/2025

Corrected on 11/24/2025

.14(1) - The previous citation was observed corrected on this date as the transportation logs were observed complete.

Correction Deadline: 9/30/2025

Corrected on 11/24/2025

.14(2)(c) - The previous citation was observed corrected on this date as the transportation logs were observed complete.

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

Met

Comment

Discussed that all lead staff must enroll in an approved education program within 6 months of hire and complete degree within 18 months.

Correction Deadline: 10/30/2025

Corrected on 11/24/2025

.31(2)(b)2. - The previous citation was corrected on this date as Staff # 11 was no longer employed at the program and Staff #21 was no longer the lead teacher.

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 ratio of 1:9 was present in Room B, consisting of nine 1-year-old children. A second staff person was needed to meet the minimum ratio of 2:9.

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: 11/24/2025

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

Technical Assistance

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.32(7) - Please ensure that children are supervised at all times appropriate to the individual age, needs and capabilities of each child. Such supervision must include, but not be limited to, indoor and outdoor activities, mealtimes, naptime, transportation, field trips, and transitions between activities. "Supervision" means that the appropriate number of Staff members are physically present in the area where children are being cared for and are providing watchful oversight to the children, volunteers and Students-in-Training. The persons supervising in the child care area must be alert, positioned to maximize their ability to hear and see the children at all times, and able to respond promptly to the needs and actions of the children being supervised, as well as the actions of the volunteers and Students-in-Training, and provide timely attention to the children's actions and needs. Staff shall be attentive and participating with all children during mealtimes and shall be seated within an arm's length away from children thirty-six (36) months of age and younger.

Correction Deadline: 11/24/2025