



**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:** 7/22/2025 **VisitType:** Complaint Investigation & Monitoring Visit **Arrival:** 9:35 AM **Departure:** 1:10 PM

**CCLC-46551**  
**Dahlonega Country Day Academy**  
619 Buckhorn Tavern Road Dahlonega, GA 30533 Lumpkin County  
(706) 867-6290 dcd8676290@windstream.net

Regional Consultant  
Francine Arnone  
Phone: (770) 357-4919  
Fax: (770) 357-4918  
francine.arnone@decal.ga.gov  
Joint with: Jennifer Taylor

**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. |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------------------|---------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 07/22/2025                  | Complaint Investigation & Monitoring Visit | Good Standing |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| 04/11/2025                  | Licensing Study                            | Good Standing |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| 12/03/2024                  | 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          |
|---------------------------------|-------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------------|----------|------|---------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|------------|--------------|----------------|
| Back Building                   | Back Right E      |                                    | 0                             | 0        | C    | 7                                                             | C            | NA         | NA           | Not In Use     |
| Back Building                   | Middle 1st Left C |                                    | 0                             | 0        | C    | 9                                                             | C            | NA         | NA           | Not In Use     |
| Back Building                   | Middle 2nd Left D | Four Year Olds                     | 2                             | 12       | C    | 14                                                            | C            | NA         | NA           | Centers        |
| Back Building                   | Middle B          | Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds | 3                             | 21       | C    | 22                                                            | C            | NA         | NA           | Centers        |
| Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 37  |                   |                                    | Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0 |          |      | Building @35 capacity limited by Heath Department Limitations |              |            |              |                |
| Cottage                         | Back Room         | Infants                            | 2                             | 6        | NC   | 5                                                             | NC           | NA         | NA           | Floor Play,Nap |
| Cottage                         | Front Room        | One Year Olds                      | 3                             | 10       | C    | 12                                                            | C            | NA         | NA           | Floor Play     |
| Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 15  |                   |                                    | Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0 |          |      | Building @35 capacity limited by Building Department          |              |            |              |                |
| Main                            | Room A- 1st Right | Three Year Olds                    | 1                             | 10       | C    | 13                                                            | C            | NA         | NA           | Centers        |
| Main                            | Room B 2nd Right  |                                    | 0                             | 0        | C    | 18                                                            | C            | NA         | NA           | Not In Use     |
| Main                            | Room C 3rd Right  | One Year Olds                      | 2                             | 10       | C    | 10                                                            | C            | NA         | NA           | Free Play      |
| Main                            | Room D -1st Left  | Six Year Olds and Over             | 1                             | 18       | C    | 21                                                            | C            | NA         | NA           | Centers        |
| Main                            | Room E - 2nd Left |                                    | 0                             | 0        | C    | 18                                                            | C            | NA         | NA           | Not In Use     |
| Main                            | Room F- 3rd Left  | Three Year Olds                    | 2                             | 11       | C    | 14                                                            | C            | NA         | NA           | Centers        |
| Main                            | Room G 4th Left   | Two Year Olds                      | 2                             | 11       | C    | 11                                                            | C            | NA         | NA           | Centers        |
| Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 103 |                   |                                    | Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0 |          |      | Building @35 capacity limited by Heath Department Limitations |              |            |              |                |

| Building | Playground                       | Playground<br>Occupancy | Playground<br>Compliance |
|----------|----------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| Cottage  | Main Playground &<br>Front Porch | 8                       | C                        |
| Cottage  | Side Porch                       | 2                       | C                        |
| Main     | Covered Porch                    | 5                       | C                        |
| Main     | Playground A                     | 55                      | C                        |
| Main     | Playground B                     | 16                      | C                        |

| Enrolled Children |         |         |         |         |                    |                   |
|-------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|--------------------|-------------------|
| Under 1 years     | 1 years | 2 years | 3 years | 4 years | 5 years (Prekonly) | 5 years and older |
| 17                | 10      | 11      | 13      | 22      | 0                  | 28                |

**Comments**

A copy was not emailed during the visit as there was no internet service. A copy will be provided via email when connection is established.

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.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

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.al.ga.gov](mailto:qualityrated@dec.al.ga.gov) for more information. Free technical assistance is available!**



**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

**(Findings Report)**

**Date:** 7/22/2025

**VisitType:** Complaint Investigation &  
Monitoring Visit

**Arrival:** 9:35 AM

**Departure:** 1:10 PM

**CCLC-46551**

**Dahlonega Country Day Academy**

619 Buckhorn Tavern Road Dahlonega, GA 30533 Lumpkin  
County  
(706) 867-6290 dcd8676290@windstream.net

Regional Consultant

Francine Arnone

Phone: (770) 357-4919

Fax: (770) 357-4918

francine.arnone@dec.al.ga.gov

Joint with: Jennifer Taylor

**Mailing Address**

Same

The following information is associated with a CI/MV:

**Activities and Equipment**

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

**Met**

**Comment**

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

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

**N/A**

**Comment**

Center does not provide swimming activities.

**Facility**

**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 in Cottage Back Room there were 6 infants present with 2 staff, the capacity maximum allowed for that room was 5 children.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

The Center will move a child to the Cottage Front Room to meet the the licensed capacity requirement.

**Correction Deadline:** 7/22/2025

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

**Met**

**Comment**

The Center appeared clean and well maintained on this date.

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

**Technical Assistance**

**Comment**

Discussed maintenance of resilient surface. Please fluff and redistribute.

**Technical Assistance**

591-1-1-.26(4) - Please monitor playground fence for any gaps larger than three inches from the ground to the bottom of the fence.

## Health and Hygiene

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

**Comment**

Proper diapering procedures observed.

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

**Comment**

Discussed Proper hand washing with the staff.

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

**Comment**

The Provider currently does not dispense/administer medication.

## Safety

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

**Comment**

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

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

**Comment**

Paperwork, checklist, permission forms, annual inspection form and proper check of the vehicle after transportation were discussed with the director. The bus was not on premise on this date.

## Sleeping & Resting Equipment

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

**Comment**

Discussed SIDS and infant sleeping position.

## Staff Records

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

**Comment**

Criminal record checks were observed to be complete.

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

**Comment**

Evidence observed of 100% of center Staff certified in First Aid and CPR containing emergency care for infants and children on this date.

**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.

**Comment**

Staff observed to provide direct supervision and be attentive to children's needs.