



**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:** 12/23/2025 **VisitType:** Complaint Investigation Follow Up **Arrival:** 11:35 AM **Departure:** 2:45 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:** ★ ★

| <b>Compliance Zone Designation</b> |                                   |               | <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. |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 12/23/2025                         | Complaint Investigation Follow Up | Good Standing |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| 11/24/2025                         | POI Follow Up                     | Good Standing |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| 09/30/2025                         | Monitoring Visit                  | Deficient     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
|                                    |                                   |               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |

**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           |                      |
| Main     | Room A |                                           | 0     | 0        | C    | 12         | C            | NA         | NA           | Not In Use           |
| Main     | Room B | One Year Olds                             | 2     | 7        | C    | 12         | C            | NA         | NA           | Lunch, Transitioning |
| Main     | Room C | Two Year Olds and Three Year Olds         | 3     | 12       | C    | 16         | C            | NA         | NA           | Transitioning, Lunch |
| Main     | Room D | One Year Olds                             | 2     | 4        | C    | 16         | C            | NA         | NA           | Nap                  |
| Main     | Room E |                                           | 0     | 0        | C    | 24         | C            | NA         | NA           |                      |
| Main     | Room F | Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds        | 3     | 13       | C    | 24         | C            | NA         | NA           | Transitioning        |
| Main     | Room G |                                           | 0     | 0        | C    | 53         | C            | NA         | NA           | Not In Use           |
| Main     | Room H |                                           | 0     | 0        | C    | 22         | C            | NA         | NA           | Not In Use           |
| Main     | Room I | Five Year Olds and Six Year Olds and Over | 1     | 11       | C    | 44         | C            | NA         | NA           | TV, Free Play        |
| Main     | Room J | Six Year Olds and Over                    | 1     | 16       | C    | 50         | C            | NA         | NA           | TV, Free Play        |
| 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 |    |   |    |    |            |
| Total # Children this Date: 63  |        | 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. The investigative findings were not concluded on this date. The investigation remains open pending additional information. Upon completion, the findings will be reviewed with the child care program and a final copy of the report will be sent.

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!**



### Summary Report

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The following information is associated with a Complaint Investigation Follow Up:

|  | Facility |
|--|----------|
|--|----------|

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

Met

#### Comment

Discussed maintenance of resilient surface. Please fluff and redistribute.

**Correction Deadline: 10/30/2025**

**Corrected on 12/23/2025**

.26(8) - The previous citation was observed corrected on this date as 3 inches of resilient surface was observed around the fall zone areas.

|  | 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 based on observation that an infant was observed sleeping in the crib with a bib around their necks.

#### 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: 12/23/2025**

**Recited on 12/23/2025**

|  | Staffing and Supervision |
|--|--------------------------|
|--|--------------------------|

Correction Deadline: 11/24/2025

Corrected on 12/23/2025

.32(1) - The previous citation was observed corrected on this date as the Consultant observed the adequate Staff:child ratio.