



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: 10/19/2023 VisitType: Complaint Investigation & Monitoring Visit Arrival: 4:20 PM Departure: 5:20 PM

CCLC-57835

Decatur Scholars Academy

5271 Snapfinger Woods Drive Decatur, GA 30035 DeKalb County
(678) 956-7871 decaturscholarsacademy@gmail.com

Regional Consultant

Cassandra Jakes-Beasley

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Mailing Address

705 Lawton Bridge Rd SW
Smyrna, GA 30082

Quality Rated: No

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.
10/19/2023	Complaint Investigation & Monitoring Visit	Deficient	
08/02/2023	Incident Investigation/Monitoring Visit	Good Standing	
02/20/2023	Initial Licensing Study	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	Room A	Infants	2	4	C	12	C	NA	NA	Floor Play
Main	Room B		0	0	C	12	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
Main	Room C	One Year Olds and Two Year Olds	2	14	C	16	C	NA	NA	Nap
Main	Room D		0	0	C	16	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
Main	Room E		0	0	C	24	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
Main	Room F		0	0	C	24	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
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	Six Year Olds and Over	2	25	C	44	C	NA	NA	Snack
Main	Room J	Six Year Olds and Over	1	11	C	50	C	NA	NA	Free Play
Main	Room K	Six Year Olds and Over	1	19	C	20	C	NA	NA	Snack
Main	Room L		0	0	C	21	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 109					Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0		Building @35 capacity limited by Playground Limitations			
Total # Children this Date: 73					Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 109		Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0			

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	Playground	36	C

Comments

A Monitoring Visit was conducted on October 19, 2023. Background checks were reviewed. The Consultant completed the exit conference, and a copy of the Monitoring Visit report was given to the Director.

There were six new hires since last visit.

Plan of Improvement: To Be Submitted 11/02/2023

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 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!

Tatiana Gomez, Program Official

Date

Cassandra Jakes-Beasley, Regional Consultant

Date



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(Findings Report)

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The following information is associated with a Monitoring Visit:

Activities and Equipment

591-1-1.12 Equipment & Toys(CR)

Met

Comment

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

591-1-1.35 Swimming Pools & Water-related Activities(CR)

Met

Comment

Center does not provide swimming activities.

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)

Met

Comment

No hazards observed accessible to children on this date.

591-1-1.26 Playgrounds(CR)

Not Met

Comment

Discussed maintenance of the field. Please ensure that all surfaces are even.

Finding

591-1-1-.26(6) requires that playground equipment provide an opportunity for the children to engage in a variety of experiences and shall be age-appropriate. For example, toddlers shall not be permitted to swing in swings designed for School-age Children. The outdoor equipment shall be free of lead-based paint, sharp corners and shall be regularly maintained in such a way as to be free of rust and splinters that could pose significant safety hazard to the children. All equipment shall be arranged so as not to obstruct supervision of children. It was determined based on observation there was chipping paint on the top and inside of the red and blue tunnel.

Correction Deadline: 10/29/2023

Health and Hygiene

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

Not Met

Finding

591-1-1-.10(4) requires that if diapers are changed on a diaper changing surface, the surface shall be smooth, nonporous, and equipped with a guard or rails to prevent falls. Between each diaper change, the diaper changing surface shall be cleaned with a disinfectant and dried with a single-use disposable towel. It was determined based on observation the diaper changing table was missing a guard rail to prevent falls in room B, the one and two-year-old classroom.

Correction Deadline: 10/19/2023

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

Met

Comment

Proper hand washing observed throughout the center.

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

Met

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-.13 Field Trips(CR) Met

Comment

Center does not participate in field trips at this time.

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

Comment

Center does not provide routine transportation.

Sleeping & Resting Equipment

591-1-1-.30 Safe Sleeping and Resting Requirements(CR) Not Met

Finding

591-1-1-.30(1)(a)3 requires that each crib shall have only an individual, tight-fitting sheet which is changed daily or more often as needed and prior to a change of occupant. It was determined based on observation the sheets were too large for the cribs, the excess material was tucked underneath the mattresses. Three cribs were in use on the day of the visit.

Correction Deadline: 10/19/2023

Staff Records

591-1-1-.09 Criminal Records and Comprehensive Background Checks(CR) Not Met

Finding

591-1-1-.09(1)(a) requires that a Center ensure that every actual and potential Director, Employee and Provisional Employee of a Child Care Learning Center submit both a Records Check Application to the Department and Fingerprints to an authorized fingerprinting site. It was determined based on statements and observation that a staff #17 had not submitted both a Records Check application to the Department and fingerprinting to an authorize fingerprinting site as required.

Correction Deadline: 10/19/2023

Finding

591-1-1-.09(1)(c) requires the Center to ensure that every Employee has a valid and current satisfactory Comprehensive Records Check Determination on file prior to being present at the Center while any child is present for care or before an individual age 17 or older resides in the Center. The Comprehensive Records Check Determination must have a Records Check Clearance Date that is no older than the preceding 12 months of the hire date; provided, however, if the Employee has had a lapse of employment from the child care industry that lasted for 180 days (6 months) or longer, a new satisfactory Comprehensive Records Check Determination is required. It was determined based on statements and observation that Staff #17, who was present in the infant classroom, did not have a valid and current Comprehensive Records Check determination on file prior to being present at the Center while children were present for care as required.

Correction Deadline: 10/19/2023

Recited on 10/19/2023

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

Adequate supervision observed on this date.

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

Comment

Adequate supervision observed on this date.