



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: 5/14/2026 **VisitType:** Licensing Study

Arrival: 9:15 AM **Departure:** 12:30 PM

CCLC-14757

Donna's Loving Care Child Care and Learning Center
6854 Main Street Lithonia, GA 30058 DeKalb County
(678) 323-8087

Regional Consultant
Cassandra Jakes-Beasley
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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.
05/14/2026	Licensing Study	Good Standing	
10/22/2025	Monitoring Visit	Good Standing	
02/10/2025	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
Bldg 2	Room 1		0	0	C	4	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
Bldg 2	Room 2		0	0	C	6	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
Bldg 2	Room 3	Four Year Olds	1	0	C	21	C	NA	NA	Free Play
Bldg 2	Room 4		0	0	C	4	C	NA	NA	Circle Time, Not In Use
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 35			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0							
Main	A- 1st Right	Two Year Olds	1	2	C	7	C	NA	NA	Free Play
Main	B-2nd Rt-2 y/o	Three Year Olds	1	4	C	7	C	NA	NA	Centers
Main	C- End of hall-0-12 mos	Infants	1	2	C	10	C	NA	NA	Clean Up
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 24			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0							
Total # Children this Date: 8			Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 59			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0				

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	Playground A	7	C
Main	Playground B	15	C

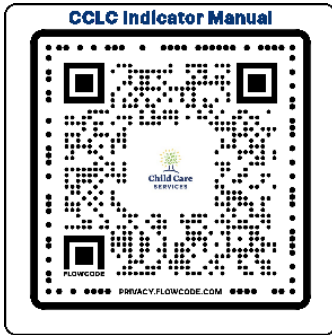
Enrolled Children						
Under 1 years	1 years	2 years	3 years	4 years	5 years (Prekonly)	5 years and older
4	3	3	3	4	12	0

Comments

The consultant was not able to provide a copy of the visit May 14, 2026 due to computer issues. The consultant did review the visit with the provider on the day of the visit.

The visit was emailed to the center on May 26, 2026.

Plan of Improvement: Developed This Date



For additional information regarding any licensing topics discussed during this visit, please consult the Rules and Regulations Indicator Manual. This manual provides comprehensive clarification of each rule, including evaluation indicators, related best practices, and relevant considerations to support your program's continued and sustained compliance.

To access the Indicator Manual, please scan the QR code below or visit our website at <https://www.dec.state.ga.us/CCS/RulesAndRegulations.aspx>.

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.state.ga.us/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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Summary Report

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The following information is associated with a Licensing Study:

Activities and Equipment

591-1-1-.03 Activities

Met

Comment

Age-appropriate activities observed throughout the center.

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

Met

Correction Deadline: 10/24/2025

Corrected on 5/14/2026

.12(2) - Previous citation corrected. The Consultant observe that all furniture was in good repair.

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

Met

Comment

Center does not provide swimming activities.

Children's Records

Records Reviewed: 5

Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 5

Child # 1

Not Met

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.08(1)-Emergency Contact information Missing,.08(1)-Doctor, Clinic, Phone Numbers

Child # 2

Not Met

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.08(1)-Doctor, Clinic, Phone Numbers,.08(1)-Living arrangements if not with both parents

Child # 3

Not Met

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.08(1)-Emergency Contact information Missing

Child # 4

Not Met

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.08(1)-Emergency Contact information Missing

Child # 5

Not Met

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.08(1)-Emergency Contact information Missing

591-1-1-.08 Children's Records**Not Met****Finding**

591-1-1-.08(1) requires the Center Staff to maintain a file for each child while such child is in care and for one year after that child is no longer enrolled. In order for the file to be complete, the file shall contain the following: child's name, birth date, sex, address, living arrangement, name of school if applicable; names of both Parents, home and work addresses, and home and work telephone numbers; name(s) and addresses of the person(s) to whom the child may be released including address, telephone numbers, relationship to child and to Parent(s), and other identifying information; name(s) and telephone number(s) of person(s) to contact in emergencies when the Parent cannot be reached; name and telephone number of the child's primary source of health care; and a statement regarding known allergies, physical problems, mental health disorders, intellectual disabilities or developmental disabilities which limit the child's participation in the program. It was determined based on review of record five of five children records lacked the relationship of the release to person(s) and lacked the name and phone number of the emergency contact.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

Center staff will develop a plan that includes how to obtain all required information for currently enrolled children and how to ensure this is done for future enrollees as well. The plan will also include how and where to maintain files for the required amount of time. The plan will be implemented and followed.

Correction Deadline: 5/14/2026**Facility****591-1-1-.06 Bathrooms****Not Met****Finding**

591-1-1-.06(4) requires a Center first licensed after March 1, 1991, and Centers that remodel or add to existing plumbing facilities, to have the bathroom area fully enclosed and ventilated to the outside of the building with either an open screened window or functioning exhaust fan and duct system and requires Centers without fully enclosed bathrooms to ensure there is adequate ventilation to control odors and adequate sanitation measures to prevent the spread of contagious diseases. It was determined based on observation that the children's bathroom in Building 2 on the right did not have an open screened window or functioning exhaust fan and duct system as required on this date.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will fully enclose and ventilate bathroom areas, as required, and will provide adequate ventilation and sanitation in bathrooms that are not fully enclosed.

Correction Deadline: 5/29/2026**Recited on 5/14/2026****591-1-1-.19 License Capacity(CR)****Met****Comment**

Licensed capacity observed to be routinely met by center on this date.

591-1-1-.25 Physical Plant - Safe Environment(CR)**Not Met**

Finding

591-1-1-.25(13) requires that potentially hazardous equipment, materials and supplies be stored in a locked area inaccessible to children. It was determined based on observation that the following potential hazards were accessible to children on this date:

Classroom A- 2nd- Rt 2 y/o

- There was a zip lock bag in a child's cubby at the front right.
- There was a plastic grocery bag stored on the top of the cubbie near the wall.

Building 2

- There was a disinfectant spray and a plastic zip lock bag with toothpaste and mouth wash in an unlocked storage container.

Outside

On the paved surface on the plastic storage unit there were garbage bags, plastic bags with soiled clothing and a toilet brush on the right side of the main building.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will identify all hazardous items and keep them in a locked area inaccessible to children. The Center will inform all Staff about hazardous items and the safe storage of those items.

Correction Deadline: 5/21/2026

Recited on 5/14/2026

591-1-1-.26 Playgrounds(CR)**Not Met****Finding**

591-1-1-.26(4) requires that playgrounds be protected from traffic or other hazards by a (4) four foot high fence or other barrier approved by this Department. Fencing material shall not present a hazard to children and shall be maintained so as to prevent children from leaving the playground area by any means other than through an approved access route. Fence gates shall be kept closed except when persons are entering or exiting the area. It was determined based on observation that a plank was loose at the bottom of the fence on the right side wood fence, with a gap measuring seven inches of playground B which posed a potential entrapment hazard on this date.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will routinely check the fence to determine if it is in good repair and remains at least 4 feet high, and will repair any hazards. The Center will train Staff to identify and report any fence hazards and to keep the fence gates closed when not in use.

Correction Deadline: 5/23/2026

Recited on 5/14/2026

Correction Deadline: 10/31/2025

Corrected on 5/14/2026

.26(6) - The previous citation corrected. The consultant observed that the plastic storage shelving unit with plastic building blocks near the wooden fencing located at the front right of playground was removed.

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 wood border on the right side of the play structures on playground playground B had a sharp pointed edge and the the plastic brown toy storage unit was cracked in several places at the top right side. In addition there was a small peice of concrete exposed near the metal trash can.

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: 5/14/2026

Food Service

Finding

591-1-1-.15(3) requires baby bottles and formula to be labeled with the individual child's name; supplied by the Parent daily in bottles; and refrigerated at a temperature of forty (40) degrees Fahrenheit or less. Only the current day's formula or breast milk shall be served. If formula must be provided by the Center, only commercially prepared, ready-to-feed formula shall be used. Refrigerated or frozen breast milk shall only be heated or thawed under warm running water or in a container of warm water. It was determined based on observation there were at least eight infant bottles not fully labeled with the child's first and last name.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will train Staff to follow the required procedures, ensure that parents are fully informed, and will review and monitor regularly.

Correction Deadline: 5/14/2026

591-1-1-.18 Kitchen Operations**Met****Comment**

Kitchen appears clean and well organized on this date.

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

591-1-1-.10(1) - The Consultant discussed with the Director that Centers first licensed after March 1, 1991, and Centers that are renovated after March 1, 1991, to provide ventilation in the diapering areas with functioning exhaust fans and a duct system or by the required amount of window space provided by operable windows when open. Please ensure that the window is opened during diapering to allow for proper ventilation.

Correction Deadline: 5/14/2026

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

Proper hand washing of children and staff was discussed on this date.

591-1-1-.20 Medications(CR)**Met****Comment**

The Provider currently does not dispense/administer medication.

Policies and Procedures**591-1-1-.21 Operational Policies & Procedures****Technical Assistance****Technical Assistance**

591-1-1-.21(1)(a-o) - The Consultant discussed with the Director to update the center's policies and procedures.

Correction Deadline: 5/19/2026

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)2 requires that a crib mattress is firm, tight-fitting without gaps, at least 2 inches thick and covered with a waterproof, washable material. Before a change of occupant, each mattress shall be cleaned with a disinfectant. It was determined that based on observation one infant mattress was not tight fitting, the gap measured at two inches.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The center will ensure that a crib mattress is firm, tight-fitting without gaps, at least

Correction Deadline: 5/14/2026

Staff Records

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

Consultant requested to view all Criminal Record checks for employees hired after last visit. Director stated that there have been no new hires since last visit

Correction Deadline: 10/22/2025

Corrected on 5/14/2026

.09(1)(a) - The previous citation corrected. The Director stated that there have been no new hires since last visit.

Correction Deadline: 10/22/2025

Corrected on 5/14/2026

.09(1)(c) - The previous citation corrected. The Director stated that there have been no new hires since last visit.

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

Complete first aid kits observed in center.

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-.33 Staff Training**Not Met**

Correction Deadline: 3/12/2025

Corrected on 5/14/2026

.33(5) - Previous citation citation corrected in that all staff files that were reviewed had the 10 clock hours of annual 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**

Center observed to maintain appropriate staff:child ratios.