



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: 11/18/2025 **VisitType:** Licensing Study

Arrival: 10:40 AM **Departure:** 6:15 PM

CCLC-58057

Great Beginnings of Dacula

1271 Harbins Rd. Dacula, GA 30019 Gwinnett County
 (770) 995-4343

Regional Consultant

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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.
11/18/2025	Licensing Study	Good Standing	
06/17/2025	Licensing Study	Good Standing	
04/28/2025	Incident Investigation Closure	Good Standing	
			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.

Ratios/License Capacity

Building	Room	Age Group	Staff	Children	NC/C	Max 35 SF.	35 SF. Comp.	Max 25 SF.	25 SF. Comp.	Notes
I	C- 3's		0	0	C	23	C	32	C	
I	D- Indoor Gym		0	0	C	0	C	NA	NA	
I	E- 4's	Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds	2	19	C	27	C	38	C	Nap, Transitioning
I	F- 4's	Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds	1	16	C	27	C	38	C	Transitioning, Nap
I	G-Private Pre-K	Three Year Olds	1	11	C	27	C	NA	NA	Nap
I	H- 3's & 4's	Three Year Olds	2	16	C	27	C	37	C	Circle Time, Story, Transitioning
I	I	Two Year Olds and Three Year Olds	2	19	C	29	C	NA	NA	Nap
I	J- 2's	Two Year Olds	2	14	C	33	C	NA	NA	Transitioning, Lunch, Story
I	K- 2's	Two Year Olds	2	16	C	34	C	NA	NA	Lunch, Transitioning
I	L- 1's	One Year Olds	2	12	C	22	C	NA	NA	Transitioning
I	M- 1's	One Year Olds	2	14	C	22	C	NA	NA	Lunch, Nap
I	N- 6wks-12mths	One Year Olds	2	12	C	23	C	NA	NA	Lunch
I	O- 6wks- 12 mths	Infants	2	11	C	16	C	NA	NA	Feeding, Floor Play, Nap
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 310						Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 733				

II	A-GA- Pre-K 1	GA PreK	2	4	C	23	C	33	C	Transitioning
II	B- Gym/ Afterschool 5-12 yrs		0	0	C	111	C	NA	NA	
II	C- GA-Pre-K- 3	GA PreK	2	19	C	22	C	30	C	Lunch
II	D- GA Pre-K 2	GA PreK	2	18	C	25	C	35	C	Transitioning,Outside
II	E GA Pre-K - 6	GA PreK	2	18	C	27	C	38	C	Transitioning
II	F- GA Pre-K -5		0	0	C	24	C	34	C	
II	G- GA Pre-K-7	GA PreK	2	16	C	22	C	31	C	Transitioning
II	H- GA Pre-K- 4	GA PreK	2	14	C	23	C	32	C	Transitioning
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 277					Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 733					
Total # Children this Date: 249					Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 587					Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 733

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
I	Playground A- 6wks-12myhs	25	C
I	Playground B- 1's & 2 yrs	40	C
I	Playground C-2's - 4's	73	C
I	Playground D- 4- 7 yrs	63	C
II	Playground E - 4- 12 yrs	135	C

Enrolled Children						
Under 1 years	1 years	2 years	3 years	4 years	5 years (Prekonly)	5 years and older
22	29	58	82	96	23	73

Comments

Consultant discussed the report with Director, Alexa Martinez, on November 18, 2025

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 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.

Comment

Lesson Plans were observed to be posted and reflected the current weeks activities in each classroom.

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

Not Met

Comment

Equipment and furniture observed to be properly secured, as applicable.

Finding

591-1-1-.12(2) requires that all equipment and furniture be free from hazardous conditions such as, but not limited to, sharp rough edges or toxic paint; and be kept clean. It was determined based on observation that a large section of vinyl was torn on the gray sofa in classroom M-1's.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will ensure that equipment and furniture are used by the age-appropriate group of children.

Correction Deadline: 11/18/2025

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

Not Evaluated

Comment

Center does not provide swimming activities.

Comment

Pool not in use at this time, gates observed locked.

Children's Records

591-1-1-.08 Children's Records

Met

Comment

Parent authorizations obtained/completed.

Comment

Records were observed to be complete and well organized.

Facility

591-1-1-.06 Bathrooms**Met****Comment**

Bathrooms observed to be clean and well maintained.

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(3) requires the Center and surrounding premises to be kept clean, free of debris and in good repair. Hygienic measures such as, but not limited to, screened windows and proper waste disposal procedures shall be utilized to minimize the presence of rodents, flies, roaches and other vermin at the Center. It was determined. based on observation that the trim around the children's sink is peeling off in classroom m- 1's.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will have the Center and surrounding areas cleaned, make repairs where needed, and remove all debris is removed. The Center will implement a plan to keep areas clean and in good repair that includes regular monitoring.

Correction Deadline: 11/18/2025

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 there were protruding wires at the bottom of the gate between Playground B- 1's & 2 yrs.

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: 11/21/2025

Recited on 11/18/2025

Food Service**591-1-1-.15 Food Service & Nutrition****Technical Assistance****Comment**

Center menu meets USDA guidelines.

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.15(3) - Consultant discussed with director to ensure that bottles are labeled with the child's full name.

Correction Deadline: 11/18/2025

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)****Met****Comment**

Staff stated proper knowledge of diapering procedures.

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

Proper hand washing observed throughout the center on this date.

Correction Deadline: 6/17/2025

Corrected on 11/18/2025

.20(3) - The previous citation was observed corrected on this date in that the center is no longer administering medication.

Correction Deadline: 6/17/2025

Corrected on 11/18/2025

.20(5) - The previous citation was observed corrected on this date in that the center is no longer administering medication.

Policies and Procedures

591-1-1-.21 Operational Policies & Procedures

Technical Assistance

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.21(2)(r) - New - Discussed updating the Center's policies and procedures to include the program's practices regarding the expulsion and suspension of children enrolled for care within the description of behavior management and discipline actions used by the Center.

Also discussed to ensure a description of the practices followed by the Center to prevent shaken baby syndrome and abusive head trauma in children up to five years of age that includes the following information: how to recognize, respond to, and report the signs and symptoms of shaken baby syndrome and abusive head trauma; strategies to assist staff members in understanding how to care for infants and how to cope with a crying, fussing, or distraught child; strategies to ensure staff members understand the brain development of children up to five years of age; and a list of prohibited behaviors when dealing with children.

Additional information can be found in the CCLC Indicator Manual found on DECAL's website at:

<https://www.dec.state.ga.us/CCS/RuleAndRegulations.aspx> or through the Center on Shaken Baby Syndrome found at: <https://dontshake.org/>.

Correction Deadline: 11/23/2025

Comment

Program observed complete emergency drills

591-1-1-.27 Posted Notices

Met

Comment

Observed all required posted notices.

Safety

591-1-1-.05 Animals

N/A

Comment

Center does not keep animals on premises.

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

Met

Comment

Age-appropriate discussion and/or redirection observed.

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

N/A

Comment

Center does not participate in field trips at this time.

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

Not Met

Finding

591-1-1-.36(4)(a) requires an annual safety check for each vehicle. The annual safety check, completed by a trained individual, should include a check of the: tires, headlights, horn, taillights, turn signals, brake lights, brakes, suspension, exhaust system, steering, windows, windshields and windshield wipers. A copy of the annual safety check will be kept in the Center or on the vehicle and should include evidence of any repairs and/or replacements that were identified as needed on the inspection report. It was determined based on review of records that the center did not have an annual vehicle safety check for vehicle tag number SBU6417 and Vehicle tag number RAU9559. The previous safety checks were dated November 1, 2025.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will obtain the annual vehicle inspection.

Correction Deadline: 11/23/2025

Finding

591-1-1-.36(7)(b) requires that an emergency medical information record be maintained in the vehicle for each child being transported. The emergency medical information record for each child shall include a listing of the child's full name, date of birth, allergies, special medical needs and conditions, current prescribed medications that the child is required to take on a daily basis for a chronic condition, the name and telephone number of the child's doctor, the local medical facility that the Center uses in the area where the Center is located and the telephone numbers where the Parents can be reached. It was determined based on review of records that two of 31 emergency medical information records did not have the telephone number of the child's doctor and one of 31 records did not have information regarding the student's special medical needs and conditions.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will obtain a complete emergency medical information record for each child that is transported and maintain a copy on the vehicle. The center staff pulled the documents from the children's files and add the documents to the transportation binder.

Correction Deadline: 11/18/2025

Recited on 11/18/2025

Finding

591-1-1-.36(7)(c)3. requires that the driver or other designated person document in writing the date and time of arrival and departure each time the vehicle departs from the Center, is loaded or unloaded at each school and when the vehicle returns to the Center; each time the vehicle departs from the Center, arrives at the location where any child is picked up or dropped off and when the vehicle returns to the Center; each time the vehicle leaves the Center, arrives at a field trip destination, leaves a field trip destination, and returns to the Center. It was determined based on review of records that center staff did not write the date for transportation routes to Alcova Elementary School, Dacula Elementary School, Mulberry Elementary School, and Yargo Elementary School, conducted between November 3, 2025, and November 14, 2025.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will ensure that each date and time of arrival and departure is documented by the driver or designated person with training, review and monitoring.

Correction Deadline: 11/18/2025

Recited on 11/18/2025

Sleeping & Resting Equipment

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

Met

Comment

Staff stated knowledge of infant safe sleep requirements.

Staff Records

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

Met

Comment

Director provided seven files for employees hired since last visit June 17, 2025.

Correction Deadline: 6/17/2025

Corrected on 11/18/2025

.09(1)(c) - The previous citation was observed corrected on this date. The Consultant observed all staff to have current and satisfactory comprehensive records check determination.

Correction Deadline: 6/17/2025

Corrected on 11/18/2025

.09(1)(l)3. - The previous citation was observed corrected on this date. The Consultant observed all staff to have current and satisfactory comprehensive records check determination.

Comment

Complete first aid kits observed in center and on vehicles on this date.

Comment

Evidence observed of 100% of center Staff hired more than 45 days certified in First Aid and CPR containing emergency care for infants and children on this date.

591-1-1-.33 Staff Training**Technical Assistance****Correction Deadline: 7/17/2025****Corrected on 11/18/2025**

.33(3)(a)-(k) - The previous citation was observed corrected on this date. The consultant observed all staff to have completed Health and Safety orientation training.

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.33(5)(b)1. - New - Discussed that effective July 1, 2025, all staff are required to obtain at least two hours in evidence based, developmentally appropriate language and literacy practices and at least two hours in on-going child development and health and safety related topics as part of their 10 hours of annual training.

Correction Deadline: 12/18/2025**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)****Technical Assistance****Comment**

Center observed to maintain appropriate staff:child ratios.

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.32(1) - consultant discussed with the director to ensure that additional staff maintain ratios when in staff are assisting students in the restroom

Correction Deadline: 11/18/2025**591-1-1-.32 Supervision(CR)****Met****Comment**

Adequate supervision observed on this date.