



**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:** 3/24/2026 **VisitType:** Incident Investigation & Follow Up **Arrival:** 1:25 PM **Departure:** 4:50 PM

**CCLC-67099**

**Lake Dow Learning Academy**

616 Highway 81 East McDonough, GA 30252 Henry County  
 (770) 957-7647

Special Investigations Unit Specialist

Stephanie Ellis

Phone: (470) 442-4722

Fax: (470) 226-2710

stephanie.ellis@dec.al.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. |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 03/24/2026                         | Incident Investigation & Follow Up | Good Standing |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| 03/06/2026                         | Complaint Closure                  | Good Standing |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| 01/08/2026                         | ILS with Final License Date        | Good Standing |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |

**Ratios/License Capacity**

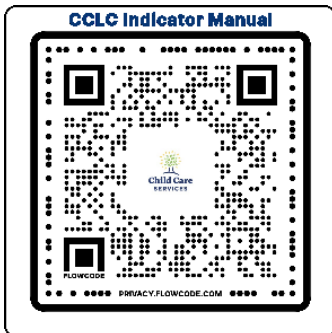
| Building                       | Room                      | Age Group                          | Staff | Children | NC/C                          | Max 35 SF. | 35 SF. Comp.                                               | Max 25 SF. | 25 SF. Comp. | Notes       |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------------|-------|----------|-------------------------------|------------|------------------------------------------------------------|------------|--------------|-------------|
| Bldg 1                         | A 1st Left                | Infants and One Year Olds          | 1     | 5        | C                             | 5          | C                                                          | NA         | NA           | Nap         |
| Bldg 1                         | B 2nd Left (behind 1st L) | Two Year Olds                      | 2     | 10       | C                             | 14         | C                                                          | NA         | NA           | Nap         |
| Bldg 1                         | C 3rd Left                |                                    | 0     | 0        | C                             | 9          | C                                                          | NA         | NA           | Not In Use  |
| Bldg 1                         | D Middle Front            |                                    | 0     | 0        | C                             | 8          | C                                                          | NA         | NA           | Not In Use  |
| Bldg 1                         | E Middle Back             |                                    | 0     | 0        | C                             | 15         | C                                                          | NA         | NA           | Not In Use  |
| Bldg 1                         | G 2nd Right               |                                    | 0     | 0        | C                             | 14         | C                                                          | NA         | NA           | Not In Use  |
|                                |                           | Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 75     |       |          | Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0 |            | Building @35 capacity limited by Fire Marshall Limitations |            |              |             |
| Bldg 2                         | H 1L: Private Pre-K       | Four Year Olds and Five Year Olds  | 1     | 9        | C                             | 14         | C                                                          | NA         | NA           | Nap         |
| Bldg 2                         | J 3L: Afterschool         |                                    | 0     | 0        | C                             | 15         | C                                                          | NA         | NA           | Not In Use  |
| Bldg 2                         | K 3R: Afterschool         |                                    | 0     | 0        | C                             | 16         | C                                                          | NA         | NA           | Not In Use  |
| Bldg 2                         | L 2R: Private Pre-K       | Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds | 1     | 9        | C                             | 14         | C                                                          | NA         | NA           | Nap,Centers |
| Bldg 2                         | M 1R: Private Pre-K       | Three Year Olds                    | 2     | 9        | C                             | 14         | C                                                          | NA         | NA           | Nap         |
|                                |                           | Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 88     |       |          | Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0 |            | Building @35 capacity limited by Fire Marshall Limitations |            |              |             |
| Total # Children this Date: 42 |                           | Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 163    |       |          | Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0 |            |                                                            |            |              |             |

| Building | Playground   | Playground Occupancy | Playground Compliance |
|----------|--------------|----------------------|-----------------------|
| Bldg 1   | A Toddler    | 22                   | C                     |
| Bldg 1   | B Preschool  | 45                   | C                     |
| Bldg 1   | C School age | 75                   | C                     |
| Bldg 1   | D Preschool  | 43                   | C                     |

**Comments**

The purpose of this visit was to conduct an incident investigation and follow up visit.

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.decal.ga.gov/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.decal.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

You have received permission to operate and the form received with this report is intended to serve as a temporary license which is **valid for thirty(30) days**. Your actual license/ will be emailed to you upon receipt of the licensing fee. You may pay the licensing fee either online at <http://www.decal.ga.gov/> or by certified check or money order mailed to: Bright from the Start, 2 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive SE, Suite 670 East Tower, Atlanta, GA 30334

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.

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**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.

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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!**



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Summary Report

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The following information is associated with a Incident Investigation & Follow Up:

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

591-1-1-.06 Bathrooms

Met

Correction Deadline: 12/19/2025

Corrected on 3/24/2026

.06(4) - The previous citation was observed to be corrected on this date. The Consultant observed that both toilets were removed from the classrooms.

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 that one staff member and 10 3-year-old children were present in Building 2, classroom 2L, which was not licensed for use on this date

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will limit the number of children in this space to the licensed capacity.

Correction Deadline: 4/7/2026

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

Defer

Defer

591-1-1-.25(11)- Evaluation of the previous citation was deferred on this date to the next regulatory visit.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Director will ensure that the floors are repaired or replaced in those classrooms.

Correction Deadline: 12/19/2025

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

Not Met

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, that on the four-year-old playground, a section of the roadway on the left side was broken, creating a tripping hazard.

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: 4/7/2026

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

Met

Correction Deadline: 12/5/2025

Corrected on 3/24/2026

.11(2) - The previous citation was observed to be corrected on this date. The Consultant did not observe inappropriate discipline on this date.