



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: 10/29/2025 **VisitType:** Licensing Study

Arrival: 12:25 PM **Departure:** 3:15 PM

CCLC-46551
Dahlonega Country Day Academy
 619 Buckhorn Tavern Road Dahlonega, GA 30533 Lumpkin
 County
 (706) 867-6290

Regional Consultant
 Beth Holland
 Phone: (770) 686-4006
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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.
10/29/2025	Licensing Study	Good Standing	
07/22/2025	Complaint Closure	Good Standing	
07/22/2025	Complaint Investigation & Monitoring Visit	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
Back Building	Back Right E		0	0	C	7	C	NA	NA	
Back Building	Middle 1st Left C		0	0	C	9	C	NA	NA	
Back Building	Middle 2nd Left D		0	0	C	14	C	NA	NA	
Back Building	Middle B		0	0	C	22	C	NA	NA	
		Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 37			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0			Building @35 capacity limited by Heath Department Limitations		
Cottage	Back Room	Infants	2	5	C	5	C	NA	NA	Floor Play
Cottage	Front Room	Infants	2	7	C	12	C	NA	NA	Floor Play,Nap
		Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 15			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0			Building @35 capacity limited by Building Department		
Main	Room A- 1st Right	Three Year Olds	1	8	C	13	C	NA	NA	Nap
Main	Room B 2nd Right	GA PreK	2	13	C	18	C	NA	NA	Nap
Main	Room C 3rd Right	One Year Olds	2	11	C	10	NC	NA	NA	Nap
Main	Room D -1st Left	GA PreK	1	14	C	21	C	NA	NA	Nap
Main	Room E - 2nd Left	GA PreK	2	15	C	18	C	NA	NA	Nap
Main	Room F- 3rd Left	Two Year Olds	2	12	C	14	C	NA	NA	Nap
Main	Room G 4th Left	Two Year Olds	1	10	C	11	C	NA	NA	Nap
		Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 103			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0			Building @35 capacity limited by Heath Department Limitations		
Total # Children this Date: 95		Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 155			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0					

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Cottage	Main Playground & Front Porch	8	C
Cottage	Side Porch	2	C
Main	Covered Porch	5	C
Main	Playground A	55	C
Main	Playground B	16	C

Enrolled Children						
Under 1 years	1 years	2 years	3 years	4 years	5 years (Prekonly)	5 years and older
12	10	10	8	52	0	23

Comments

A licensing visit was completed on this date.

Plan of Improvement: No Plan Developed

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!



Summary Report

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The following information is associated with a Licensing Study:

Activities and Equipment

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

Met

Comment

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

Comment

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

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

Met

Comment

Center does not provide swimming activities.

Children's Records

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

Met

Correction Deadline: 7/22/2025

Corrected on 10/29/2025

.08(6) - The previous citation was observed to be corrected in that parents were observed checking children out via the computerized system.

Facility

591-1-1-.19 License Capacity(CR)

Met

Correction Deadline: 7/22/2025

Corrected on 10/29/2025

.19(1) - The previous citation was observed to be corrected in that all classroom capacities were observed to be in compliance on this date.

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

Met

Comment

The Center appeared clean and well maintained on this date.

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.25(14) - 591-1-1-.25(14) requires the Center to be lighted with a minimum of twenty-five foot candles of illumination except during rest periods. Areas used for napping shall be lit dimly. During overcast days, please consider lamps or battery operated light in dark classrooms during nap time so that children's faces can be seen.

Correction Deadline: 11/28/2025

591-1-1-.26 Playgrounds(CR)**Met****Comment**

Discussed maintenance of resilient surface. Please fluff and redistribute.

Comment

Trees located on the site or that encroach onto the site from adjacent properties may have structural issues that present an elevated level of risk. Consider having these trees inspected by a certified arborist to determine their structural integrity and associated levels of risk.

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

Reminder: 591-1-1-.15(2)(f) requires that food for infants or children less than one (1) year of age be cut into pieces one-quarter inch or smaller and food for toddlers shall be cut into pieces one-half inch or smaller to prevent choking.

Correction Deadline: 10/29/2025

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.

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(2)(r) - New - 591-1-1-.21(1)(r) requires Center policies and procedures include 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.ga.gov/CCS/RulesAndRegulations.aspx> or through the Center on Shaken Baby Syndrome found at: <https://dontshake.org/>.

Correction Deadline: 11/3/2025

Comment

Program observed complete emergency drills

591-1-1-.29 Required Reporting**Met****Comment**

Discussed reporting requirements.

Safety**591-1-1-.11 Discipline(CR)****Met****Comment**

Staff were observed to maintain a positive learning environment on this date.

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

Complete documentation of transportation observed on this date.

Week of October 6 and 14 2025- Blackburn Elementary

Sleeping & Resting Equipment**591-1-1-.30 Safe Sleeping and Resting Requirements(CR)****Met****Comment**

Discussed SIDS and infant sleeping position.

Comment

Pleasant naptime environment observed.

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

Director provided 12 file(s) for employees hired since last visit on April 11, 2025.

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

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

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.14(1)(a) requires all Staff who provide direct care to children must obtain certification in a biennial training program in pediatric cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and a triennial training program in pediatric first aid within the first 45 days of employment. Current and valid evidence of the successful completion of such training shall be maintained on the Center's premises. The hours obtained completing this certification will not count towards the required annual training hours.

Correction Deadline: 11/28/2025

Technical Assistance

New-591-1-1-.14(2)(b) - 591-1-1-.14(2)(b) requires that there must always be one staff person present in each classroom where children are present that has current and valid pediatric cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and pediatric first aid training.

Correction Deadline: 10/29/2025

591-1-1-.33 Staff Training**Met****Comment**

Documentation observed of required staff training.

591-1-1-.31 Staff(CR)**Met****Comment**

Staff observed to be compliant with applicable laws and regulations.

Staffing and Supervision

Comment

Center observed to maintain appropriate staff:child ratios.

Comment

Discussed naptime ratios.

591-1-1-.32 Supervision(CR)**Technical Assistance****Comment**

Adequate supervision observed on this date.

Technical Assistance

REMINDER: 591-1-1-.32(7) requires that children be supervised at all times appropriate to the individual age, needs and capabilities of each child. Such supervision must include, but not be limited to, indoor and outdoor activities, mealtimes, naptime, transportation, field trips, and transitions between activities. "Supervision" means that the appropriate number of Staff members are physically present in the area where children are being cared for and are providing watchful oversight to the children, volunteers and Students-in-Training. The persons supervising in the child care area must be alert, positioned to maximize their ability to hear and see the children at all times, and able to respond promptly to the needs and actions of the children being supervised, as well as the actions of the volunteers and Students-in-Training, and provide timely attention to the children's actions and needs.

Staff shall be attentive and participating with all children during mealtimes and shall be seated within an arm's length away from children thirty-six (36) months of age and younger.

Correction Deadline: 10/29/2025