



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: 10/9/2025 VisitType: Licensing Study

Arrival: 12:50 PM Departure: 5:50 PM

CCLC-1020

Fort Daniel Children's Academy

2730 Braselton Hwy. Dacula, GA 30019 Gwinnett County
(770) 932-6200

Regional Consultant

Lynn Schnitzer

Phone: (678) 717-5720

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lynn.schnitzer@dec.al.ga.gov

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.
10/09/2025	Licensing Study	Good Standing	
06/18/2025	Licensing Study	Good Standing	
04/03/2024	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
Main	1L	Infants and One Year Olds	2	8	C	16	C	NA	NA	Floor Play, Diapering, Lunch
Main	1R	Two Year Olds and Three Year Olds	1	11	C	20	C	NA	NA	Nap
Main	2L	One Year Olds	1	6	C	17	C	NA	NA	Nap
Main	2R	Four Year Olds and Five Year Olds	1	7	C	16	C	NA	NA	Nap
Main	3L	One Year Olds and Two Year Olds	2	9	C	14	C	NA	NA	Nap
Main	3R	Three Year Olds	1	14	C	16	C	NA	NA	Nap
Main	4L	Four Year Olds and Five Year Olds and Six Year Olds and Over	1	12	C	26	C	NA	NA	Centers
Main	4R		0	0	C	24	C	NA	NA	
Main	Center		0	0	C	27	C	NA	NA	
Main	Dining	Five Year Olds and Six Year Olds and Over	2	17	C	30	C	NA	NA	Centers
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 206					Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0					
Total # Children this Date: 84					Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0					

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	PG A Left side	34	C

Enrolled Children						
Under 1 years	1 years	2 years	3 years	4 years	5 years (Prekonly)	5 years and older
8	16	18	31	53	14	50

Comments

The consultant discussed the visit report with the Assistant Director, Tammy Sewell, on October 9, 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)

Met

Comment

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

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

N/A

Comment

Center does not provide swimming activities.

Children's Records

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

Technical Assistance

Comment

Parent authorizations obtained/completed.

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.08(1) - Consultant discussed with the director to ensure that the children's files have the address of the persons to whom the child may be released for one of five reviewed files.

Correction Deadline: 10/9/2025

Facility

591-1-1-.06 Bathrooms

Defer

Defer

591-1-1-.06(4)-Evaluation of the previous citation was deferred on this date to the next regulatory visit. The center has contracted for the necessary repairs to be made.

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: 7/18/2025

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)**Met****Comment**

The Center appeared clean and well maintained on this date.

Correction Deadline: 6/18/2025

Corrected on 10/9/2025

.25(13) - The previous citation was observed corrected on this date. The Consultant observed no potentially hazardous items accessible to children.

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 was a gap measuring approximately 6 inches in the gate between the unlicensed space and PG Right Side. Further there was a gap measuring approximately 5 and one half inches between the "crayon" fence and the playground fence of PG Right Side.

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: 10/9/2025

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 that the plastic on the steps on the right side of large climbing structure is cracked and is a potential hazard to the children.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will provide a variety of age-appropriate equipment that is arranged so as not to obstruct supervision of children. Staff will check the equipment daily to ensure that the equipment is free of hazards, rust and splinters.

Correction Deadline: 10/17/2025

Recited on 10/9/2025

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 there was splintered wood on the barrier around the climbing equipment and on the left side of PG Right Side.

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: 10/17/2025

Recited on 10/9/2025

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

Consultant observed that infant feeding forms are updated regularly.

Technical Assistance

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

Correction Deadline: 10/9/2025

591-1-1-.18 Kitchen Operations**Not Met****Finding**

591-1-1-.18(8) requires that containers of food be stored above the floor on clean surfaces protected from splash and other contamination. Containers for food storage other than the original container or package in which the food was obtained shall be impervious and non-absorbent, have tight-fitting lids or covers and labeled as to contents. It was determined based on observation that a bag of apples was stored on the pantry floor. The bag was moved to a shelf during the visit.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will designate an appropriate area for the storage of containers of food, will make available containers, lids, and covers, and will train Staff on proper storage and labeling.

Correction Deadline: 10/9/2025

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

Proper diapering procedures observed.

591-1-1-.17 Hygiene(CR)**Not Met****Finding**

591-1-1-.17(7) requires that children wash their hands with liquid soap and warm running water upon arrival for care, when moving from one child care group to another, upon re-entering the child care area after outside play, before and after eating meals and snacks, handling or touching food, playing in water; after toileting and diapering, playing in sand, touching animals or pets, and contact with bodily fluids and after contamination by any other means. It was determined based on observation that staff did not wash an infant's hands after completing the diaper changing process in classroom 1L.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will train Staff on required handwashing for children and Staff will ensure children's hands are washed when required. The Director will monitor for compliance.

Correction Deadline: 10/9/2025

591-1-1-.20 Medications(CR)**Not Met****Finding**

591-1-1-.20(1) requires Personnel to obtain specific written authorization from the child's physician or parent in order to dispense prescription or non-prescription medications, except for first aid. Such authorization will include when applicable, date; full name of the child; name of the medication; prescription number, if any; dosage; the dates to be given; the time of day to be dispensed; and signature of parent. It was determined based on review of records that the center did not have specific written authorization from the child's physician or parent in order to dispense "epinephrine." Further, written authorization did not include the name of the medication.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will train Staff to obtain and review parental authorizations to ensure the authorization contains complete information. The designated person(s) will monitor daily.

Correction Deadline: 10/9/2025

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.20(5) -Consultant discussed with director that medicines which are no longer to be dispensed should be returned to the child's parent immediately.

Correction Deadline: 10/9/2025

Policies and Procedures

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.al.gov/CCS/RulesAndRegulations.aspx> or through the Center on Shaken Baby Syndrome found at: <https://dontshake.org/>.

Correction Deadline: 10/14/2025

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)**Met****Comment**

Field trip documentation observed to be complete on this date.

591-1-1-.36 Transportation(CR)**Not Met****Comment**

A current/completed inspection was observed for all vehicles used in transporting children this date.

Comment

The vehicle had an approved fire extinguisher and first aid kit on this date.

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.36(7)(b) - Consultant discussed with director to ensure that children's emergency medical records have the name and number of the child's physician for one of 26 records reviewed.

Correction Deadline: 10/10/2025

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 document the date of transportation routes conducted between September 22, 2025, and September 26, 2025, and between September 29, 2025, and October 3, 2025, to Fort Daniel Elementary School, Freeman's Mill Elementary School, and Twin Rivers Elementary School.

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.

Sleeping & Resting Equipment

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

Pleasant naptime environment observed.

Comment

Staff stated knowledge of infant safe sleep requirements.

Staff Records

Records Reviewed: 30**Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 1**

Staff # 1

Not Met

Date of Hire: 08/01/2022

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.31(2)(b)2.-Staff Qualifications-Education Missing

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

Criminal record checks were observed to be complete.

Comment

Director provided nine files for employees hired since last visit June 18, 2025.

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

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

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**Technical Assistance****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: 11/8/2025**591-1-1-.31 Staff(CR)****Not Met****Comment**

Staff observed to be compliant with applicable laws and regulations.

Finding

591-1-1-.31(2)(b)2. requires teachers and lead caregivers to meet minimum academic requirements and qualifying experience at the time of employment. It was determined based on review of records that staff #1's, date of hire August 1, 2022, CDA certification had expired on December 11, 2019.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

A teacher/lead caregiver will be hired that meets the minimum academic requirements and qualifying work experience.

Correction Deadline: 10/9/2025

Staffing and Supervision

Comment

Center observed to maintain appropriate staff:child ratios.

591-1-1-.32 Supervision(CR)**Not Met****Finding**

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. It was determined based on observation that center staff was not seated with infants during lunch in classroom 1L. One staff member was seated by wall on the left and the second staff member was standing by the changing table. Two infants were eating in high chairs along the front wall of the classroom.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will train Staff and monitor to ensure they are providing supervision and watchful oversight to the children at all times.

Correction Deadline: 10/9/2025