



Bright from the Start Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning
3 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive SE, 670 East Tower
Atlanta, GA 30334
 Phone: (404) 657-5562 WWW.DECAL.GA.GOV

Date: 3/12/2026 **VisitType:** Complaint Investigation & Licensing **Arrival:** 10:35 AM **Departure:** 5:00 PM
Study

CCLC-57835

Decatur Scholars Academy

5271 Snapfinger Woods Drive Decatur, GA 30035 DeKalb County
 (770) 864-5574

Regional Consultant

Jessica Johnson

Phone: (770) 357-5090

Fax:

jessica.johnson@decal.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. 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.
03/12/2026	Complaint Investigation & Licensing Study	Good Standing	
12/29/2025	Complaint Closure	Good Standing	
12/23/2025	Complaint Investigation Follow Up	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
Main	Office		0	0	C	6	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
Main	Room A		0	0	C	12	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
Main	Room B	One Year Olds and Two Year Olds	2	12	C	12	C	NA	NA	Transitioning
Main	Room C	Two Year Olds	3	14	C	16	C	NA	NA	Transitioning
Main	Room D	Infants and One Year Olds	1	4	C	16	C	NA	NA	Diapering, Floor Play, Nap
Main	Room E	Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds	1	9	C	24	C	NA	NA	Centers
Main	Room F	Three Year Olds	2	12	C	24	C	NA	NA	Transitioning
Main	Room G		0	0	C	53	C	NA	NA	
Main	Room H		0	0	C	22	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
Main	Room I	Six Year Olds and Over	2	23	NC	44	C	NA	NA	Supper
Main	Room J	Six Year Olds and Over	1	13	C	50	C	NA	NA	Supper
Main	Room Q		0	0	C	10	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
Main	Room R		0	0	C	11	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
Main	Room S		0	0	C	10	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
Main	Room T		0	0	C	16	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
Main	Room U		0	0	C	11	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
Main	Room V		0	0	C	11	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
Main	Room W		0	0	C	11	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
Main	Room X		0	0	C	12	C	NA	NA	Not In Use

Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 371

Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0

Total # Children this Date: 87

Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 371

Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0

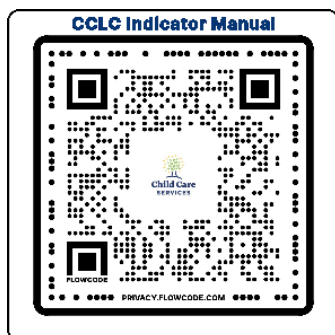
Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	Playground	36	C
Main	School Age Playground	304	C

Enrolled Children						
Under 1 years	1 years	2 years	3 years	4 years	5 years (Prekonly)	5 years and older
4	15	14	19	10	0	77

Comments

On this date, Jessica Johnson (JJ), Consultant, reviewed the visit report with Director Donald Woodard. The visit report was left open on this date because additional information was required. Upon completion, a copy of the report will be sent to the child care program via email.

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.

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@decal.ga.gov for more information. Free technical assistance is available!



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

Summary Report

Date: 3/12/2026 **VisitType:** Complaint Investigation & Licensing **Arrival:** 10:35 AM **Departure:** 5:00 PM
Study

CCLC-57835

Decatur Scholars Academy

5271 Snapfinger Woods Drive Decatur, GA 30035 DeKalb County
(770) 864-5574

Regional Consultant

Jessica Johnson

Phone: (770) 357-5090

Fax:

jessica.johnson@dec.al.ga.gov

Mailing Address
Same

The following information is associated with a Licensing Study Visit:

Activities and Equipment

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

Technical Assistance

Comment

Discussed adding equipment and toys to enhance variety.

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.12(2) - Discussed removing the sofa with the exposed form from classroom B.

Correction Deadline: 3/12/2026

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

Met

Comment

Center does not provide swimming activities.

Facility

591-1-1-.06 Bathrooms

Met

Comment

Please monitor bathrooms for necessary supplies.

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

Met

Comment

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

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 following hazards were observed:

Classroom D

- A damaged ceiling tile was observed at the entrance door.

Classroom F

- Staples were observed throughout the back wall.

Classroom I

- The door handle was observed loose at the entrance door.

Classroom J

- Chipped paint was observed on the first column.
- A damaged ceiling tile was observed in the center of the classroom.

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: 4/2/2026

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

Not Met

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.26(6) - Discussed replacing the torn soccer nets and removing the rust from the car structure.

Correction Deadline: 3/22/2026

Finding

591-1-1-.26(8) requires climbing and swinging equipment to have a resilient surface beneath the equipment and the fall zone from such equipment must be adequately maintained by the Center to assure continuing resiliency. It was determined based on observation that 2 inches of resilient surface was observed around the two pink slides on the Main toddler playground when 3 inches was required. .

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will add additional resilient surfacing to the fall zones where needed and check daily, adding resilient surfacing as needed to maintain adequate resiliency.

Correction Deadline: 3/31/2026

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 five active ant beds were observed on the school age playground.

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: 3/12/2026

Food Service

591-1-1-.15 Food Service & Nutrition

Technical Assistance

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.15(5) - Please ensure that children do not have excessive amounts of food in their mouths while eating and are chewing their food appropriately to prevent instances of choking. Children shall always be seated when eating and shall not be allowed to lie down or be put to sleep while food is present in their mouths.

Correction Deadline: 3/12/2026

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

Staff stated proper knowledge of diapering procedures.

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

Staff were observed to remind children to wash hands on this date.

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

The Provider currently does not dispense/administer medication.

Safety**591-1-1-.05 Animals****Met****Comment**

Animals maintained clean and appropriately caged.

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

Age-appropriate discussion and/or redirection observed.

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)**Technical Assistance****Comment**

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

Comment

Paperwork, checklist, permission forms, annual inspection form and proper check of the vehicle after transportation were discussed with the director.

Comment

591-1-1-.36(4)(a) - The vehicles were not observed at the center on this date as the center uses a third party company for transportation.

Correction Deadline: 3/17/2026

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.36(4)(c) - Please ensure the vehicles has an approved fire extinguisher and first aid kit.

Correction Deadline: 3/12/2026

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.36(7)(c)2. - Please ensure that the driver or other designated person immediately documents in writing, with a check or other mark/symbol to account for each child listed on the passenger transportation checklist each time a child enters and exits the vehicle. The driver or other designated staff person shall document in writing with a different mark/symbol to account for each child listed on the passenger transportation checklist who was not present on the vehicle for any reason. An explanation shall be documented in writing whenever a child is transported to a field trip site but is not present on the return trip to the Center.

Correction Deadline: 3/13/2026

Sleeping & Resting Equipment

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

Discussed SIDS and infant sleeping position.

Correction Deadline: 12/23/2025

Corrected on 3/12/2026

.30(2) - The previous citation was observed corrected on this date as no infants were observed sleeping with bibs.

Staff Records

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

Criminal record checks were observed to be complete.

591-1-1-.09 Criminal Records Check(CR)**Met****Comment**

Criminal records checks were observed to be complete.

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

At least one staff person with current and valid pediatric first aid and pediatric CPR observed in each classroom where children were present.

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

Complete documentation of transportation observed. on this date.

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

Discussed that all lead staff must enroll in an approved education program within 6 months of hire and complete degree within 18 months.

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**

Adequate supervision observed on this date.