



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: 11/24/2025 **VisitType:** Complaint Investigation Follow Up **Arrival:** 2:10 PM **Departure:** 5:20 PM

CCLC-67099

Lake Dow Learning Academy

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

Special Investigations Unit Lead

Tasha McDonald

Phone: (770) 344-3353

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tasha.mcdonald@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.
11/24/2025	Complaint Investigation Follow Up	Good Standing	
10/09/2025	Complaint Closure	Good Standing	
09/25/2025	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
Bldg 1	A 1st Left	Infants and One Year Olds	1	4	C	5	C	NA	NA	Floor Play,Feeding
Bldg 1	B 2nd Left (behind 1st L)	Two Year Olds	1	6	C	14	C	NA	NA	Free Play
Bldg 1	C 3rd Left		0	0	C	9	C	NA	NA	
Bldg 1	D Middle Front		0	0	C	8	C	NA	NA	
Bldg 1	E Middle Back	Two Year Olds	1	2	C	15	C	NA	NA	Floor Play
Bldg 1	G 2nd Right		0	0	C	14	C	NA	NA	
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	2	10	C	14	C	NA	NA	Free Play
Bldg 2	J 3L: Afterschool	Five Year Olds and Six Year Olds and Over	1	10	C	15	C	NA	NA	Free Play
Bldg 2	K 3R: Afterschool		0	0	C	16	C	NA	NA	
Bldg 2	L 2R: Private Pre-K		0	0	C	14	C	NA	NA	
Bldg 2	M 1R: Private Pre-K		0	0	C	14	C	NA	NA	
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 88					Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0		Building @35 capacity limited by Fire Marshall Limitations			
Total # Children this Date: 32		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
Bldg 1	E School age	48	C

Comments

11-24-2025:

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!



Summary Report

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The following information is associated with a Complaint Investigation Follow Up:

Activities and Equipment

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

Met

Correction Deadline: 9/30/2025

Corrected on 11/24/2025

.12(1) - The previous citation was observed to be corrected on this date. The consultant observed that the television hanging in the two-year-old classroom was securely and properly mounted..

Facility

591-1-1-.06 Bathrooms

Not Met

Finding

591-1-1-.06(4) requires a Center first licensed after March 1, 1991, and Centers that remodel or add to existing plumbing facilities, to have the bathroom area fully enclosed and ventilated to the outside of the building with either an open screened window or functioning exhaust fan and duct system and requires Centers without fully enclosed bathrooms to ensure there is adequate ventilation to control odors and adequate sanitation measures to prevent the spread of contagious diseases. It was determined based on observation that the toilets in both two year old classrooms were not enclosed and positioned behind the changing tables.

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: 12/3/2025

Recited on 11/24/2025

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

Not Met

Finding

591-1-1-.25(11) requires that floor coverings be tight, smooth, free of odors and washable or cleanable. It was determined based on Consultant's observation that the flooring in the 2nd building has a seam /tear that runs from the after school classrooms into the Pre-k and four year old classrooms and is in need of repair. .

POI (Plan of Improvement)

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

Correction Deadline: 12/3/2025

Recited on 11/24/2025

Correction Deadline: 11/7/2025

Corrected on 11/24/2025

.25(3) - The previous citation was observed to be corrected on this date. Consultant observed the surrounding areas were clean and in good repair on this date.

Correction Deadline: 10/23/2025

Corrected on 11/24/2025

.25(6) - The previous citation was observed to be corrected on this date. Consultant observed each child with individually labeled and accessible storage on this date.

Correction Deadline: 9/23/2025

Corrected on 11/24/2025

.25(7) - The previous citation was observed to be corrected on this date. Consultant observed the door to the kitchen closed and locked and inaccessible to the children on this date.

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

Not Met

Correction Deadline: 11/20/2025

Corrected on 11/24/2025

.26(8) - The previous citation was observed to be corrected on this date. Consultant observed the center to provide adequate resilient surfacing to the fall zones on this date.

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: 12/3/2025

Recited on 11/24/2025

Health and Hygiene

591-1-1-.10 Diapering Areas & Practices(CR)

Met

Correction Deadline: 9/23/2025

Corrected on 11/24/2025

.10(1) - The previous citation was observed to be corrected on this date. The consultant noted that the ventilation fan was functioning properly, the diapering table was clean and in good repair, and the children were changed appropriately and the potty training toilet was emptied.

591-1-1-.17 Hygiene(CR)

Met

Correction Deadline: 10/23/2025

Corrected on 11/24/2025

.17(2) - The previous citation was observed to be corrected on this date. Consultant observed center staff to keep the children clean, dry and comfortable on this date.

Policies and Procedures

591-1-1-.29 Required Reporting

Met

Correction Deadline: 10/23/2025

Corrected on 11/24/2025

.29(3) - The previous citation was observed to be corrected on this date. The consultant verified that the center knows to report to the Department within twenty-four hours or on the next workday, as required.

Safety

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

Met

Correction Deadline: 10/23/2025

Corrected on 11/24/2025

.36(10) - The previous citation was observed to be corrected on this date. The consultant confirmed that no child was left unattended on the child care center's vehicle on this date.

Correction Deadline: 10/23/2025

Corrected on 11/24/2025

.36(7)(c)2. -The previous citation was observed to be corrected on this date. The consultant observed documentation showing that the transportation checklist was accurately completed on this date.

Correction Deadline: 10/23/2025

Corrected on 11/24/2025

.36(7)(d)1. - The previous citation was observed to be corrected on this date. The consultant observed documentation of a first check of the vehicle conducted after unloading the last child at the facility.

Correction Deadline: 10/23/2025

Corrected on 11/24/2025

.36(7)(d)2. - The previous citation was observed to be corrected on this date. The consultant noted documentation of a second check of the vehicle conducted after children were transported from an elementary school to the center.

Sleeping & Resting Equipment

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

Met

Correction Deadline: 9/30/2025

Corrected on 11/24/2025

.30(4) - The previous citation was observed to be corrected on this date. Consultant observed the center to store cots and mats in a separate area out of reach of children on this date.

Staffing and Supervision

591-1-1-.32 Supervision(CR)

Met

Correction Deadline: 10/23/2025

Corrected on 11/24/2025

.32(7) - The previous citation was observed to be corrected on this date. Consultant observed all staff members to provide direct supervision and watchful oversight of the children care on this date.