



**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:** 8/6/2025 **VisitType:** Licensing Study **Arrival:** 8:25 AM **Departure:** 12:30 PM

**CCLC-63293**

**Creative Kids Academy of Scholars**

6180 Old National Highway Atlanta, GA 30349 Fulton County  
(470) 426-0540 ballen8582@icloud.com

Regional Consultant

Shameka Dozier

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**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. |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------|---------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 08/06/2025                         | Licensing Study         | Good Standing |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| 07/22/2024                         | Initial Licensing Study | 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                           | A: Infants (1st left)                 | One Year Olds                     | 1                             | 5        | C    | 11         | C            | NA         | NA           | Breakfast, Transitioning |
| Main                           | B: 2's and 3's (1st right)            | Two Year Olds and Three Year Olds | 1                             | 4        | C    | 14         | C            | NA         | NA           | Breakfast                |
| Main                           | C: 3's and 4's (2nd right Downstairs) |                                   | 0                             | 0        | C    | 12         | C            | NA         | NA           |                          |
| Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 37 |                                       |                                   | Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0 |          |      |            |              |            |              |                          |
| Total # Children this Date: 9  |                                       |                                   | Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0 |          |      |            |              |            |              |                          |

| Building | Playground    | Playground Occupancy | Playground Compliance |
|----------|---------------|----------------------|-----------------------|
| Main     | Covered Patio | 6                    | C                     |
| Main     | Playground A  | 156                  | C                     |

| <b>Enrolled Children</b> |         |         |         |         |                    |                   |
|--------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|--------------------|-------------------|
| Under 1 years            | 1 years | 2 years | 3 years | 4 years | 5 years (Prekonly) | 5 years and older |
| 1                        | 7       | 3       | 4       | 1       | 0                  | 14                |

### Comments

Required report, evening care, transportation, policy, literacy training, and pediatric First Aid and pediatric CPR training was discussed with the provider on this date.

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.

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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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**(Findings Report)**

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The following information is associated with a LS:

**Activities and Equipment**

**591-1-1-.03 Activities**

**Met**

**Comment**

Age-appropriate activities observed throughout the center.

**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**

**Met**

**Comment**

Records were observed to be complete and well organized.

**Facility**

**591-1-1-.06 Bathrooms**

**Met**

**Comment**

Bathrooms observed to be clean and well maintained.

**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**

**Technical Assistance**

591-1-1-.25(13) - Consultant discussed with the provider to ensure that all potentially hazardous equipment, materials and supplies be stored in a locked area.

**Correction Deadline: 8/6/2025**

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

**Technical Assistance**

**Technical Assistance**

591-1-1-.26(8) - Resilient surface was discussed with the provider on this date.

**Correction Deadline: 8/16/2025**

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**Food Service**

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

**Met**

**Comment**

CACFP Meal Pattern Requirements effective October 1, 2017 will be implemented October 1, 2018: 3 Components for breakfast: Grains, Vegetables, Fruits or both, Milk

5 Components for lunch – Grains, Meat/Meat alternates, Fruits, Vegetable, and Milk OR Grains, Meat/Meat alternates, 2 different types of vegetables, and Milk

2 of 5 Components for snack

Provided Updated CACFP Infant Meal pattern and Child/Adult Meal pattern flyers.

The Crediting Handbook for the CACFP can be located on DECAL and USDA's website:

DECAL

<http://dec.al.ga.gov/CACFP/Handbook.aspx>

USDA

<http://www.fns.usda.gov/cacfp/cacfp-handbooks>

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**591-1-1-.18 Kitchen Operations**

**Met**

**Comment**

Kitchen appears clean and well organized on this date.

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**Health and Hygiene**

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

**Met**

**Comment**

Staff stated proper knowledge of diapering procedures.

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

**Technical Assistance**

**Technical Assistance**

591-1-1-.17(7) - Hand washing was discussed with the provider on this date.

**Correction Deadline: 8/6/2025**

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

**N/A**

**Comment**

The Provider currently does not dispense/administer medication.

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**Policies and Procedures**

**Technical Assistance**

591-1-1-.21(1)(a-o) - 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.ga.gov/CCS/RulesAndRegulations.aspx> or through the Center on Shaken Baby Syndrome found at: <https://dontshake.org/>.

**Correction Deadline: 8/11/2025**

|               |
|---------------|
| <b>Safety</b> |
|---------------|

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

Center does not keep animals on premises.

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

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

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

Center does not provide routine transportation currently.

|                                         |
|-----------------------------------------|
| <b>Sleeping &amp; Resting Equipment</b> |
|-----------------------------------------|

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

591-1-1-.30(1)(d) - Crib spacing was discussed with the provider on this date.

**Correction Deadline: 8/6/2025**

|                      |
|----------------------|
| <b>Staff Records</b> |
|----------------------|

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

Criminal record checks were observed to be complete.

**Comment**

Please ensure that applicants/staff are listing exact dates (including month/day/year) on 10 year work history form in order to determine any breaks in service from the child care industry.

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

Criminal records checks were observed to be complete.

**Technical Assistance**

591-1-1-.14(1)(a) - Consultant discussed with provider 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: 9/5/2025**

**591-1-1-.33 Staff Training****Technical Assistance****Technical Assistance**

591-1-1-.33(1) - Discussed that all Employees, including volunteers, independent contractors, students-in-training, etc. should have a completed initial program orientation form on file.

**Correction Deadline: 8/6/2025**

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

Center observed to maintain appropriate staff:child ratios.

**Technical Assistance**

591-1-1-.32(4)(b) - Parental agreement was discussed with the provider on this date.

**Correction Deadline: 8/6/2025**

**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 two children were left unsupervised in the hallway for over one minute as staff member cooked and served breakfast.

**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: 8/6/2025**