



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: 10/22/2025 **VisitType:** Complaint Investigation & Licensing **Arrival:** 9:30 AM **Departure:** 6:15 PM
Study

CCLC-67099

Lake Dow Learning Academy

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

Application Services Unit Consultant

Toni Williams

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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.
10/22/2025	Complaint Investigation & Licensing Study	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		0	0	C	5	C	NA	NA	
Bldg 1	A 1st Left		0	0	C	5	C	NA	NA	Floor Play
Bldg 1	B 2nd Left (behind 1st L)		0	0	C	14	C	NA	NA	
Bldg 1	B 2nd Left (behind 1st L)		0	0	C	14	C	NA	NA	
Bldg 1	C 3rd Left	Infants and One Year Olds and Four Year Olds	2	6	C	9	C	NA	NA	Floor Play, Floor Play
Bldg 1	C 3rd Left	Infants and One Year Olds and Three Year Olds	2	6	NC	9	C	NA	NA	Floor Play
Bldg 1	D Middle Front		0	0	C	8	C	NA	NA	
Bldg 1	D Middle Front		0	0	C	8	C	NA	NA	
Bldg 1	E Middle Back	Two Year Olds	1	8	C	15	C	NA	NA	TV
Bldg 1	E Middle Back	Two Year Olds	1	8	C	15	C	NA	NA	TV
Bldg 1	F 1st Right (off Cafeteria)		0	0	C	0	C	NA	NA	
Bldg 1	F 1st Right (off Cafeteria)		0	0	C	0	C	NA	NA	
Bldg 1	G 2nd Right	Three Year Olds	1	8	C	14	C	NA	NA	Circle Time
Bldg 1	G 2nd Right	Three Year Olds	1	8	C	14	C	NA	NA	Free Play
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	1	8	C	14	C	NA	NA	Floor Play
Bldg 2	H 1L: Private Pre-K	Four Year Olds	2	8	C	14	C	NA	NA	Floor Play
Bldg 2	J 3L: Afterschool		0	0	C	15	C	NA	NA	
Bldg 2	J 3L: Afterschool		0	0	C	15	C	NA	NA	
Bldg 2	K 3R: Afterschool		0	0	C	16	C	NA	NA	

Bldg 2	K 3R: Afterschool		0	0	C	16	C	NA	NA	
Bldg 2	L 2R: Private Pre-K	Three Year Olds	1	5	C	14	C	NA	NA	Free Play
Bldg 2	L 2R: Private Pre-K	Three Year Olds	1	8	C	14	C	NA	NA	Art
Bldg 2	M 1R: Private Pre-K	Four Year Olds	1	8	C	14	C	NA	NA	Free Play
Bldg 2	M 1R: Private Pre-K	Four Year Olds	1	8	C	14	C	NA	NA	Free Play
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 88			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0			Building @35 capacity limited by Fire Marshall Limitations				
Total # Children this Date: 89			Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 326			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0				

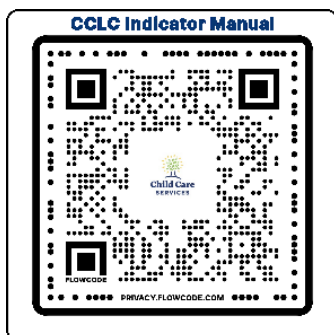
Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Bldg 1	A Toddler	22	C
Bldg 1	A Toddler	22	C
Bldg 1	B Preschool	45	C
Bldg 1	B Preschool	45	C
Bldg 1	C School age	75	C
Bldg 1	C School age	75	C
Bldg 1	D Preschool	43	C
Bldg 1	D Preschool	43	C
Bldg 1	E School age	48	C
Bldg 1	E School age	48	C

Enrolled Children						
Under 1 years	1 years	2 years	3 years	4 years	5 years (Prekonly)	5 years and older
1	3	10	5	9	4	0

Comments

A C/I ILS visit was completed on this date. A final license was not issued on this date based on outstanding citations. The Consultant will complete the investigation and follow up with a complaint closure. An office conference will be completed.

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!



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Summary Report

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The following information is associated with a Licensing Study Visit:

Activities and Equipment

591-1-1-.03 Activities

Not Met

Finding

591-1-1-.03(14) requires center staff to limit the use of entertainment media, such as television, videotaped programs or movies and video or computer games to no more than two (2) hours daily per child or group; to provide such activities only at times when alternative activities are available for children who choose not to participate; and to use entertainment media that is age-appropriate in accordance with the Entertainment Software Rating Board (ESRB) and the Motion Picture Association of America (MPAA). It was determined based on observation that the staff did not limit the use of entertainment media, such as television and was not following the schedule posted.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center Director advised she will explain the time and appropriate use of media in the classrooms.

Correction Deadline: 10/22/2025

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

Met

Correction Deadline: 9/30/2025

Corrected on 10/22/2025

The previous citation was observed corrected on this date. The television was properly mounted on the television stand.

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

Met

Comment

Center does not provide swimming activities. No pool observed on site.

Facility

591-1-1-.06 Bathrooms

Defer

Defer

The evaluation of the previous citation was deferred on this date as correction date was 11/20/2025.

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: 11/20/2025

Comment

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

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

591-1-1-.25(11)-The evaluation of the previous citation was deferred on this date to the next regulatory visit. The correction date was 12/4/2025. The six month date was based on 01/14/2026. The faciity was deferred until 07/14/2026.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

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

Correction Deadline: 12/4/2025

Defer

591-1-1-.25(3)-The evaluation of the previous citation was deferred on this date to the next regulatory visit. The correction date was 11/7/2025.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will have the Center and surrounding areas cleaned, make repairs where needed, and remove all debris. The Center will implement a plan to keep areas clean and in good repair that includes regular monitoring.

Correction Deadline: 11/7/2025

Defer

591-1-1-.25(6)-The evaluation of the previous citation was deferred on this date to the next regulatory visit. The correction date for this citation was 10/23/2025.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will provide each child with individually labeled and accessible storage.

Correction Deadline: 10/23/2025

Correction Deadline: 9/23/2025

Corrected on 10/22/2025

The previous citation was observed corrected on this date. The kitchen door was closed and a window was opened.

591-1-1-.26 Playgrounds(CR)**Not Met****Defer**

591-1-1-.26(8)-The evaluation of the previous citation was deferred on this date to the next regulatory visit. The correction date was 11/20/2025.

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: 11/20/2025

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 an ant bed on the toddler playground.

3-year-old playground:

- Chipped paint on the pole next to the kitchen set and swing
- Inadequate fall zone, fall zone behind the swing was 10 feet when 14 feet was required
- The springs on the red bicycles were rusted and chipping

Afterschool playground:

- S hooks on swings were rusted
- Green, red and yellow swings and blue and yellow swings were too close and did not have appropriate fall zone
- Equipment needs pressure washing or repainting

4-year-old playground:

- Part of roadway was broken around the track causing a tripping hazard.
- Two red tricycles had rusted foot areas on the back and three of the yellow tricycles had chipped paint

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: 12/31/2025

Recited on 10/22/2025

Health and Hygiene**591-1-1-.10 Diapering Areas & Practices(CR)****Not Met****Finding**

591-1-1-.10(1) requires Centers first licensed after March 1, 1991, and Centers that are renovated after March 1, 1991, to provide ventilation in the diapering areas with functioning exhaust fans and a duct system or by the required amount of window space provided by operable windows when open. It was determined based on observation that the staff in the toddler room did not use the ventilation fan while diapering a male child. The staff did not clean the diapering table after changing the child and did not empty the potty-training toilet after the child used it.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The responsible person(s) at the center will ensure that the exhaust fans and duct systems are functioning or that the required amount of operable window space is provided in each diapering area.

Correction Deadline: 10/29/2025

Recited on 10/22/2025

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

The Provider currently does not dispense/administer medication.

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

The Consultant spoke with the Director and Assistant Director about tone and redirection from staff to children.

Sleeping & Resting Equipment

Finding

591-1-1-.30(4). requires that if cots and mats are stored in the children's activity room or area, they shall be stored to prevent children's access to them and to allow maximum use of play space. When storage is available and used for the storage of cots and mats that allows the cots, mats and any bedding to be stored without touching any other cots, mats or bedding, the bedding may be left on the cot or mat. When such storage is not available for the cots and mats, each child's bedding shall be kept separate from other children's bedding and stored in containers marked for individual use, such as, but not limited to, bins, cubbies, or bags. It was determined based on observation that the cots in the 1-year-old classroom were stacked too high, they were uncovered and accessible to the children, who were climbing on them.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will store cots and mats so children do not have access to them and they don't take up play space and will store them so each child's bedding is separate from the others.

Correction Deadline: 10/29/2025

Recited on 10/22/2025

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

Twenty -two (22) of twenty-two (22) staff records were observed to have comprehensive satisfactory Criminal Background Check determination letters on file.

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

Staff observed to be compliant with applicable laws and regulations.

Staffing and Supervision**591-1-1-.32 Supervision(CR)****Met**

Correction Deadline: 10/22/2025

Corrected on 10/22/2025

The previous citation was observed corrected on this date. The staff were all being attentive to the children.

The following information is associated with a Complaint Investigation Visit:

Health and Hygiene**591-1-1-.17 Hygiene(CR)****Met**

Correction Deadline: 10/23/2025

Corrected on 10/22/2025

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

Policies and Procedures**591-1-1-.29 Required Reporting****Met**

Correction Deadline: 10/23/2025

Corrected on 10/22/2025

.29(3) - The previous citation was observed corrected on this date. The Consultant spoke to the Director about when a required report was due.

Safety

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

Met

Correction Deadline: 10/23/2025

Corrected on 10/22/2025

.36(10) - The previous citation was observed corrected on this date. The Consultant observed the center staff check the buses after drop off at the center.

Correction Deadline: 10/23/2025

Corrected on 10/22/2025

.36(7)(c)2. - The previous citation was observed corrected on this date. The transportation checklist was accurate as of this date.

Correction Deadline: 10/23/2025

Corrected on 10/22/2025

.36(7)(d)1. - The previous citation was observed corrected on this date. The Consultant observed the transportation forms and the first check was completed after unloading at the facility on this date.

Correction Deadline: 10/23/2025

Corrected on 10/22/2025

.36(7)(d)2. - The previous citation was observed corrected on this date. The Consultant observed the first and second check completed on this date.

Staffing and Supervision

591-1-1-.32 Staff:Child Ratios and Group Size(CR)

Not Met

Finding Associated with Complaint

591-1-1-.32(4) requires that children under three years old be housed in separate physical areas from older children and cannot be mixed with older children except at specified times and circumstances. It was determined based on observation that a 3-year-old was in the classroom with 1-year-old outside of the first and last hour of the day.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will maintain separation of these children under three years old.

Correction Deadline: 10/22/2025