



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: 5/28/2026 VisitType: Licensing Study

Arrival: 9:55 AM Departure: 4:45 PM

CCLC-56583

Daystar Childcare Center

1591 Old Buckhead Road Madison, GA 30650 Morgan County
(706) 438-3202

Process & QI Unit Consultant

Melyn Smith

Phone: (706) 434-7640

Fax: Melyn Smith

melyn.smith@dec.al.ga.gov

Joint with: Jennifer Johnson

Mailing Address

Same

Quality Rated: ★ ★

<u>Compliance Zone Designation</u>			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.
05/28/2026	Licensing Study	Good Standing	
10/22/2025	Monitoring Visit	Good Standing	
03/26/2025	Monitoring Visit	Good Standing	

Ratios/License Capacity

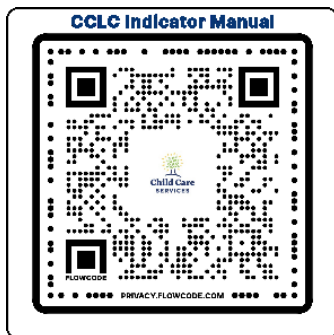
Building	Room	Age Group	Staff	Children	NC/C	Max 35 SF.	35 SF. Comp.	Max 25 SF.	25 SF. Comp.	Notes
Main	AL1-Infants	Infants and One Year Olds and Two Year Olds	2	6	C	13	C	NA	NA	Feeding, Floor Play
Main	BL2-Three Year Old	Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds	1	14	C	19	C	NA	NA	Centers, Outside
Main	CR1-Two Year Old	One Year Olds and Two Year Olds	1	6	C	12	C	NA	NA	Outside, Lunch
Main	DR2-One Year Old		0	0	C	10	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
			Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 54		Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0					
Total # Children this Date: 26			Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 54		Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0					

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	Main Playground A	81	C
Main	Playground B Infants and Toddlers	10	C

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

Comments

The Consultant provided information on where to find resources for the Chop, Look, Listen choking prevention campaign. Information was also provided regarding connecting with SEEDS for resources and support for enrolled children with special needs on 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.dec.al.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.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!



**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: 5/28/2026 **VisitType:** Licensing Study

Arrival: 9:55 AM **Departure:** 4:45 PM

CCLC-56583

Daystar Childcare Center

1591 Old Buckhead Road Madison, GA 30650 Morgan County
(706) 438-3202

Process & QI Unit Consultant

Melyn Smith

Phone: (706) 434-7640

Fax: Melyn Smith

melyn.smith@dec.al.ga.gov

Joint with: Jennifer Johnson

Mailing Address

Same

The following information is associated with a Licensing Study:

Activities and Equipment

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

Technical Assistance

Comment

A variety of equipment and toys were observed throughout the center on this date.

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.12(8) - The Consultant discussed with the Director to ensure that all toys for children under 3 years old are disinfected daily to protect the health and safety of children by minimizing the risk of infection, injury, and other hazards, as one staff stated that the toys in Room AL 1-Infants were disinfected every Wednesday. Other staff stated the toys were disinfected daily.

Correction Deadline: 5/28/2026

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

N/A

Comment

Center does not provide swimming activities.

Children's Records

Records Reviewed: 5

Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 4

Child # 1

Not Met

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.08(1)-Parent Names, Work Numbers,.08(1)-Allergies and Disabilities

Child # 2

Not Met

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.08(1)-Parent Names, Work Numbers,.08(1)-Allergies and Disabilities

Child # 3

Not Met

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.08(1)-Parent Names, Work Numbers

Child # 5

Not Met

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.08(1)-Allergies and Disabilities

Finding

591-1-1-.08(1) requires the Center Staff to maintain a file for each child while such child is in care and for one year after that child is no longer enrolled. In order for the file to be complete, the file shall contain the following: child's name, birth date, sex, address, living arrangement, name of school if applicable; names of both Parents, home and work addresses, and home and work telephone numbers; name(s) and addresses of the person(s) to whom the child may be released including address, telephone numbers, relationship to child and to Parent(s), and other identifying information; name(s) and telephone number(s) of person(s) to contact in emergencies when the Parent cannot be reached; name and telephone number of the child's primary source of health care; and a statement regarding known allergies, physical problems, mental health disorders, intellectual disabilities or developmental disabilities which limit the child's participation in the program. It was determined based on a review of records that three of five children's records reviewed were lacking the phone numbers for the parents' employers and information regarding known allergies, physical problems, mental health disorders, intellectual disabilities or developmental disabilities which limit the child's participation in the program on this date.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Director and Center Staff will review children's files and ensure all files are complete by requesting missing information. A plan will be developed to ensure all future enrolled children have complete files. The plan will also include how and where to maintain files for the required amount of time. The plan will be implemented and followed.

Correction Deadline: 6/5/2026

	Facility
--	-----------------

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)**Not Met****Finding**

591-1-1-.25(17) requires that the Center premises be free of plants and shrubs which are poisonous or hazardous. It was determined based on observation that Golden Pothos plants, which were poisonous, were present in both Room AL 1-Infants and Room BL 2-Three Year Old on this date.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The harmful item were removed on this date.

Correction Deadline: 5/28/2026

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 the outside air conditioning unit located on the Main Playground A was enclosed by a fence measuring 45 to 47 inches in height when it was required for the fence to be 48 inches in height.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will make needed repairs to the fence and ensure that all fences enclosing the playgrounds and the outside air conditioning unit are at least 48 inches in height. The Center will train Staff to identify and report any fence hazards.

Correction Deadline: 6/18/2026

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 based on observation that the following was present on Main Playground A:

- A hole was on the front leg of the left wooden frame of the swings.
- The connectors connecting the swing seats to the swing chains were not fully closed.
- A volleyball being kicked around by children on the playground had a section of the covering missing exposing the porous surface of the inside of the ball.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

Staff will check the equipment daily to ensure that the equipment is free of hazards, rust and splinters. The Director will ensure that any repairs needed are completed.

Correction Deadline: 6/7/2026

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.26(8) - The Consultant discussed with the Director to ensure resilient surface material is present in the fall zones of the swinging and climbing equipment, as the fall zone to the right of the swings on Main Playground A was lacking sufficient resilient surface.

Correction Deadline: 6/7/2026

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 the following potential hazards were present on this date:

- Main Playground A: Spider webs with spiders present were in the corners of the awning over the sand box, in the corners of the red and blue shade structure, and in areas of the chain link fence. An assortment of red, light green, tan, cream, and blue berries were accessible and were being handled by children present on the playground. One connector piece of the PVC barrier to the right of the swings was cracked with sharp edges. An open space under the stairs leading to the classroom entrance measuring 12 to 15 inches in width and 4 to 13 inches in height posed an entrapment hazard on this date. Wasps were present flying around the blue hanging bars.
- Playground B Infants and Toddlers: Spider webs with spiders present were in the corners of the fence and on the shade structure. A wasp nest with wasps present was observed under the shade structure. An open space under the stairs leading to the classroom entrance measuring 12 to 15 inches in width and 4 to 13 inches in height posed an entrapment hazard on this date.

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: 6/3/2026

Food Service

591-1-1-.15 Food Service & Nutrition**Not Met****Finding**

591-1-1-.15(1) requires that meals and snacks are served, with serving sizes dependent upon the age of the child, that meet nutritional guidelines as established by the United States Department of Agriculture Child and Adult Care Food Program. Meals and snacks shall be varied daily, and additional servings of nutritious food shall be offered to children over and above the required daily minimum, if not contraindicated by special diets. It was determined based on a review of records and observation that children were given an option of fluid milk, apple juice, or water to drink with their lunch on this date.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

Center Staff will prepare menus and/or serve foods that meet the USDA guidelines and will ensure all children are served fluid milk with meals.

Correction Deadline: 5/29/2026

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.15(5) - The Consultant discussed with the Director to ensure all substitutions are notated on the posted menus, as strawberries were observed to be served at lunch instead of watermelon which was on the menu.

Correction Deadline: 5/28/2026

Finding

591-1-1-.15(9) requires that a written statement be on file from a medical authority when a child requires a modified diet for medical reasons and from the child's Parent(s) when a child requires a modified diet for religious reasons. All caregiver Personnel shall be informed of the diet restriction for the child and only food that complies with the prescribed dietary regimen but still meets the food and nutrition requirements shall be served to the child. It was determined based on observation and review of records that one child allergic to dairy products was not provided a substitute for fluid milk that met the nutrition requirements on this date.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will obtain the appropriate written statement and keep it on file, inform all caregiver Staff, and only serve the child food that complies, but still meets the nutrition requirements in these rules and will review and monitor.

Correction Deadline: 5/29/2026

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

591-1-1-.20(1) - The Consultant discussed with the Director to ensure that the missing information on the Allergy Action Plan for one enrolled child is completed. The Consultant further discussed obtaining parental authorization and a completed dispensing record for the medication detailed on the Allergy Action Plan.

Correction Deadline: 5/28/2026

Policies and Procedures**591-1-1-.21 Operational Policies & Procedures****Technical Assistance****Technical Assistance**

591-1-1-.21(2)(r) - New - The Consultant discussed with the Director to ensure to include in the Center's policies and procedures 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.

Correction Deadline: 6/2/2026

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.21(3) - The Consultant discussed with the Director to ensure to document on page two of the Emergency Drills form when the emergency plans are reviewed every six months with staff.

Correction Deadline: 6/2/2026

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)

N/A

Comment

Center does not participate in field trips at this time.

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

N/A

Comment

Center does not provide routine transportation.

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

Not Met

Comment

Pleasant naptime environment observed.

Finding

591-1-1-.30(1)(a)3 requires that each crib shall have only an individual, tight-fitting sheet which is changed daily or more often as needed and prior to a change of occupant. It was determined based on observation and staff statement that crib sheets were changed "every so often" when they were required to be changed daily or more often as needed.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The center will ensure that each crib has an individual, tight-fitting sheet which is changed daily or more often as needed and prior to a change of occupant.

Correction Deadline: 5/29/2026**Staff Records****Records Reviewed: 7****Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 6**

Staff # 1

Not Met

Date of Hire: 07/07/2025

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.24(1)-Evidence of Orientation Missing

Staff # 2

Not Met

Date of Hire: 08/28/2025

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.24(1)-Evidence of Orientation Missing

Staff # 3

Not Met

Date of Hire: 09/04/2024

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.24(1)-Evidence of Orientation Missing

Staff # 4

Not Met

Date of Hire: 08/03/2023

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.24(1)-Evidence of Orientation Missing,.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training

Staff # 5

Not Met

Date of Hire: 06/27/2025

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.24(1)-Evidence of Orientation Missing

Staff # 6

Not Met

Date of Hire: 10/17/2017

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training

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

Criminal record checks were observed to be complete.

Comment

Director provided four files for employees hired since last visit.

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

Complete first aid kit was observed in the center 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**Not Met****Finding**

591-1-1-.33(1) requires all Employees and Provisional Employees to receive Initial Center orientation prior to assignment to children or task. It was determined based on a review of records that Staff #s 1 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 were lacking evidence of completing initial Center orientation prior to providing direct care responsibilities to children.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will develop and provide orientation for all new Staff prior to their assignment to children or task.

Correction Deadline: 6/1/2026**Finding**

591-1-1-.33(5)(b)1. requires the annual ten (10) clock hours of training shall include at least two (2) hours in evidence based, developmentally appropriate language and literacy practices. It was determined based on a review of records that Staff #s 4 and 7 were lacking evidence of completing two clock hours of training for 2025 in evidence based, developmentally appropriate language and literacy practices as required on this date.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will plan and schedule the required 10 hours of annual training each year to include a least two (2) hours in evidence based, developmentally appropriate language and literacy practices and follow up to ensure the training is completed.

Correction Deadline: 12/31/2026**591-1-1-.31 Staff(CR)****Technical Assistance****Comment**

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

Comment

Staff observed to be compliant with applicable laws and regulations.

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.31(2)(a) - The Consultant discussed with the Director that every classroom is required to have a designated lead teacher.

Correction Deadline: 5/28/2026**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.

