



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: 9/23/2025 **VisitType:** Initial Licensing Study **Arrival:** 9:30 AM **Departure:** 3:50 PM

CCLC-67099

Lake Dow Learning Academy

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

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.
09/23/2025	Initial Licensing Study	Good Standing	
			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.

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	1	4	C	5	C	NA	NA	Floor Play
Bldg 1	B 2nd Left (behind 1st L)	Two Year Olds	1	10	C	14	C	NA	NA	Outside
Bldg 1	C 3rd Left	One Year Olds	1	3	C	9	C	NA	NA	Free Play
Bldg 1	D Middle Front	One Year Olds	1	3	C	8	C	NA	NA	Floor Play
Bldg 1	E Middle Back	Two Year Olds	1	10	C	15	C	NA	NA	Outside
Bldg 1	F 1st Right (off Cafeteria)	Two Year Olds	1	10	C	0	NC	NA	NA	Floor Play
Bldg 1	G 2nd Right	Three Year Olds	1	11	C	14	C	NA	NA	Floor 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	6	C	14	C	NA	NA	Outside
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	L 2R: Private Pre-K	Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds	1	11	C	14	C	NA	NA	Floor Play
Bldg 2	M 1R: Private Pre-K	Five Year Olds	1	6	C	14	C	NA	NA	Floor 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: 74			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

A final license was not issued on this date based on multiple citations. The Consultant will followup in 30 days to ensure that all citations have been corrected.

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



Summary Report

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The following information is associated with a Initial Licensing Study:

Activities and Equipment

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

Not Met

Finding

591-1-1-.12(1) requires each Employee and child in attendance to use all indoor and outdoor furniture, activity materials, and equipment in a safe and appropriate manner and in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions, recommendations, and intended use. All equipment and furniture shall be used only by the age-appropriate group of children. It was determined based on observation that the television hanging in the 2-year-old classroom was taped up with masking tape and hanging forward, not secured to the mount.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will ensure Staff removes the television or secure it properly.

Correction Deadline: 9/30/2025

Technical Assistance

The Consultant advised the Provider to ensure that all wood furniture is sand downed and smooth in the infant classroom, and shelves in the other classrooms.

Correction Deadline: 9/23/2025

Technical Assistance

The Consultant discussed with the Provider the importance of having adequately sized chairs and tables for each child in the classroom.

Correction Deadline: 10/23/2025

Technical Assistance

The Consultant advised the Provider to add toys to each area in each classroom that is age appropriate. Also, the Consultant advised the Provider to ensure each classroom has five centers, plus manipulatives, trucks and puzzles neat and organized.

Correction Deadline: 10/23/2025

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

N/A

Comment

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

Facility

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 2-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: 11/20/2025

591-1-1-.19 License Capacity(CR)**Met****Comment**

Licensed capacity observed to be routinely met by center. The overall licensed capacity is 163 children.

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 4-year-old classrooms and needed repair.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

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

Correction Deadline: 12/4/2025

Technical Assistance

The Consultant discussed with the Provider the importance of ensuring that all branches, thorns or bushes are not hovering over or coming through the fence on the playground.

Correction Deadline: 9/23/2025

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 center overall needed cleaning and free of debris that was in cubicles and on top of shelves. The tables and chairs in the classroom were rusted at the foot and some tables and chairs in each room needed replacement or cleanliness.

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

Finding

591-1-1-.25(6) requires each child's personal items to be kept in individually labeled cubbies, lockers or racks separated from articles used by other children. The spaces shall be accessible to the children to whom they are assigned. It was determined based on observation that the classrooms in building 2 did not have individual labeled cubbies as required.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

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

Correction Deadline: 10/23/2025

Finding

591-1-1-.25(7) requires that doors to rooms not approved for child care, other than the kitchen doors, be latched or locked so children cannot wander into those areas. Except in School-age Centers, interior Center door locks shall permit Personnel to open the locked room from outside of the room in an emergency. It was determined based on observation that the door to the kitchen was open and accessible to the children.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will keep the door to the kitchen closed and locked and inaccessible to the children.

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

Not Met

Technical Assistance

The Consultant discussed with the provider that the fence on the front right side needed repair as it was loose from the top bar. Also, the fence opening in the front playground was measuring 3.11 feet when there was a 4.00 feet requirement.

Correction Deadline: 9/23/2025

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 the mulch on the afterschool, 4-year-old, and 3-year-old playground measured less than 1 inch when 6 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: 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
- Swing S hooks were rusted
- Inadequate fall zone, fall zone behind the swing was 10 feet when 14 feet was required
- Rust on bar over green slide
- Chipped paint on red seesaw and yellow swing bar

Afterschool playground:

Equipment needs pressure washing

4-year-old playground:

Beam next to blue side was rusted.

Part of roadway was broken on the left side causing 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: 10/22/2025

Health and Hygiene

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

Not Met

Comment

Staff stated proper procedures. Sinks with warm running water observed adjacent to proper diapering surfaces in all classrooms approved for diapering.

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 infant room and 2-year-old room were diapering without the ventilation fan running or the windows because they had no screens.

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: 9/23/2025

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

Proper handwashing observed throughout the center.

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

The Consultant discussed proper medication documentation and procedures.

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

Appropriate discipline was observed on this date.

Comment

Please be mindful of voice tone in redirecting children.

591-1-1-.36 Transportation(CR)**Met****Comment**

Complete documentation of transportation observed on this date. The vehicle information, insurance, first aid kit and fire extinguisher were observed.

Sleeping & Resting Equipment**591-1-1-.30 Safe Sleeping and Resting Requirements(CR)****Not Met****Comment**

Consultant observed Five (5) of five (5) cribs meeting safety compliance with Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) and American Society of Testing and Materials International (ASTM) safety standards manufactured in 2018. Consultant discussed safe sleeping requirements with the director during the inspection visit.

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 2-year-old classroom across from the kitchen had more than ten cots stacked and uncovered in the corner across from the diaper changing table.

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: 9/30/2025

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

Twenty-four (24) of twenty-four (24) 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**

Please replace/add missing/expired item(s) in first aid kit(s).

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

Staff observed to be compliant with applicable laws and regulations.

Comment

Please ensure that all staff in lead positions have the appropriate educational credential or a PLP in their file.

Correction Deadline: 9/23/2025

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.