



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: 9/26/2025 **VisitType:** Monitoring Visit

Arrival: 9:30 AM **Departure:** 1:30 PM

CCLC-36868

International Academia of Smyrna

3551 North Cooper Lake Road Smyrna, GA 30082 Cobb County
(678) 653-8419

Lead Consultant

Neli Todorova

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Joint with: Tashana Cephas

Mailing Address

Same

Quality Rated: No

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.
09/26/2025	Monitoring Visit	Good Standing	
03/19/2025	Licensing Study	Good Standing	
08/22/2024	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
Bldg 2	Downstairs-Back Room	Four Year Olds	1	4	C	13	C	NA	NA	Free Play
Bldg 2	Downstairs-Main Room	Four Year Olds	2	12	C	27	C	NA	NA	Centers
Bldg 2	Room Left	Three Year Olds	1	5	C	6	C	NA	NA	Circle Time
Bldg 2	Room Right	Three Year Olds	2	9	C	13	C	NA	NA	Centers
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 34			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0		Building @35 capacity limited by Fire Marshall Limitations					
Main	A- Infants -1st Left	Infants	2	5	C	10	C	NA	NA	Circle Time,Nap
Main	B- 1's	One Year Olds	1	2	C	7	C	NA	NA	Circle Time
Main	C- 2's 2nd Left	One Year Olds	1	5	C	9	C	NA	NA	Centers
Main	D- Preschool-Downstairs		0	0	C	27	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
Main	E-1st Right Downstairs- 3sS	Two Year Olds	2	7	C	9	C	NA	NA	Outside
Main	F-Downstairs -4's	Two Year Olds	2	7	C	8	C	NA	NA	Outside
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 70			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0							
Total # Children this Date: 56			Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 104		Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0					

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Bldg 2	Bldg 2 Playground	52	C
Main	A- Back of Bldg	30	C

Enrolled Children						
Under 1 years	1 years	2 years	3 years	4 years	5 years (Prekonly)	5 years and older
11	5	16	18	23	0	0

Comments

Discussed rule changes effective July 1, 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

Date: 9/26/2025 VisitType: Monitoring Visit

Arrival: 9:30 AM Departure: 1:30 PM

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The following information is associated with a Monitoring Visit:

Activities and Equipment

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) Technical Assistance

Comment

The Center appeared clean and well maintained on this date.

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.25(13) - Discussed that all potentially hazardous items need to be stored inaccessible to the children.

Correction Deadline: 9/26/2025

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

Comment

Playground observed to be clean and in good repair on this date.

Comment

591-1-1-.26(4) - Discussed that the picked fence on the right side of the Playground A measured approximately 45 inches when at least 48 were required. The fence was facing a parking lot and was an external fence.

Correction Deadline: 9/26/2025

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

Center menu meets USDA guidelines.

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

Kitchen appears clean and well organized on this date.

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)**Met****Comment**

Documentation for medication dispensing observed completed on this date.

Organization**591-1-1-.16 Governing Body & License****Technical Assistance****Technical Assistance**

591-1-1-.16(f) - Currently the program has three (3) playgrounds, while there are measurements for only two on the license. Discussed that an Amendment Application to measure the additional playground and re-label the rooms needs to be submitted from the DECAL Koala account.

Correction Deadline: 9/26/2025

Policies and Procedures**591-1-1-.21 Operational Policies & Procedures****Met****Comment**

Program observed complete emergency drills

591-1-1-.29 Required Reporting**Met****Comment**

Discussed reporting requirements.

Safety**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)**N/A****Comment**

Center does not participate in field trips at this time.

Comment

Center does not provide routine transportation.

Sleeping & Resting Equipment

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

Discussed SIDS and infant sleeping position.

Comment

The correct number of mats, sheets and blankets were observed on this date. Cleaning and disinfecting of mats was discussed with the director on this date.

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.30(1)(a)2 - Discussed that crib mattresses need to be firm and covered with washable and waterproof material

Correction Deadline: 9/26/2025

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.30(1)(a)3 - Discussed that the crib sheets need to be tight fitting and changed daily or more often as needed.

Correction Deadline: 9/26/2025

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.30(2) - Discussed that Merlin sleep suits are to be used only if a note from the pediatrician is available.

Correction Deadline: 9/26/2025

Staff Records

Records Reviewed: 14**Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 2**

Staff # 2

Not Met

Date of Hire: 09/27/2014

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.09-Criminal Records Check Missing

Staff # 4

Not Met

Date of Hire: 08/21/2024

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(3)-Health & Safety Certificate

591-1-1-.09 Criminal Records and Comprehensive Background Checks(CR)**Not Met****Finding**

591-1-1-.09(1.)(b) requires the Center to ensure that every Director has a valid and current satisfactory Comprehensive Records Check Determination on file prior to being present at the Center while any child is present for care or before an individual age 17 or older resides in the Center. The Comprehensive Records Check Determination must have a Records Check Clearance Date that is no older than the preceding 12 months of the hire date; provided, however, if the Director has had a lapse of employment from the child care industry that lasted for 180 days (6 months) or longer, a new satisfactory Comprehensive Records Check Determination is required. It was determined based on review of records that Staff #2, who was the Director, had a Satisfactory Comprehensive Background Check that expired on September 9, 2024. Staff was not on the premises on the day of the visit.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

IMMEDIATE CORRECTION - The Center will ensure that the Director has a valid and current satisfactory Comprehensive Records Check Determination on file prior to being present at the Center while any child is present for care or before an individual age 17 or older resides in the Center. The Comprehensive Records Check Determination must have a Records Check Clearance Date that is no older than the preceding 12 months of the hire date; provided, however, if the Director has had a lapse of employment from the child care industry that lasted for 180 days (6 months) or longer, a new satisfactory Comprehensive Records Check Determination is required. The program's owner or an officer/member of the corporation must view the A to Z Background Check video units pertaining to this records check rule and return the signed affidavit within one week from this visit date. The center will ensure the CRC rules are maintained.

Correction Deadline: 9/26/2025

Finding

591-1-1-.09(1)(I)3. requires the Center to immediately require a new Comprehensive Records Check Determination for a Director, Employee or Provisional Employee at least once every five years. It was determined based on review of records that Staff #2 had a Satisfactory Comprehensive Background Check that expired on September 9, 2024. There was no new application submitted.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

IMMEDIATE CORRECTION - The Center will ensure that each Director, Employee and Provisional Employee has a Comprehensive Records Check Determination on file that has been issued within the past five years. The program's owner or an officer/member of the corporation must view the A to Z Background Check video units pertaining to this records check rule and return the signed affidavit within one week from this visit date. The Center will ensure CRC rules are maintained.

Correction Deadline: 9/26/2025

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

Complete first aid kits observed in 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**Met****Comment**

Discussed: Health and Safety Training is required for each staff member with direct care responsibilities within 90 calendar days of their hire date.

591-1-1-.31 Staff(CR)**Technical Assistance****Comment**

Staff observed to be compliant with applicable laws and regulations.

Technical Assistance

Discussed that all Staff enrolled in CDA courses needs to complete a Professional Learning plan and keep it on file. A sample form was e-mailed to the Director on this day. 591-1-1-.31(2)(b)3.(ii)(I) - (VIII) -

Correction Deadline: 9/26/2025

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**

Staff observed to provide direct supervision and be attentive to children's needs.