



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: 9/4/2025 **VisitType:** Complaint Investigation & Monitoring Visit

Arrival: 10:00 AM **Departure:** 12:40 PM

CCLC-27169
Dominion Children's Academy
3537 Cusseta Road Columbus, GA 31903 Muscogee County
(706) 687-4060 dominionacademy1@att.net

Regional Consultant
Penny Svenson
Phone: (470) 346-1037
Fax: (678) 891-5613
penny.svenson@decal.ga.gov

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.
09/04/2025	Complaint Investigation & Monitoring Visit	Good Standing	
07/29/2025	Complaint Closure	Good Standing	
07/29/2025	Complaint Investigation & 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	Room A	Infants	1	2	C	12	C	NA	NA	Floor Play, Feeding
Main	Room C		0	0	C	20	C	NA	NA	
Main	Room D	Two Year Olds	2	15	C	21	C	NA	NA	Centers, Transitioning
Main	Room E	Two Year Olds and Three Year Olds	2	19	C	32	C	NA	NA	Free Play, Centers
Main	Room F		0	0	C	12	C	NA	NA	
Main	Room B	One Year Olds	1	8	C	17	C	NA	NA	Free Play
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 114			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0							
Total # Children this Date: 44			Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 114							
			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0							

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	A	9	C
Main	B	62	C

Enrolled Children						
Under 1 years	1 years	2 years	3 years	4 years	5 years (Prekonly)	5 years and older
2	8	19	15	0	0	8

Comments

September 4, 2025--The findings were discussed with the acting Director 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.

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: 9/4/2025

VisitType: Complaint Investigation &
Monitoring Visit

Arrival: 10:00 AM **Departure:** 12:40 PM

CCLC-27169

Dominion Children's Academy

3537 Cusseta Road Columbus, GA 31903 Muscogee County
(706) 687-4060 dominionacademy1@att.net

Regional Consultant

Penny Svenson

Phone: (470) 346-1037

Fax: (678) 891-5613

penny.svenson@dec.al.ga.gov

Mailing Address

Same

The following information is associated with a CI/MV:

Activities and Equipment

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

Not Met

Finding

591-1-1-.12(2) requires that all equipment and furniture be free from hazardous conditions such as, but not limited to, sharp rough edges or toxic paint; and be kept clean. It was determined based on observation that chairs in each classroom were dirty. Also, the blue reading nook in Room B had exposed foam and dirt present on the book shelves.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will ensure that equipment and furniture are used by the age-appropriate group of children. The chairs will be pressure washed. The reading nook will be removed from the classroom.

Correction Deadline: 9/8/2025

Prior Visits: 07/29/2025

Recited on 9/4/2025

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

Met

Comment

591-1-1-.35 - Center does not provide swimming activities.

Facility

591-1-1-.06 Bathrooms

Defer

Defer

Parts for the vent were ordered. The repair was in progress.

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: 8/28/2025

Prior Visits: 07/29/2025

Correction Deadline: 7/29/2025

Prior Visits: 07/29/2025

Corrected on 9/4/2025

The previous citation was observed corrected. The toilets and toilet seats were observed to be clean.

591-1-1-.19 License Capacity(CR)

Met

Comment

591-1-1-.19 - Licensed capacity observed to be routinely met by center on this date.

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

Parts for the vent were ordered and the repair was in progress.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

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

Correction Deadline: 7/29/2025**Prior Visits: 08/03/2022****591-1-1-.26 Playgrounds(CR)****Defer****Defer**

The repairs were still in process from the previous visit on July 29, 2025. Parts were ordered.

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. The infants and toddlers will not go out on the playground until the repair has been made for the portion of the roof that is falling.

Correction Deadline: 8/10/2025**Prior Visits: 08/03/2022****Food Service****591-1-1-.15 Food Service & Nutrition****Met****Correction Deadline: 7/29/2025****Prior Visits: 07/29/2025****Corrected on 9/4/2025**

The previous citation was observed corrected on this date. Infant feeding plans were observed for infants.

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

591-1-1-.10(2) requires Centers first licensed after March 1, 1991, and Centers that renovate existing plumbing facilities, to have a hand washing sink with running heated water located adjacent to the diapering area. Flush sinks shall not be used for hand washing. Cleansing procedures in other facilities shall be approved by the Department. It was determined based on observation and staff statements that warm running water was not present at any of the sinks on this date.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will ensure that a hand washing sink is located adjacent to each diapering area, that flush sinks are not used for handwashing, and that the department has approved cleansing procedures in other facilities, if applicable. The repair was scheduled, but not completed by September 4, 2025.

Correction Deadline: 9/8/2025**Prior Visits: 07/29/2025****Recited on 9/4/2025****591-1-1-.17 Hygiene(CR)****Met****Correction Deadline: 7/29/2025****Prior Visits: 10/09/2024****Corrected on 9/4/2025**

The previous citation was observed corrected on this date. Handwashing was observed on this date.

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

591-1-1-.20 - The Provider currently does not dispense/administer medication.

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

591-1-1-.11 - Age-appropriate discussion and/or redirection observed.

591-1-1-.36 Transportation(CR)**Met****Correction Deadline: 8/1/2025****Prior Visits: 10/09/2024****Corrected on 9/4/2025**

The previous citation was observed corrected on this date. A new seat cover was purchased and observed to be present on this date.

Correction Deadline: 8/1/2025**Prior Visits: 10/09/2024****Corrected on 9/4/2025**

The previous citation was observed corrected on this date.

Sleeping & Resting Equipment

591-1-1-.30 Safe Sleeping and Resting Requirements(CR)**Met****Correction Deadline: 7/29/2025****Prior Visits: 07/29/2025****Corrected on 9/4/2025**

The previous citation was observed corrected on this date. Sheets were observed to be present for cots during the visit.

Staff Records

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

591-1-1-.09(1) - Criminal record checks were observed to be complete.

591-1-1-.14 First Aid & CPR(CR)**Met****Correction Deadline: 8/28/2025****Corrected on 9/4/2025**

The previous citation was observed corrected. First aid and CPR was completed on August 5, 2025.

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

591-1-1-.31 - Staff observed to be compliant with applicable laws and regulations.

Staffing and Supervision

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

591-1-1-.32 - Center observed to maintain appropriate staff:child ratios.

591-1-1-.32 Supervision(CR)**Met****Comment**

591-1-1-.32 - Adequate supervision observed on this date.