



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: 8/21/2025 **VisitType:** Licensing Study

Arrival: 9:30 AM **Departure:** 2:15 PM

CCLC-53765

Dogwood Hills Academy

8039 Union Hill Rd. Canton, GA 30115 Cherokee County
(770) 345-3220 Stephanie.Durden@kindercare.com

Regional Consultant

Randy Gaytan

Phone: (770) 357-7022

Fax: (770) 357-7021

randy.gaytan@dec.al.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.
08/21/2025	Licensing Study	Good Standing	
08/08/2024	Licensing Study	Good Standing	
05/07/2024	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
Main	A. Left side 1st Left Sunflowers		0	0	C	15	C	NA	NA	
Main	B. Left side 2nd Left - Caterpillars	Infants and One Year Olds	1	5	C	18	C	NA	NA	Diapering, Feeding, Floor Play
Main	C. Left side 2nd Right- Butterflies	One Year Olds and Two Year Olds	2	13	C	18	C	NA	NA	Centers
Main	D. Left side 1st Right Turtles	Two Year Olds	1	10	C	20	C	NA	NA	Story
Main	E. Left side Straight - Fireflies		0	0	C	22	C	NA	NA	
Main	F. Right side 1st Right Bunnies I		0	0	C	20	C	NA	NA	
Main	G. Right side 2nd Right Honey Bees	GA PreK	2	15	C	22	C	NA	NA	Centers
Main	H. Right side 1st Left - Frogs	Two Year Olds and Three Year Olds	1	14	C	23	C	NA	NA	Centers
Main	I. Dragon Flies	GA PreK	2	17	C	21	C	NA	NA	Outside
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 179					Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0					
Total # Children this Date: 74					Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0					

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	PG A 6w-12m	11	C

Main	PG B 18m-35m	72	C
Main	PG C 3-10y	101	C

Enrolled Children						
Under 1 years	1 years	2 years	3 years	4 years	5 years (Prekonly)	5 years and older
2	8	11	14	38	0	0

Comments

The purpose of this visit was to conduct a Licensing Study.

Discussed that effective July 1, 2025, all staff are required to obtain at least two hours in evidence based, developmentally appropriate language and literacy practices and at least two hours in on-going child development and health and safety related topics as part of their 10 hours of annual training.

Discussed updating the Center's policies and procedures to include the program's practices regarding the expulsion and suspension of children enrolled for care within the description of behavior management and discipline actions used by the Center. Also discussed to ensure 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.

Additional information can be found in the CCLC Indicator Manual found on DECAL's website at:

<https://www.dec.al.ga.gov/CCS/RulesAndRegulations.aspx> or through the Center on Shaken Baby Syndrome found at: <https://dontshake.org/>.

Discussed that effective July 1, 2025, new staff are required to obtain pediatric First Aid and pediatric CPR training within 45 days of employment. It was further discussed that programs must have at least one person with current pediatric First Aid and pediatric CPR training in each classroom at all times.

The CCS Consultant discussed and left a copy of the updated Child Care Weather Watch Chart with the program today. Weather does not permit outdoor play when there is active precipitation or when weather advisories are in effect. Consult the Child Care Weather Watch Chart resource for further guidance, considering specific weather conditions.

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!



(Findings Report)

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The following information is associated with a LS:

Activities and Equipment

591-1-1-.03 Activities

Met

Comment

Age-appropriate activities observed throughout the center.

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

Met

Comment

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

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.

Correction Deadline: 8/8/2024

Prior Visits: 08/08/2024

Corrected on 8/21/2025

.08(1) - The previous citation was observed to be corrected on this date. Children's files were observed to be complete.

Facility

591-1-1-.06 Bathrooms

Met

Comment

Please monitor bathrooms for necessary supplies.

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)**Met****Comment**

Please secure cleaning tools (i.e., broom, plunger) out of reach of children.

Comment

The Center appeared clean and well maintained on this date.

591-1-1-.26 Playgrounds(CR)**Not Met****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 three single tricycles, and one double seat tricycle were missing pedals.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will provide a variety of age-appropriate equipment that is arranged so as not to obstruct supervision of children. Staff will check the equipment daily to ensure that the equipment is free of hazards, rust and splinters.

Correction Deadline: 8/21/2025**Prior Visits: 08/08/2024****Recited on 8/21/2025****Technical Assistance**

591-1-1-.26(9) - Consultant spoke with the Director regarding completing a playground inspection each morning.

Correction Deadline: 8/21/2025**Prior Visits: 12/27/2023**

Food Service

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

Bottles were covered and fully labeled with child's full name.

Comment

Center menu meets USDA guidelines.

Comment

Infant feeding forms were updated regularly.

591-1-1-.18 Kitchen Operations**Not Met****Technical Assistance**

591-1-1-.18(5) - Spoke with the Director regarding installing thermometers in all refrigerators.

Correction Deadline: 8/21/2025**Finding**

591-1-1-.18(8) requires that containers of food be stored above the floor on clean surfaces protected from splash and other contamination. Containers for food storage other than the original container or package in which the food was obtained shall be impervious and non-absorbent, have tight-fitting lids or covers and labeled as to contents. It was determined based on observation that there were canned goods, boxes of fruit cocktail, cereal and shelf stable milk on the floor.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will designate an appropriate area for the storage of containers of food, will make available containers, lids, and covers, and will train Staff on proper storage and labeling.

Correction Deadline: 8/21/2025

Health and Hygiene

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

Proper diapering procedures observed.

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

Proper hand washing observed throughout the center on this date.

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

Discussed proper medication documentation and procedures.

Policies and Procedures**591-1-1-.21 Operational Policies & Procedures****Met****Correction Deadline: 8/13/2024****Prior Visits: 05/22/2023****Corrected on 8/21/2025****.21(3) - The previous citation was observed to be corrected on this date. All emergency drills for 2025 were up to date.****Safety****591-1-1-.05 Animals****N/A****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.

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)****Met****Comment**

Discussed SIDS and infant sleeping position.

Comment

Pleasant naptime environment observed.

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.

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

Criminal record checks were observed to be complete.

591-1-1-.09 Criminal Records Check(CR)**Met****Comment**

Director provided two file(s) for employees hired since last visit.

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

Documentation observed of required staff training.

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

Staff observed to be compliant with applicable laws and regulations.

Correction Deadline: 2/25/2025

Prior Visits: 05/07/2024

Corrected on 8/21/2025

.31(13) - The previous citation was observed to be corrected on this date. Director stated that all employees were abiding by all applicable laws and regulations.

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.

Correction Deadline: 2/25/2025

Prior Visits: 04/17/2023, 10/31/2022, 11/04/2021

Corrected on 8/21/2025

.32(7) - The previous citation was observed to be corrected on this date. Adequate supervision was observed in all classrooms before and during nap time.