



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: 8/5/2025 **VisitType:** Licensing Study

Arrival: 8:00 AM **Departure:** 11:30 AM

CCLC-48667

The Atlanta Scholar Academy

5163 West Fayetteville Road Atlanta, GA 30349 Fulton County
(770) 996-4009 martika_burke@yahoo.com

Regional Consultant

Shameka Dozier

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shameka.dozier@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.
08/05/2025	Licensing Study	Good Standing	
06/13/2025	Complaint Closure	Good Standing	
06/04/2025	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	Room A - 1st Right		0	0	C	16	C	NA	NA	
Main	Room B - 2nd Right	One Year Olds	2	6	C	16	C	NA	NA	Breakfast
Main	Room C - 3rd Right	Two Year Olds	1	9	C	16	C	NA	NA	Transitioning
Main	Room D - 3rd Left	Three Year Olds	1	9	C	22	C	NA	NA	Circle Time
Main	Room E - 2nd Left	Four Year Olds	2	13	C	22	C	NA	NA	Free Play
Main	Room F - 1st Left	Infants and One Year Olds	1	6	C	12	C	NA	NA	Floor Play
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 104					Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0					

Total # Children this Date: 43

Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 104

Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	Main Playground	68	C

Enrolled Children						
Under 1 years	1 years	2 years	3 years	4 years	5 years (Prekonly)	5 years and older
6	10	13	15	9	0	0

Comments

Cots/Mats storage, first aid and pediatrics cpr training, literacy training, and infant feeding were discussed with the director on 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!



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(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.

Comment

Lesson Plans were observed to be posted and reflected the current weeks activities in each classroom.

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.

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**

Please be mindful to keep items that pose a hazard inaccessible to children.

Comment

The Center appeared clean and well maintained on this date.

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.25(11) - Slippery floor surfaces in the Center was discussed with the provider on this date.

Correction Deadline: 9/4/2025

591-1-1-.26 Playgrounds(CR)**Not Evaluated****Comment**

Playground not observed on this date due to inclement weather.

Food Service

591-1-1-.15 Food Service & Nutrition**Technical Assistance****Comment**

Center menu meets USDA guidelines.

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.15(3) - Consultant discussed with the provider that if formula is provided by the Center, only commercially prepared, ready-to-feed formula shall be used.

Correction Deadline: 8/5/2025

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

The Provider currently does not dispense/administer medication.

Policies and Procedures

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.21(1)(a-o) - Consultant discussed with the provider to update 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.decal.ga.gov/CCS/RulesAndRegulations.aspx> or through the Center on Shaken Baby Syndrome found at: <https://dontshake.org/>.

Correction Deadline: 8/10/2025

Comment

Program observed complete emergency drills

Safety**591-1-1-.05 Animals****Met****Comment**

Animals maintained clean and appropriately caged.

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)**Met****Comment**

Center does not participate in field trips at this time.

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

Center does not provide routine transportation.

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

591-1-1-.30(4) - Cots/Mats storage was discussed with the provider on this date.

Correction Deadline: 8/5/2025

Prior Visits: 08/15/2024

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

Criminal record checks were observed to be complete.

Comment

Please ensure that applicants/staff are listing exact dates (including month/day/year) on 10 year work history form in order to determine any breaks in service from the child care industry.

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

Criminal records checks were observed to be complete.

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.14(1)(a) - Consultant discussed with the provider 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.

Correction Deadline: 8/5/2025

591-1-1-.33 Staff Training

Technical Assistance

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.33(5)(b)1. - New - 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.

Correction Deadline: 9/4/2025

591-1-1-.31 Staff(CR)

Met

Comment

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

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.