



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: 1/14/2026 **VisitType:** Complaint Investigation & Monitoring Visit

Arrival: 11:55 AM **Departure:** 5:50 PM

CCLC-38693

The Goddard School of Dacula

1362 Auburn Road Dacula, GA 30019 Gwinnett County
 (770) 682-8260

Regional Consultant

Lynn Schnitzer

Phone: (678) 717-5720

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lynn.schnitzer@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.
01/14/2026	Complaint Investigation & Monitoring Visit	Good Standing	
10/07/2025	Complaint Investigation & Licensing Study	Good Standing	
07/30/2025	Incident Investigation Closure	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-1R	Infants	1	6	C	8	C	NA	NA	Nap,Floor Play
Main	B-2R	One Year Olds	2	9	C	12	C	NA	NA	Lunch,Diapering ,Nap
Main	C- 3R	One Year Olds	1	8	C	13	C	NA	NA	Lunch,Transition ing
Main	D-4R		0	0	C	13	C	NA	NA	
Main	E- 5R	Two Year Olds	1	10	C	16	C	NA	NA	Transitioning,Na p
Main	F-5L	Four Year Olds and Five Year Olds	1	14	C	22	C	NA	NA	Lunch
Main	G- 4L	Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds	1	13	C	25	C	NA	NA	Nap,Lunch,Tran sitioning
Main	H- 3L	Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds	1	11	C	22	C	NA	NA	Nap,Transitionin g
Main	I- 2L	Two Year Olds and Three Year Olds	1	10	C	21	C	NA	NA	Lunch,Transition ing
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 152					Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0					
Total # Children this Date: 81					Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0					

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	PG/ B	84	C
Main	PG/A/Infant	66	C

Enrolled Children						
Under 1 years	1 years	2 years	3 years	4 years	5 years (Prekonly)	5 years and older
6	20	30	28	15	0	6

Comments

The consultant discussed the visit report with the Director, Catina Smith, on January 14, 2026.

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.decal.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!



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Summary Report

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The following information is associated with a Monitoring Visit:

Activities and Equipment

591-1-1-.03 Activities

Met

Correction Deadline: 10/7/2025

Corrected on 1/14/2026

.03(9) - The previous citation was observed corrected on this date. The Consultant observed center staff to refrain from engaging in, or allowing children or other adults to engage in, potentially harmful activities.

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

Not Met

Finding

591-1-1-.08(1) requires the Center Staff to maintain a file for each child while such child is in care and for one year after that child is no longer enrolled. In order for the file to be complete, the file shall contain the following: child's name, birth date, sex, address, living arrangement, name of school if applicable; names of both Parents, home and work addresses, and home and work telephone numbers; name(s) and addresses of the person(s) to whom the child may be released including address, telephone numbers, relationship to child and to Parent(s), and other identifying information; name(s) and telephone number(s) of person(s) to contact in emergencies when the Parent cannot be reached; name and telephone number of the child's primary source of health care; and a statement regarding known allergies, physical problems, mental health disorders, intellectual disabilities or developmental disabilities which limit the child's participation in the program. It was determined based on review of records that two of three children's records did not have the addresses of the person(s) to whom the child may be released.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

Center staff will develop a plan that includes how to obtain all required information for currently enrolled children and how to ensure this is done for future enrollees as well. The plan will also include how and where to maintain files for the required amount of time. The plan will be implemented and followed.

Correction Deadline: 1/16/2026

Recited on 1/14/2026

Facility	
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)	Not Met
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Comment

No hazards observed accessible to children on this date.

Finding

591-1-1-.25(8) requires protective caps on all unused electrical outlets within children's reach and requires that electrical outlets in use be made inaccessible to children. It was determined based on observation that there was an unused outlet that was not covered in the gym. No children were present at the time.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will train Staff to check outlets and replace protective caps when needed and identify and monitor how outlets in use are inaccessible to children.

Correction Deadline: 1/14/2026

Recited on 1/14/2026

591-1-1-.26 Playgrounds(CR)	Not Met
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Finding

591-1-1-.26(4) requires that playgrounds be protected from traffic or other hazards by a (4) four foot high fence or other barrier approved by this Department. Fencing material shall not present a hazard to children and shall be maintained so as to prevent children from leaving the playground area by any means other than through an approved access route. Fence gates shall be kept closed except when persons are entering or exiting the area. It was determined based on observation that there were protruding wires at the bottom of the fence at the back of playground B.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will routinely check the fence to determine if it is in good repair and remains at least 4 feet high, and will repair any hazards. The Center will train Staff to identify and report any fence hazards and to keep the fence gates closed when not in use.

Correction Deadline: 1/16/2026

Recited on 1/14/2026

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.26(9) - Consultant discussed with director to ensure that acorns are removed from playground PG/A/Infant.

Correction Deadline: 1/14/2026

Health and Hygiene	
591-1-1-.07 Children's Health	Met

Correction Deadline: 10/7/2025

Corrected on 1/14/2026

.07(5) - The previous citation was observed corrected on this date. The Consultant observed that no children had anything around their necks or attached to their clothes.

591-1-1-.10 Diapering Areas & Practices(CR)	Not Met
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Comment

Proper diapering procedures observed.

Finding

591-1-1-.10(4) requires that if diapers are changed on a diaper changing surface, the surface shall be smooth, nonporous, and equipped with a guard or rails to prevent falls. Between each diaper change, the diaper changing surface shall be cleaned with a disinfectant and dried with a single-use disposable towel. It was determined based on observation that there was a tear with exposed foam on the changing pad in classroom C-3R.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will ensure there is a smooth, nonporous changing surface that has a guard or rails for safety in each classroom that houses children wearing diapers. Center Staff will be trained and have adequate supplies to properly clean the diaper changing surface between each diaper change.

Correction Deadline: 1/14/2026

591-1-1-.17 Hygiene(CR)

Met

Correction Deadline: 10/7/2025

Corrected on 1/14/2026

.17(7) - The previous citation was observed corrected on this date. The Consultant observed proper hand washing throughout the center.

591-1-1-.20 Medications(CR)

Met

Correction Deadline: 10/8/2025

Corrected on 1/14/2026

.20(1) - The previous citation was observed corrected on this date. The Consultant observed complete authorizations to dispense medications.

Correction Deadline: 10/7/2025

Corrected on 1/14/2026

.20(2) - The previous citation was observed corrected on this date. The Consultant observed that staff had not dispensed medication since the previous visit October 7, 2025.

Safety

591-1-1-.11 Discipline(CR)

Met

Comment

Age-appropriate discussion and/or redirection observed.

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)

Technical Assistance

Comment

Staff stated knowledge of SUIDS and safe infant sleeping position.

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.30(1)(d) - Consultant discussed with director to ensure that children's mats are arranged so that there are 12 inches between the mats and that the children are placed so that the head of one child is facing the feet of the child next to them.

Correction Deadline: 1/14/2026

Staff Records

Records Reviewed: 21

Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 1

Staff # 1

Not Met

Date of Hire: 11/10/2025

Reminder - Health & Safety training is required within 90 calendar days of hired

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.24(1)-Evidence of Orientation Missing

Comment

Director provided eight files for employees hired since last visit October 7, 2025..

Correction Deadline: 10/7/2025

Corrected on 1/14/2026

.09(1)(a) -The previous citation was observed corrected on this date. The Consultant observed current staff to have a current comprehensive satisfactory criminal background determination letter.

Correction Deadline: 10/7/2025

Corrected on 1/14/2026

.09(1)(c) - The previous citation was observed corrected on this date. The Consultant observed current staff to have a current comprehensive satisfactory criminal background determination letter.

591-1-1-.14 First Aid & CPR(CR)**Not Met****Finding**

Previously Cited: 591-1-1-.14(1)(a) requires all Staff who provide direct care to children must obtain certification in a biennial training program in pediatric cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and a triennial training program in pediatric first aid within the first 45 days of employment. Current and valid evidence of the successful completion of such training shall be maintained on the Center's premises. The hours obtained completing this certification will not count towards the required annual training hours. It was determined based on review of records that staff #14, date of hire August 3, 2015, staff #16, date of hire August 18, 2025, and staff #20, date of hire July 7, 2025, did not have evidence of training in pediatric cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and a training program in pediatric first aid on file.

591-1-1-.14(1)(a) requires all Staff who provide direct care to children must obtain certification in a biennial training program in pediatric cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and a triennial training program in pediatric first aid within the first 45 days of employment. Current and valid evidence of the successful completion of such training shall be maintained on the Center's premises. The hours obtained completing this certification will not count towards the required annual training hours. It was determined based on review of records that staff #2, date of hire November 3, 2025, did not have evidence of training in pediatric cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and a training program in pediatric first aid on file. Staff #2 was to have completed the training by December 18, 2025.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

Previously Cited: All caregiver Staff will complete the required training. The Director will send copies via email verification of completed CPR/First Aid certification to the Consultant upon completion and will develop a plan to ensure all caregiver Staff have completed this training within the first 45 days of employment and that evidence of successful completion of the training is on file available for inspection.

All caregiver Staff will complete the required training. The Director will send copies via email verification of completed CPR/First Aid certification to the consultant upon completion and will develop a plan to ensure all caregiver Staff have completed this training within the first 45 days of employment and that evidence of successful completion of the training is on file available for inspection.

Correction Deadline: 1/23/2026

Recited on 1/14/2026

591-1-1-.33 Staff Training**Not Met****Finding**

591-1-1-.33(2)(a)-(n) requires the initial Center orientation to include the following subjects: a) the Center's policies and procedures; b) the portions of these rules dealing with the care, health and safety of children; c) the Staff person's assigned duties and responsibilities; d) reporting requirements for suspected cases of child abuse, neglect or deprivation; e) communicable diseases and serious injuries; f) emergency weather plans; g) the program's emergency preparedness plan; h) childhood injury control; i) the administration of medicine; j) reducing the risk of Sudden Unexpected Infant Death (SUID), which includes Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS); k) hand washing; l) fire safety; m) water safety; and n) prevention of HIV/AIDS and blood borne pathogens. It was determined based on review of records that staff #21, date of hire November 10, 2025, did not have evidence of initial Center orientation on file.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will provide orientation in all missing subjects to the employee(s) and will take steps to provide a complete orientation to new Employees in the future.

Correction Deadline: 1/14/2026

Recited on 1/14/2026

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

Met

Correction Deadline: 10/17/2025

Corrected on 1/14/2026

.31(2)(b)2. - The previous citation was observed corrected on this date. The Consultant observed center staff in lead positions to have a teaching credential or a professional learning plan.

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.