



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: 10/7/2025 **VisitType:** Complaint Investigation & Licensing Study **Arrival:** 10:10 AM **Departure:** 6:30 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
 Fax: (770) 344-5683
 lynn.schnitzer@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.
10/07/2025	Complaint Investigation & Licensing Study	Good Standing	
07/30/2025	Incident Investigation Closure	Good Standing	
06/20/2025	Incident 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-1R	Infants	2	3	C	8	C	NA	NA	Floor Play,Feeding
Main	B-2R	One Year Olds	2	7	C	12	C	NA	NA	Free Play,Diapering
Main	C- 3R	One Year Olds	2	8	C	13	C	NA	NA	Diapering,Free Play
Main	D-4R	Two Year Olds	1	8	C	13	C	NA	NA	Music
Main	E- 5R		0	0	C	16	C	NA	NA	
Main	F-5L	Four Year Olds	1	8	C	22	C	NA	NA	Centers
Main	G- 4L	Four Year Olds and Five Year Olds	2	7	C	25	C	NA	NA	Outside
Main	H- 3L	Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds	2	8	C	22	C	NA	NA	Centers
Main	I- 2L	Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds	2	11	C	21	C	NA	NA	Circle Time,Story
Main	J-1L	Two Year Olds and Three Year Olds	2	12	C	22	C	NA	NA	Transitioning
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 174					Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0					
Total # Children this Date: 72					Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0					

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	PG/ B	84	C

Enrolled Children						
Under 1 years	1 years	2 years	3 years	4 years	5 years (Prekonly)	5 years and older
6	20	25	30	19	3	4

Comments

The report was discussed with the Director, Nza Branton, on October 7, 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!



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Summary Report

Date: 10/7/2025 **VisitType:** Complaint Investigation & Licensing **Arrival:** 10:10 AM **Departure:** 6:30 PM
Study

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The following information is associated with a Licensing Study Visit:

Activities and Equipment

591-1-1-.03 Activities

Not Met

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.03(2) - Consultant discussed with director to ensure that each classroom has the current lesson available for the instructional week.

Correction Deadline: 10/7/2025

Finding

591-1-1-.03(9) requires center staff to refrain from engaging in, or allowing children or other adults to engage in, activities that could be detrimental to a child's health or well-being, such as but not limited to, horse play, rough play, wrestling, and picking up a child in a manner that could cause injury. It was determined based on observation that center staff lifted a child by the left arm when the child was sitting in the hallway refusing to move.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will review requirements with Staff to ensure that appropriate activities are conducted with children.

Correction Deadline: 10/7/2025

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)

Not Evaluated

Comment

Center does not provide swimming activities.

Children's Records

Records Reviewed: 5

Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 3

Child # 1

Not Met

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.08(3)-Address of Release Person Missing

Child # 4

Not Met

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.08(3)-Address of Release Person Missing

Child # 5

Not Met

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.08(3)-Address of Release Person Missing

591-1-1-.08 Children's Records**Not Met****Comment**

Parent authorizations obtained/completed.

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 three of five 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: 10/7/2025**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)**Not Met****Technical Assistance**

591-1-1-.25(13) - Consultant discussed with director to ensure that gloves and wipes are stored out of reach of children in classroom E-5R.

Correction Deadline: 10/7/2025**Technical Assistance**

591-1-1-.25(3) - Consultant discussed with director to ensure that crayon marks are removed from the restroom walls in classrooms F-5L, G-4L, and froH-3L.

Correction Deadline: 10/7/2025**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. 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.

591-1-1-.26 Playgrounds(CR)**Not Met****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 the bottom of the fence on the third and fifth sections from the right and the second section from the left was not anchored to the ground on playground B. Further, there were protruding wires at the bottom of the fence on playground B and at the bottom of the gate between playgrounds A and 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: 10/7/2025**Food Service****591-1-1-.15 Food Service & Nutrition****Met****Comment**

Bottles were observed to be labeled with the child's full name.

Comment

Infant feeding plans were observed to be updated.

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

Kitchen appears clean and well organized on this date.

Health and Hygiene**591-1-1-.07 Children's Health****Not Met****Finding**

591-1-1-.07(5) requires Center Staff to not permit children to wear around their necks or attach to their clothing pacifiers or other hazardous items. It was determined based on observation that a 1-year-old child had a pacifier clipped to their clothing in classrooms B-2R and C-3R.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will instruct Staff regarding this safety requirement.

Correction Deadline: 10/7/2025**591-1-1-.10 Diapering Areas & Practices(CR)****Technical Assistance****Comment**

Proper diapering procedures observed.

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.10(1) - Consultant discussed with director to ensure that staff are turning on the exhaust fans prior to beginning the diaper changing process.

Correction Deadline: 10/7/2025**591-1-1-.17 Hygiene(CR)****Not Met****Finding**

591-1-1-17(7) requires that children wash their hands with liquid soap and warm running water upon arrival for care, when moving from one child care group to another, upon re-entering the child care area after outside play, before and after eating meals and snacks, handling or touching food, playing in water; after toileting and diapering, playing in sand, touching animals or pets, and contact with bodily fluids and after contamination by any other means. It was determined based on observation that center staff did not wash a child's hands after completing the diaper changing process in classroom B-2R.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will train Staff on required handwashing for children and Staff will ensure children's hands are washed when required. The Director will monitor for compliance.

Correction Deadline: 10/7/2025

591-1-1-.20 Medications(CR)**Not Met****Finding**

591-1-1-.20(1) requires Personnel to obtain specific written authorization from the child's physician or parent in order to dispense prescription or non-prescription medications, except for first aid. Such authorization will include when applicable, date; full name of the child; name of the medication; prescription number, if any; dosage; the dates to be given; the time of day to be dispensed; and signature of parent. It was determined based on review of records that the authorization for "albuterol" from July 21 to July 25, 2025 did not give the time of day for the medication to be dispensed. Further, the medication for a child's allergy medications did not have the name, prescription number or the dosage. The medication was not dispensed.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will train Staff to obtain and review parental authorizations to ensure the authorization contains complete information.

Correction Deadline: 10/8/2025

Recited on 10/7/2025

Finding

591-1-1-.20(2) requires that written authorization to dispense medication is limited to two weeks unless otherwise prescribed by a physician or authorized under Georgia law. Medication shall only be dispensed out of its original container which must be labeled with the child's name or as authorized under Georgia law. It was determined based on a review of records that "Tylenol" was dispensed between September 3, 2025, and October 7, 2025, and a new medication authorization form was not completed.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will train all Staff on the medication requirements. The designated person(s) will monitor the dispensing of medications.

Correction Deadline: 10/7/2025

Policies and Procedures**591-1-1-.21 Operational Policies & Procedures****Technical Assistance****Technical Assistance**

591-1-1-.21(2)(r) - New - 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.ga.gov/CCS/RulesAndRegulations.aspx> or through the Center on Shaken Baby Syndrome found at: <https://dontshake.org/>.

Correction Deadline: 10/12/2025

Comment

Program observed complete emergency drills

591-1-1-.27 Posted Notices**Technical Assistance****Technical Assistance**

591-1-1-.27 - Consultant discussed with director to ensure that the list of persons responsible for the center is updated.

Correction Deadline: 10/7/2025

Safety

591-1-1-.05 Animals N/A

Comment

Center does not keep animals on premises.

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

Staff stated knowledge of infant safe sleep requirements.

Staff Records

Records Reviewed: 24

Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 10

Staff # 3

Not Met

Date of Hire: 09/08/2025

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

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.24(1)-Evidence of Orientation Missing

Staff # 6

Not Met

Date of Hire: 07/14/2025

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

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.31(2)(b)2.-Staff Qualifications-Education Missing

Staff # 10

Not Met

Date of Hire: 01/02/2023

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(3)-Health & Safety Certificate

Staff # 11

Not Met

Date of Hire: 09/25/2025

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

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.24(1)-Evidence of Orientation Missing

Staff # 14

Not Met

Date of Hire: 08/13/2015

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.09-Criminal Records Check Missing,.14(2)-CPR missing,.14(2)-First Aid Missing

Staff # 15

Not Met

Date of Hire: 01/22/2024

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.31(2)(b)2.-Staff Qualifications-Education Missing

Staff # 16

Not Met

Date of Hire: 08/18/2025

Reminder - Health & Safety training is required within 90 calendar days of hired"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.14(2)-CPR missing,.14(2)-First Aid Missing

Staff # 20

Not Met

Date of Hire: 07/07/2025

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.14(2)-CPR missing,.14(2)-First Aid Missing

Staff # 22

Not Met

Date of Hire: 06/16/2025

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(3)-Health & Safety Certificate

Staff # 24

Not Met

Date of Hire: 09/08/2025

Reminder - Health & Safety training is required within 90 calendar days of hired"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.24(1)-Evidence of Orientation Missing

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

Director provided seven files for employees hired since last visit June 20, 2025..

Finding

591-1-1-.09(1)(a) requires that a Center ensure that every actual and potential Director, Employee and Provisional Employee of a Child Care Learning Center submit both a Records Check Application to the Department and Fingerprints to an authorized fingerprinting site. It was determined based on review of records that staff #14's, date of hire August 3, 2015, criminal background check had expired on May19, 2023. Staff #14 was observed to be present in classroom F-5L at the time of the visit. The provider submitted a records check application to the department and for staff #14.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

IMMEDIATE CORRECTION - The Center will ensure that every actual and potential Director, Employee and Provisional Employee of a Child Care Learning Center submit both a Records Check Application to the Department and Fingerprints to an authorized fingerprinting site as 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: 10/7/2025**Finding**

591-1-1-.09(1)(c) requires the Center to ensure that every Employee 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 Employee 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 #14's, date of hire August 3, 2015, criminal background check had expired on May19, 2023. Staff #14 was observed to be present in classroom F-5L at the time of the visit. The provider submitted a records check application to the department and for staff #14.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

IMMEDIATE CORRECTION - The Center will ensure that every Employee 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 Employee 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: 10/7/2025

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

Complete first aid kits observed in center on this date.

Finding

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.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

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: 11/6/2025

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 #3, date of hire September 8, 2025, staff #11, date of hire September 24, 2025, and staff #24, date of hire September 8, 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: 10/8/2025

Correction Deadline: 4/16/2025

Corrected on 10/7/2025

.33(5) - The previous citation was observed corrected on this date. The director stated that they are tracking how many training hours staff have completed and how many hours they still need to complete to ensure that they meet the training requirement.

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: 11/6/2025

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

Not Met

Comment

Staff observed to be compliant with applicable laws and regulations.

Finding

591-1-1-.31(2)(b)2. requires teachers and lead caregivers to meet minimum academic requirements and qualifying experience at the time of employment. It was determined based on review of records that staff #6, date of hire July 14, 2025, and staff #15, date of hire January 22, 2024, did not have evidence of a lead teaching credential and had not enrolled in a program to obtain one.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

A teacher/lead caregiver will be hired that meets the minimum academic requirements and qualifying work experience.

Correction Deadline: 10/17/2025

Recited on 10/7/2025

Staffing and Supervision

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

Met

Comment

Center observed to maintain appropriate staff:child ratios.

The following information is associated with a Complaint Investigation Visit:

Policies and Procedures

591-1-1-.29 Required Reporting

Met

Correction Deadline: 7/30/2025

Corrected on 10/7/2025

.29(3) - The previous citation was observed corrected on this date. The Director stated understanding of the required reporting rules.

Safety

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

Met

Correction Deadline: 6/27/2025

Corrected on 10/7/2025

.11(2) - The previous citation was observed corrected on this date. The Consultant observed center staff redirecting children as needed.

Staffing and Supervision

591-1-1-.32 Supervision(CR)

Met

Correction Deadline: 6/27/2025

Corrected on 10/7/2025

.32(7) - The previous citation was observed corrected on this date. The Consultant observed adequate supervision during the visit.