

Clarkston, GA

Child Care Snapshot

September 2020



Photo: Courtesy of Missoula Current

Clarkston is a small suburb of about 1.8 square miles located east of the Perimeter outside of Atlanta. It has a population of approximately 12,757ⁱ residents; roughly, half are refugeesⁱⁱ. Since 1990, refugees have resettled into Clarkston, nationalities including Burmese, Eritrean, Sudanese, Somali, Ethiopian, Thai, and Nepaliⁱⁱⁱ; more recently, the largest group

of refugees are from the Congo. The town earned the nickname, **Ellis Island of the South**^{iv}, for its resettlements, and ranks first in the nation per capita.

With language as a barrier to quality early childhood education, some Clarkston area providers have staffed bilingual personnel who speak languages other than English. To increase the number of bilingual early learning teachers, Georgia Piedmont Technical College, CDF Action, and partners seek funding to offer Child Development Associate (CDA) classes with coaches who speak multiple languages.

Supervised Distance Learning

With COVID-19 and the U.S. economy being the primary focus for 2020, Clarkston families must find a new “normal” incorporating new safety measures in childcare, public transportation, and work. This year, DeKalb County Schools elected to start the year fully virtual where children participate in classroom learning electronically through computers and Internet connectivity.

This means that parents who are required to work outside of the home must provide a distance-learning alternative for their children. Many licensed childcare providers have implemented Supervised Distance Learning (SDL) services that provide oversight to children as they log into their respective virtual classrooms. Clarkston currently has four providers with SDL services. SOLVE Scholarships may be available through your licensed childcare provider.



Photo: Courtesy of LifePart2.com

Licensed SDL Providers	Location	Quality Rating
Giselle Learning Academy	3900 Memorial College Ave, Clarkston	3-Star
Early Learning Scholars II	3792 Memorial College Avenue, Clarkston	2-Star
Positive Growth Education Center, Inc.	945 N Indian Creek Drive, Clarkston	1-Star
Clarkston First Baptist Academy	4007 Church Street, Clarkston	2-Star

Data Source: DECAL

Types of Child Care Available**	Total	Capacity	#Quality Rated
Child Care Learning Center (CCLC)	26	2,341	16
Family Child Care Learning Home (FCCLH)	9	54	5
Georgia Early Head Start Programs (GAEHS)	2		
Georgia Preschool Head Start Programs (GAHS)	7		
Georgia Pre-Kindergarten Programs (LSS)	9	195	
Before School and After School Care	20		

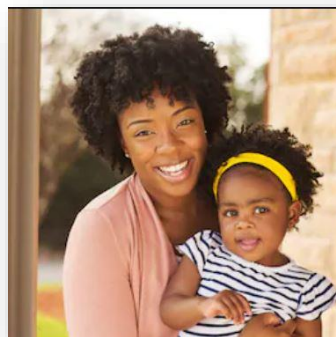
Data Source: DECAL ** Includes providers in the City of Clarkston and within a 1-mile radius

PAYING FOR CHILD CARE

The Childcare and Parent Services (CAPS) program is administered by DECAL to help Georgia families afford high quality childcare. The program is available statewide, and is based on family income and the availability of funding. In addition to CAPS, most providers offer sliding-scale rates, discounts for families with multiple children, and scholarships for tuition.

Age	Average Weekly Rate
Infants	\$177
One-Year Olds	\$171
Two-Year Olds	\$174
Three-Year Old	\$165
Four-Year Olds	\$163
Five-Years and Older	\$133

Data Source: DECAL



CHOOSING EARLY LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS

U.S. Census data estimates approximately 1,218 children under age 5 live in the City of Clarkston, nearly 10% of its population and among the highest in DeKalb Countyⁱ. Because high-quality childcare is so important, families should spend time researching the right environment for their child. Download a childcare checklist from www.qualitycareforchildren.org/find-child-care that identifies several quality indicators that families should look for in a childcare program. Family, Friends & Neighbors (FFN) is also a childcare option for families. These exempt providers care for no more than two children and are exempt from licensing rules.



Quality Rated Child Care is a Georgia Department of Early Learning and Care (DECAL) initiative developed to enhance the quality of services childcare programs provide to children and families. Similar to other rating systems for service-related industries like hotels and restaurants, Quality Rated Child Care assigns a quality rating of 1-Star, 2-Star, or 3-Star (with 3-star being the highest rating) to child care programs that meet a set of defined program standards. Programs that participate in the Quality Rated Child Care System demonstrate a higher commitment to early care and education than DECAL's regular licensing standards.

ⁱ Source: United States Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014-2018 ACS 5-year Data Profile, retrieved online on 9/3//2020

ⁱⁱ WABE.org, <https://www.wabe.org/clarkston-has-welcomed-thousands-of-refugees-hear-what-residents-have-to-say/>, by Andrea Tudhope, America Amplified, Feb 26, 2020, accessed 08/28/2020.

ⁱⁱⁱ Refugee Processing Center, <https://www.wrapsnet.org/admissions-and-arrivals/>, accessed 8/28/2020

^{iv} Ibid. WABE.org

^v Ibid. U.S. Census