



**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:** 9/23/2020    **VisitType:** Incident Investigation & Follow Up    **Arrival:** 10:20 AM    **Departure:** 2:00 PM

**CCLC-36660**

**Stepping Stone Montessori**

820 Sanders Road Cumming, GA 30041 Forsyth County  
 (770) 205-0317 info@steppingstonemontessori.com

**Regional Consultant**

Sherri Thompson

Phone: (770) 357-7038

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sherri.thompson@dec.al.gov

**Mailing Address**  
 Same

**Quality Rated:** ★ ★

<b>Compliance Zone Designation</b>		
09/23/2020	Incident Investigation & Follow Up	Good Standing
09/02/2020	Licensing Study	Good Standing
01/22/2020	Monitoring Visit	Good Standing

**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.

**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 1st Left	Infants and One Year Olds	1	4	C	12	C	NA	NA	Diapering
Main	B 2nd left	One Year Olds and Two Year Olds	3	11	C	12	C	NA	NA	Circle Time
Main	C 3rd left		0	0	C	19	C	NA	NA	
Main	D 1st Right		0	0	C	21	C	NA	NA	
Main	E 2nd Right	Two Year Olds and Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds and Five Year Olds	2	8	C	24	C	NA	NA	Centers
Main	F 3rd Right	Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds	2	9	C	26	C	NA	NA	Centers
Main	G 4th Right		0	0	C	29	C	NA	NA	
Main	H 5th right		0	0	C	36	C	NA	NA	
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 179						Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0				
Total # Children this Date: 32			Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 179			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0				

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	A PG Front Left	17	C
Main	B PG Rear	114	C
Main	C PG Right	76	C

### Comments

The investigation remains open on this date, pending additional information. Upon completion the finding will be reviewed with the provider and a final copy of the report will be sent.

The purpose of today's visit was to conduct a follow up to a visit conducted on September 2, 2020 and to conduct a complaint investigation. Investigative findings were not concluded on this date. Once investigative findings have been concluded by the assigned Child Care Consultant, the provider will be notified of any findings. The complaint investigation remains open at this time. The Child Care Consultant completing today's visit has provided their business card with complete contact information. Please contact the visiting consultant if there are any individuals affiliated the CCLC diagnosed with COVID-19 in the next 14 days, after the visit has taken place. Affiliated individuals may include, but are not limited to the provider, household members, children in care, and family members of children in care. The current Executive Order was utilized during today's visit and the provider demonstrated compliance with the current order.

Plan of Improvement: To Be Submitted 11/16/2020

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.

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#### 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), e-mail the following information to [CCSRefutations@dec.al.ga.gov](mailto:CCSRefutations@dec.al.ga.gov).

- 1) Facility name, license number and visit date
- 2) Your name, title/relationship to the facility, e-mail address & up to two phone number(s) where you can be reached
- 3) Specific rule number(s) that you are refuting, along with your concerns or questions regarding the rule citation

Refutations must be submitted to Child Care Services (CCS) within 10 business days of the completion date.

A sample form for submitting a refutation can be found at: <http://dec.al.ga.gov/ChildCareServices/RefutationInformation.aspx>

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.

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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 New Deadlines:**

Your program must be Quality Rated by December 31, 2020 in order to continue to receive Childcare and Parent Services (CAPS).

Get started today! Sign up by completing a short online application: <https://qualityrated.dec.state.ga.us/>  
Request free technical assistance to help you earn your star rating by contacting the Quality Rated help desk at 855-800-7747 or [qualityrated@dec.state.ga.us](mailto:qualityrated@dec.state.ga.us)

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Catherine Mauragas, Program Official

Date

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Sherri Thompson, Consultant

Date



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### Findings Report

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The following information is associated with a Incident Investigation & Follow Up:

### Activities and Equipment

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

**Technical Assistance**

#### Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.12(1) - requires each Employee and child in attendance to use all indoor and outdoor furniture, activity materials, and equipment in a safe and appropriate manner and in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions, recommendations, and intended use. All equipment and furniture shall be used only by the age-appropriate group of children. The Consultant observed small round tables in multiple areas of the center and the bases of the tables were constructed out of PVC piping. The tables may pose a potential tipping hazard.

**Correction Deadline: 9/23/2020**