



**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:** 1/22/2020    **VisitType:** Monitoring Visit    **Arrival:** 8:40 AM    **Departure:** 11:10 AM

**CCLC-36660**

**Stepping Stone Montessori**

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

**Regional Consultant**

Mandi Sloan

Phone: (770) 357-5097  
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**Mailing Address**  
Same

**Quality Rated:** ★ ★

<b>Compliance Zone Designation</b>		
01/22/2020	Monitoring Visit	Good Standing
07/16/2019	Licensing Study	Good Standing
02/13/2019	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	6	C	12	C	NA	NA	Floor Play, Feeding
Main	B 2nd left		0	0	C	12	C	NA	NA	
Main	C 3rd left	One Year Olds and Two Year Olds and Three Year Olds	2	8	C	19	C	NA	NA	Centers
Main	D 1st Right	One Year Olds and Two Year Olds and Three Year Olds	2	11	C	21	C	NA	NA	Transitioning, Free Play, Breakfast
Main	E 2nd Right		0	0	C	24	C	NA	NA	
Main	F 3rd Right	Two Year Olds and Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds and Five Year Olds and Six Year Olds and Over	2	20	C	26	C	NA	NA	Centers
Main	G 4th Right	Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds and Five Year Olds	2	21	C	29	C	NA	NA	Centers
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: 66			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

**Comments**

The purpose of today's visit was to conduct a Monitoring Visit and to follow up on citations from the visit conducted on July 16, 2019.

Plan of Improvement: Developed This Date 01/22/2020

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.state.ga.us/CCS/Regulations.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), e-mail the following information to [CCSRefutations@dec.state.ga.us](mailto:CCSRefutations@dec.state.ga.us).

- 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.state.ga.us/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.

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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Mandi Sloan, Consultant

Date



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### Findings Report

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The following information is associated with a Monitoring Visit:

### Activities and Equipment

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

**Met**

**Comment**

A variety of equipment and toys were observed throughout the center.

**591-1-1-.35 Swimming Pools & Water-related Activities(CR)**

**Met**

**Comment**

Center does not provide swimming activities.

### Facility

**591-1-1-.19 License Capacity(CR)**

**Met**

**Comment**

Licensed capacity observed to be routinely met by center.

**591-1-1-.25 Physical Plant - Safe Environment(CR)**

**Technical Assistance**

**Technical Assistance**

591-1-1-.25(13) - Consultant discussed with provider to ensure that hazardous items are kept out of the reach of children. In addition, please ensure that hazardous items that are currently stored Rooms "B, Second Left" and "E, Second Right" are removed before the classrooms are in use.

**Correction Deadline: 1/22/2020**

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

591-1-1-.26(6) requires that playground equipment provide an opportunity for the children to engage in a variety of experiences and shall be age-appropriate. For example, toddlers shall not be permitted to swing in swings designed for School-age Children. The outdoor equipment shall be free of lead-based paint, sharp corners and shall be regularly maintained in such a way as to be free of rust and splinters that could pose significant safety hazard to the children. All equipment shall be arranged so as not to obstruct supervision of children. It was determined based on observation that one tricycle on "Playground B Rear" was not in good repair as two handle bar covers were missing exposing the sharp metal edge of each handle bar. Further, the green play structure with the yellow slide on "Playground C Right" was observed to have areas of peeling paint near the climbing ladder. Finally, one yellow bucket swing on "Playground C Right" was missing a safety strap.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

The Center will provide a variety of age-appropriate equipment that is arranged so as not to obstruct supervision of children. Staff will check the equipment daily to ensure that the equipment is free of hazards, rust and splinters.

**Correction Deadline: 2/1/2020****Technical Assistance**

591-1-1-.26(8) - Consultant discussed with provider to ensure resilient surfacing throughout each playground is fluffed and redistributed once the ground is no longer frozen and the children are permitted to return outside.

**Correction Deadline: 2/1/2020****Finding**

591-1-1-.26(9) requires the playground to be kept clean, free from litter and free of hazards, such as but not limited to rocks, exposed tree roots and exposed sharp edges of concrete. It was determined based on observation that exposed tree roots were present near the back fence on Playground C, posing a potential trip hazard.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

The Center will remove any litter and fix or remove hazards from the playground and will routinely monitor the playground and remove litter and hazards.

**Correction Deadline: 1/22/2020**

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<b>Health and Hygiene</b>
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**591-1-1-.10 Diapering Areas & Practices(CR)****Met****Comment**

Staff state proper knowledge of diapering procedures.

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**591-1-1-.17 Hygiene(CR)****Met****Comment**

Staff were observed to remind children to wash hands.

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**591-1-1-.20 Medications(CR)****Met****Comment**

Documentation for medication dispensing observed complete.

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<b>Safety</b>
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**591-1-1-.11 Discipline(CR)****Met****Comment**

Age-appropriate discussion and/or redirection observed.

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

Center does not provide routine transportation.

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**Sleeping & Resting Equipment**

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**591-1-1-.30 Safe Sleeping and Resting Requirements(CR)****Met****Comment**

The correct number of mats, sheets and blankets were observed on this date. Cleaning and disinfecting of mats was discussed with the director on this date.

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**Staff Records**

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**Records Reviewed: 7****Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 0**

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Staff # 1	Met
Date of Hire: 04/14/2014	
Staff # 2	Met
Date of Hire: 02/11/2019	
Staff # 3	Met
Date of Hire: 09/21/2016	
Staff # 4	Met
Date of Hire: 12/12/2013	
Staff # 5	Met
Date of Hire: 02/13/2019	
Staff # 6	Met
Date of Hire: 09/05/2014	
Staff # 7	Met
Date of Hire: 10/30/2018	

**Staff Credentials Reviewed: 6**

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**591-1-1-.09 Criminal Records and Comprehensive Background Checks(CR)****Met****Correction Deadline: 7/16/2019****Corrected on 1/22/2020****.09(1)(j) - The previous citation was corrected on this date Criminal Record Checks were observed to be complete. Further, all individuals present upon this date were electronically ported into DECAL KOALA.**

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**591-1-1-.31 Staff(CR)****Met****Comment**

Staff observed to be compliant with applicable laws and regulations.

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**Staffing and Supervision**

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

**Met**

**Comment**

Center observed to maintain appropriate staff:child ratios.

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

**Met**

**Comment**

Adequate supervision observed on this date.