



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: 2/20/2024 VisitType: Licensing Study Arrival: 8:40 AM Departure: 11:35 AM

CCLC-39353

Explorers Montessori Coastal Cooperative (EMCC)

51 Wilmington Island Road Savannah, GA 31410 Chatham County
(912) 665-4405 director@explorersmontessori.org

Regional Consultant

Stacey Foston

Phone: (706) 806-0407

Fax: (706) 806-0406

stacey.foston@dec.al.ga.gov

Mailing Address
Same

Quality Rated: No

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.
02/20/2024	Licensing Study	Good Standing	
09/28/2023	Monitoring Visit	Good Standing	
03/09/2023	Licensing Study	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 (Left)	Two Year Olds and Three Year Olds	1	8	C	12	C	NA	NA	Circle Time
Main	B (Right)	One Year Olds and Two Year Olds	2	11	C	12	C	NA	NA	Free Play
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 24					Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0					
Total # Children this Date: 19					Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0					

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	Playground A	29	C
Main	Playground B	14	C

Comments

A Licensing Study was completed on this date.

Plan of Improvement: Developed This Date 02/20/2024

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@decal.ga.gov for more information. Free technical assistance is available!

Colleen Haas, Program Official

Date

Stacey Foston, Regional Consultant

Date



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(Findings Report)

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The following information is associated with a Licensing Study:

Activities and Equipment

591-1-1-.03 Activities

Technical Assistance

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.03(1) - Discussed daily schedules. Please ensure specific times are documented next to the activities.

Correction Deadline: 2/20/2024

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)

N/A

Comment

Center does not provide swimming activities.

Children's Records

591-1-1-.08 Children's Records

Technical Assistance

Comment

Parent authorizations obtained/completed.

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.08(1) - Please ensure the address of the authorized release person is documented on all enrollment forms.

Correction Deadline: 2/20/2024

Facility

591-1-1-.19 License Capacity(CR)	Met
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Comment

Licensed capacity observed to be routinely met by center.

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

No hazards observed accessible to children on this date.

591-1-1-.26 Playgrounds(CR)	Met
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Comment

Discussed maintenance of resilient surface. Please fluff and redistribute.

Food Service

591-1-1-.15 Food Service & Nutrition	Met
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Comment

The center does not have a kitchen and does not provide meals. The children bring their meals from home and the center ensures the meals meet USDA requirements. There are no infants enrolled at this center.

Health and Hygiene

591-1-1-.10 Diapering Areas & Practices(CR)	Met
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Comment

Staff stated proper knowledge of diapering procedures.

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

Staff were observed to remind children to wash hands.

591-1-1-.20 Medications(CR)	N/A
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Comment

The Provider currently does not dispense/administer medication.

Policies and Procedures

591-1-1-.21 Operational Policies & Procedures	Not Met
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Finding

591-1-1-.21(3) requires that the Center conduct drills for fire, tornado and other emergency situations. The fire drills will be conducted monthly and tornado and other emergency situation drills will be conducted every six months. The Center shall maintain documentation of the dates and times of these drills for two years. It was determined based on a review of records that the center did not complete emergency drills as required for the year 2023. The center completed one tornado drill and one lock down drill for the year when two of these drills were required.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will hold the drills as required and keep the documentation of the drills on file for two years.

Correction Deadline: 2/25/2024

591-1-1-.27 Posted Notices	Met
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Comment

Please make sure that all required signs are posted and up to date. Please add the director's name and designee to the posted notices.

Safety**591-1-1-.05 Animals** N/A**Comment**

Center does not keep animals on premises.

591-1-1-.11 Discipline(CR) Met**Comment**

Age-appropriate discussion observed.

591-1-1-.13 Field Trips(CR) N/A**Comment**

Center does not participate in field trips.

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**

Cots stored as required.

Staff Records**591-1-1-.09 Criminal Records and Comprehensive Background Checks(CR)** Met**Comment**

Criminal record checks were observed to be complete.

591-1-1-.14 First Aid & CPR Met**Comment**

Evidence observed of 100% of center staff certified in First Aid and CPR.

591-1-1-.33 Staff Training Met

Correction Deadline: 10/27/2023

Corrected on 2/20/2024

.33(3) - The previous citation was observed to be corrected. Health and safety orientation training was complete for all staff.

591-1-1-.31 Staff(CR) Not Met**Comment**

Staff observed to be compliant with applicable laws and regulations.

Finding

591-1-1-.31(1)(b)2 requires the Director to possess at least one of the sets of minimum academic requirements and qualifying child care experience listed in Rule 591-1-1-.31(1)(b)2.(i-xiii). It was determined based on a review of records that the current director does not have a credential to meet the academic requirements for the director position.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The director has completed the required classwork and exam to obtain a CDA credential. The staff is awaiting notification that the credential has been awarded from the CDA council.

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.