



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: 9/22/2025 **VisitType:** Licensing Study

Arrival: 9:20 AM **Departure:** 4:00 PM

CCLC-63879
International Montessori Academy/Cadence Education
1240 Euclid Ave Atlanta, GA 30307 Fulton County
(404) 474-6375

Regional Consultant
Earlene Huston
Phone: (770) 359-4330
Fax: (770) 357-8899
earlene.huston@decal.ga.gov

Mailing Address
Same

Quality Rated: No

<u>Compliance Zone Designation</u>			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.
09/22/2025	Licensing Study	Good Standing	
09/18/2024	Initial 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
Building II	Lilac	One Year Olds and Two Year Olds	2	10	C	22	C	NA	NA	Outside
Building II	Lotus	Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds	2	14	C	22	C	NA	NA	Outside
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 44					Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0					
Main	1L-Sprouts		0	0	C	11	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
Main	1R-Caterpillars	Infants and One Year Olds	3	4	C	15	C	NA	NA	Feeding,Outside ,Nap
Main	2L-Magnolia	One Year Olds	3	6	C	47	C	NA	NA	Outside
Main	2R-Willow	One Year Olds and Two Year Olds	2	10	C	19	C	NA	NA	Outside
Main	Upstairs-Left-Sunflowers	Infants and One Year Olds	3	10	C	20	C	NA	NA	Floor Play
Main	Upstairs-Multipurpose Back Room	Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds	2	14	C	33	C	NA	NA	Outside
Main	Upstairs-Right-Butterfly's	Two Year Olds and Three Year Olds	2	15	C	20	C	NA	NA	Outside
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 165					Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0					
Total # Children this Date: 83			Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 209			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0				

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	Playground A	34	C
Main	Playground B	29	C
Main	Right-Side Playground	27	C

Enrolled Children						
Under 1 years	1 years	2 years	3 years	4 years	5 years (Prekonly)	5 years and older
15	24	15	26	11	0	0

Comments

The purpose of the visit was to complete the licensing study.

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.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), 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

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The following information is associated with a Licensing Study:

Activities and Equipment

591-1-1-.03 Activities

Not Met

Finding

591-1-1-.03(2) requires the Center to keep current lesson plans on site that reflect appropriate instruction practices and activities to support children's development. The Center shall have sufficient and varied play and learning equipment and materials to support the above program of activities in all developmental areas. It was determined based on observation that throughout the facilities each classroom lacked a lesson plan.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will keep current lesson plans on site that include appropriate instruction practices and activities and will have sufficient and varied play and learning equipment and materials to support the activities.

Correction Deadline: 9/22/2025

Comment

Age-appropriate activities observed throughout the center.

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

Met

Comment

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

Correction Deadline: 9/25/2024

Corrected on 9/22/2025

.12(2) - It was determined based on observation that the citation had been corrected.

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

Met

Comment

Parent agreements observed obtained/completed.

Comment

Parent authorizations obtained/completed.

Facility

591-1-1-.06 Bathrooms**Met****Comment**

Bathrooms observed to be clean and well maintained.

Comment

Please monitor bathrooms for necessary supplies.

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)**Met****Comment**

Please be mindful to keep items that pose a hazard inaccessible to children.

Comment

Please secure cleaning tools (i.e., broom, plunger) out of reach of children. Please ensure that latches are placed on the cabinet doors in the "Lotus" classroom.

Correction Deadline: 10/18/2024

Corrected on 9/22/2025

.25(11) - It was determined based on observation the corrections had been made for the flooring.

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

Correction Deadline: 9/18/2024

Corrected on 9/22/2025

.26(4) - It was determined based on observation that on this date the fencing was observed to have been repaired.

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 consultant observation wheel barriers accessible to the children, trash, debris, exposed tree roots and vines, sticks, and branches along the route to access playgrounds. The playground had exposed sharp edges from a wood slice, which also poses as a tripping hazard. The playground also had broken lattice under the second building classroom exposing a nail, which is a hazard to children. The water gutter exposed sharp edges, which also pose as a hazard to children. The playground had several pecans on the ground throughout the playground which also poses as a hazard to children with allergies and a choking hazard.

It was determined based on observation that the playgrounds had several exposed roots that were tripping hazards. There were several low hanging tree limbs on the top playground that could possibly cause an eye injury if not corrected. The playground had pecans and pecan shells throughout both playgrounds.

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: 9/22/2025

Recited on 9/22/2025

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

Center menu meets USDA guidelines. The following food items were observed to be served for lunch: Italian chicken pasta, wheat bread, green beans, pears, and milk. Children are also allowed to bring their lunches.

Comment

Please ensure that infant feeding forms are updated regularly.

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

Please ensure that all food items are stored in airtight containers.

Health and Hygiene

Comment

Hand washing requirements for diapering were discussed with the director on this date.

Finding

591-1-1-.10(4) requires that if diapers are changed on a diaper changing surface, the surface shall be smooth, nonporous, and equipped with a guard or rails to prevent falls. Between each diaper change, the diaper changing surface shall be cleaned with a disinfectant and dried with a single-use disposable towel. It was determined based on observation room Willow and Butterfly's does not have a diapering changing station.

It was determined based on observation that in the Willow and Butterfly room there is no diapering changing station. It was observed on this date that children were taken in the bathroom and diapers were taken off while children were standing.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will ensure there is a smooth, nonporous changing surface that has a guard or rails for safety in each classroom that houses children wearing diapers. Center Staff will be trained and have adequate supplies to properly clean the diaper changing surface between each diaper change.

Correction Deadline: 9/22/2025

Recited on 9/22/2025

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

Staff were observed to remind children to wash hands on this date.

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

Discussed proper medication documentation and procedures.

Comment

Please document N/A or none if no adverse reaction is observed.

Policies and Procedures**591-1-1-.21 Operational Policies & Procedures****Met****Comment**

Program observed complete emergency drills

Discussed that effective July 1, 2025, new staff are required to obtain pediatric First Aid and pediatric CPR training within 45 days of employment. It was further discussed that programs must have at least one person with current pediatric First Aid and pediatric CPR training in each classroom at all times.

Policies: 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.state.ga.us/CCS/RuleAndRegulations.aspx> or through the Center on Shaken Baby Syndrome found at: <https://dontshake.org/>.

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

Observed all required posted notices.

591-1-1-.29 Required Reporting**Met****Comment**

Thank you for reporting as required.

591-1-1-.05 Animals

Met

Comment

Center does not keep animals on premises.

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

Met

Comment

Staff were observed to maintain a positive learning environment on this date.

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

Pleasant naptime environment observed.

Comment

Please ensure that cribs/cots are labeled for individual use.

Staff Records**Records Reviewed: 8****Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 2**

Staff # 3

Not Met

Date of Hire: 03/18/2024

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training

Staff # 6

Not Met

Date of Hire: 07/31/2024

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training

591-1-1-.09 Criminal Records and Comprehensive Background Checks(CR)

Met

Comment

Criminal record checks were observed to be complete.

591-1-1-.09 Criminal Records Check(CR)

Met

Comment

Criminal records checks were observed to be complete.

591-1-1-.14 First Aid & CPR(CR)

Met

Comment

Complete first aid kits observed in center on this date.

Comment

Evidence observed of 50% of center Staff certified in First Aid and CPR.

Discussed that effective July 1, 2025, new staff are required to obtain pediatric First Aid and pediatric CPR training within 45 days of employment. It was further discussed that programs must have at least one person with current pediatric First Aid and pediatric CPR training in each classroom at all times.

Comment

Discussed staff training. Please obtain required documentation.

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.

Comment

Please ensure completed orientation checklists are documented and signed.

Discussed that all Employees, including volunteers, independent contractors, students-in-training, etc. should have a completed initial program orientation form on file.

Finding

591-1-1-.33(5)(a) requires that every calendar year after the first year of employment, all supervisory and caregiver Personnel, except independent contractors, Students-in-Training and volunteers, shall attend ten (10) clock hours of diverse training which is offered by an accredited college, university or vocational program or other Department-approved source. It was determined based on review of staff records that two of the staff persons were observed to lack the required 10 clock hours of annual training.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will plan and schedule the required 10 hours of annual training each year and follow up to ensure the training is completed.

Correction Deadline: 11/5/2025

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

Discussed that all lead staff must enroll in an approved education program within 6 months of hire and complete degree within 18 months.

Comment

Staff observed to be compliant with applicable laws and regulations.

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.