



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: 3/21/2024 **VisitType:** Licensing Study

Arrival: 12:00 PM **Departure:** 3:45 PM

CCLC-36660

Stepping Stone Montessori

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

Regional Consultant

Amanda Schofield

Phone: (404) 463-3585

Fax:

amanda.schofield@decal.ga.gov

Mailing Address

Same

Quality Rated: ★ ★

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.
03/21/2024	Licensing Study	Good Standing	
08/15/2023	Monitoring Visit	Good Standing	
04/04/2023	Incident Investigation & Follow Up	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 1st Left	Infants	2	2	C	12	C	NA	NA	Nap
Main	B 2nd left	One Year Olds	1	5	C	12	C	NA	NA	Nap
Main	C 3rd left	One Year Olds and Two Year Olds	3	16	C	19	C	NA	NA	Nap
Main	D 1st Right	One Year Olds and Two Year Olds and Three Year Olds	3	14	C	21	C	NA	NA	Nap
Main	E 2nd Right	Two Year Olds and Three Year Olds	2	9	C	24	C	NA	NA	Nap
Main	F 3rd Right	Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds and Five Year Olds	2	20	C	26	C	NA	NA	Transitioning, Centers
Main	G 4th Right	Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds and Five Year Olds	2	23	C	29	C	NA	NA	Transitioning, Centers
Main	H 5th right	Five Year Olds	2	6	C	36	C	NA	NA	Nap
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 179					Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0					
Total # Children this Date: 95					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 purpose of this visit was to conduct a Licensing Study. Staff files, children files, and criminal records checks were reviewed.

Plan of Improvement: No Plan Developed

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

Catherine Mauragas, Program Official

Date

Amanda Schofield, 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

591-1-1.12 Equipment & Toys(CR)

Met

Comment

Consultant discussed with the director to ensure all equipment and furniture are properly secured, to prevent injuries from tipping, falling, or being pulled or pushed over.

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

Records were observed to be complete and well organized.

Facility

591-1-1.06 Bathrooms

Technical Assistance

Technical Assistance

591-1-1.06 - Consultant discussed with the director to please ensure to check restroom for chipping or peeling paint and repair when needed.

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 - Please ensure that all hazardous items and/or equipment (i.e., bleach, brooms, diaper wipes, etc.) are stored in a locked cabinet and/or container inaccessible to children at all times.

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

Playground observed to be clean and in good repair.

Correction Deadline: 9/1/2023

Corrected on 3/21/2024

.26(4) - The previous citation was observed to be corrected. Consultant observed the hole to be closed on this date.

Food Service

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

Center menu meets USDA guidelines.

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

Kitchen appears clean and well organized.

Health and Hygiene

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

Staff state proper knowledge of diapering procedures.

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

Proper hand washing observed throughout the center.

591-1-1-.20 Medications(CR)**Technical Assistance****Technical Assistance**

591-1-1-.20 - Discussed proper medication documentation and procedures.

Safety

591-1-1-.05 Animals**Met****Comment**

Consultant observed Guinea Pig in the common area , the guinea pig was observed maintained clean and appropriately caged on this date.

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)**Met****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.

Staff Records

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

Director provided seven staff files for employees hired since last visit August 15, 2023.

Correction Deadline: 8/15/2023

Corrected on 3/21/2024

.09(1)(a) - The previous citation was observed to be corrected on this date. After a review of records consultant observed all staff to have complete fingerprints on file.

Correction Deadline: 8/15/2023

Corrected on 3/21/2024

.09(1)(c) - The previous citation was observed to be corrected on this date. After a review of records consultant observed all staff to have complete Comprehensive Record Checks on file.

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