



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: 3/11/2026 **VisitType:** Monitoring Visit

Arrival: 10:30 AM **Departure:** 2:00 PM

CCLC-52652

Montessori Academy

189A Sams Street Decatur, GA 30030 DeKalb County
(404) 320-0400

Regional Consultant

Maryn Accord

Phone: (404) 591-6031

Fax:

maryn.accord@dec.al.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.
03/11/2026	Monitoring Visit	Good Standing	
08/26/2025	Licensing Study	Good Standing	
10/28/2024	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 2	A - 3rd Right		0	0	C	5	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
Building 2	B - 1st Left	Infants and One Year Olds	1	3	C	14	C	NA	NA	Nap
Building 2	C - 2nd Left	Infants	2	5	C	13	C	NA	NA	Nap,Floor Play
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 25			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0			Building @35 capacity limited by Insufficient Toilets/Sinks				
Single	A - 1st Right		0	0	C	10	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
Single	B - 2nd Right	One Year Olds and Two Year Olds and Three Year Olds	2	8	C	29	C	NA	NA	Outside
Single	C -1st Left Upstairs	GA PreK	2	10	C	23	C	NA	NA	Outside
Single	D - 1st Right Upstairs	Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds	1	10	C	24	C	NA	NA	Outside
Single	E - 2nd Right Upstairs		0	0	C	14	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 94			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0			Building @35 capacity limited by Building Department				
Total # Children this Date: 36			Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 119			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0				

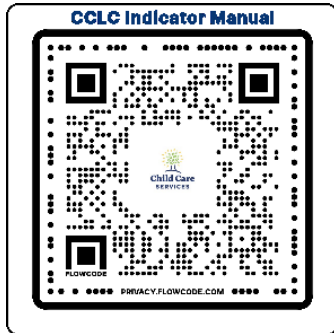
Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Single	PG/Left	44	C
Single	PG/Middle	7	C
Single	PG/Right	5	C

Enrolled Children						
Under 1 years	1 years	2 years	3 years	4 years	5 years (Prekonly)	5 years and older
7	5	3	9	10	0	0

Comments

The Consultant discussed with the Director the submission of an application for an amended license to remove a licensed classroom that is no longer being utilized.

Plan of Improvement: No Plan Developed



For additional information regarding any licensing topics discussed during this visit, please consult the Rules and Regulations Indicator Manual. This manual provides comprehensive clarification of each rule, including evaluation indicators, related best practices, and relevant considerations to support your program's continued and sustained compliance.

To access the Indicator Manual, please scan the QR code below or visit our website at <https://www.decal.ga.gov/CCS/RulesAndRegulations.aspx>.

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

You have received permission to operate and the form received with this report is intended to serve as a temporary license which is **valid for thirty(30) days**. Your actual license/ will be emailed to you upon receipt of the licensing fee. You may pay the licensing fee either online at <http://www.decal.ga.gov/> or by certified check or money order mailed to: Bright from the Start, 2 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive SE, Suite 670 East Tower, Atlanta, GA 30334

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!



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Summary 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 on this date.

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

N/A

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 on this date.

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

Not Met

Correction Deadline: 9/9/2025

Corrected on 3/11/2026

.25(12) - The previous citation was observed corrected on this date. The Consultant observed that heating and cooling equipment and auxiliary electrical appliances were positioned to be inaccessible to children, as required.

Finding

591-1-1-.25(13) requires that potentially hazardous equipment, materials and supplies be stored in a locked area inaccessible to children. It was determined, based on observation, that packages of baby wipes were accessible to children in their cubbies, posing a potential hazard. It was further determined that Staff cleaning supplies, including brooms, vacuums, and mops, were accessible to children, posing a potential hazard on this date.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will identify all hazardous items and keep them in a locked area inaccessible to children. The Center will inform all Staff about hazardous items and the safe storage of those items.

Correction Deadline: 3/20/2026

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.26(3) requires that the playground be adjacent to the Center or in an area which can be reached by a safe route or method approved by the Department. Except in School-age Centers, the playground shall have shaded areas. The Consultant discussed with the Director to ensure that the route to the playground was kept safe and free of hazards, as required.

Correction Deadline: 4/10/2026

Finding

591-1-1-.26(4) requires that playgrounds be protected from traffic or other hazards by a (4) four foot high fence or other barrier approved by this Department. Fencing material shall not present a hazard to children and shall be maintained so as to prevent children from leaving the playground area by any means other than through an approved access route. Fence gates shall be kept closed except when persons are entering or exiting the area. It was determined, based on observation that the fencing material located along the backside of PG/Left measured approximately 3 feet, 6 inches, when a minimum of 4 feet was required. It was further determined that the fencing material located in the back right corner of PG/Left contained a gap between the gate and the fencing that measured approximately 4.5 inches, creating a potential entrapment hazard.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will routinely check the fence to determine if it is in good repair and remains at least 4 feet high, and will repair any hazards. The Center will train Staff to identify and report any fence hazards and to keep the fence gates closed when not in use.

Correction Deadline: 3/31/2026

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 cinder blocks and concrete tiles were present in the right-side corner of PG/Left, creating a potential 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: 3/20/2026

Health and Hygiene

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

Met

Comment

Proper diapering procedures observed.

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

Met

Comment

Proper hand washing observed throughout the center on this date.

591-1-1-.20 Medications(CR)

N/A

Comment

The Provider currently does not dispense/administer medication.

Organization

591-1-1-.16 Governing Body & License

Met

Correction Deadline: 9/2/2025

Corrected on 3/11/2026

.16(f) - The previous citation was observed corrected on this date. The Consultant observed that changes made to the Center were reflected through submission of an application for an amended License, as required.

Safety

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

Met

Comment

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

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.

Staff Records**Records Reviewed: 10****Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 1**

Staff # 6

Not Met

Date of Hire: 02/06/2026

Reminder - Health & Safety training is required within 90 calendar days of hired"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.24(1)-Evidence of Orientation Missing

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(CR)

Met

Comment

At least one staff person with current and valid pediatric first aid and pediatric CPR observed in each classroom where children were present.

591-1-1-.33 Staff Training**Technical Assistance****Technical Assistance**

591-1-1-.33(1) requires all Employees and Provisional Employees to receive Initial Center orientation prior to assignment to children or task. The Consultant discussed with the Director to ensure that all initial Center orientation forms were present in Staff Records prior to assignment to children or task, as required.

Correction Deadline: 3/11/2026**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

Correction Deadline: 8/26/2025**Corrected on 3/11/2026**

.32(7) - Correction of previous citation was observed corrected on this date. The Consultant observed direct and watchful oversight of children on this date, as required.