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: 8/21/2025 **VisitType:** Monitoring Visit **Arrival:** 10:40 AM **Departure:** 12:40 PM

CCLC-2064
Montessori Academy Of Savannah
8415 Cresthill Avenue Savannah, GA 31406 Chatham County
(912) 355-2000 jdavismas@yahoo.com

Child Care Services Manager
Kesha McNeal
Phone: (866) 359-1672
Fax: (866) 359-7490
kesha.mcneal@decal.ga.gov

Mailing Address
Same

Quality Rated: No

Compliance Zone Designation		
08/21/2025	Monitoring Visit	Good Standing
06/03/2025	Licensing Study	Good Standing
03/26/2024	Licensing Study	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	Room 1	Two Year Olds and Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds	3	17	C	40	C	NA	NA	Circle Time,Outside,Transitioning
Main	Room 2	Two Year Olds	1	6	C	16	C	NA	NA	Transitioning,Free Play,Lunch,Circle Time
Main	Room 3	One Year Olds and Two Year Olds	1	4	C	11	C	NA	NA	Art,Free Play
		Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 67			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0					
Total # Children this Date: 27		Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 67			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0					

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	Playground	91	C

Enrolled Children

Under 1 years	1 years	2 years	3 years	4 years	5 years (Prekonly)	5 years and older
0	2	10	12	6	0	0

Comments
The CCS Consultant discussed and left a copy of the updated Child Care Weather Watch Chart with the program today. Weather does not permit outdoor play when there is active precipitation or when weather advisories are in effect. Consult the Child Care Weather Watch Chart resource for further guidance, considering specific weather conditions.

The consultant also discussed the rule changes there were effective July 1, 2025.

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.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 techincal assistance is available!

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(Findings Report)

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The following information is associated with a MV:

Activities and Equipment

Records Reviewed: 7 **Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 1**

Staff # 2 Not Met

Date of Hire: 10/01/2010

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.14(2)-CPR missing,.14(2)-First Aid Missing

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

Records Reviewed: 7 **Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 1**

Staff # 2 Not Met

Date of Hire: 10/01/2010

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.14(2)-CPR missing,.14(2)-First Aid Missing

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
No hazards observed accessible to children on this date.

Correction Deadline: 6/3/2025 **Prior Visits: 06/03/2025**

Corrected on 8/21/2025
.25(13) - Previous citation observed corrected in that no hazards were accessible to children on this date.

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

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 the consultant's observation that there was exposed tree roots located on the left back side and on the right front section of the playground accessible to children causing a potential tripping 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: 8/21/2025 **Prior Visits: 06/03/2025, 03/26/2024**

Health and Hygiene

Records Reviewed: 7 **Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 1**

Staff # 2 Not Met

Date of Hire: 10/01/2010

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.14(2)-CPR missing,.14(2)-First Aid Missing

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

Comment
Staff stated proper knowledge of diapering procedures.

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

Comment
Please ensure lids remain on trash containing organic waste.

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.

Policies and Procedures

Records Reviewed: 7 **Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 1**

Staff # 2 Not Met

Date of Hire: 10/01/2010

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.14(2)-CPR missing,.14(2)-First Aid Missing

591-1-1-.21 Operational Policies & Procedures **Technical Assistance**

Technical Assistance
591-1-1-.21(1)(a-o) - 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.

Correction Deadline: 8/26/2025

Technical Assistance
591-1-1-.21(2)(r) - New - 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.decal.ga.gov/CCS/RulesAndRegulations.aspx or through the Center on Shaken Baby Syndrome found at: https://dontshake.org/.

Correction Deadline: 8/26/2025

Safety

Records Reviewed: 7 **Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 1**

Staff # 2 Not Met

Date of Hire: 10/01/2010

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.14(2)-CPR missing,.14(2)-First Aid Missing

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

Comment
Age-appropriate discussion and/or redirection observed.

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

Records Reviewed: 7 **Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 1**

Staff # 2 Not Met

Date of Hire: 10/01/2010

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.14(2)-CPR missing,.14(2)-First Aid Missing

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

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

Staff Records

Records Reviewed: 7 **Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 1**

Staff # 2 Not Met

Date of Hire: 10/01/2010

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.14(2)-CPR missing,.14(2)-First Aid Missing

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

Comment
Consultant requested to view all Criminal Record checks for employees hired after last visit. Director stated that there have been no new hires since last visit

Comment
Criminal record checks were observed to be complete.

591-1-1-.14 First Aid & CPR(CR) **Not Met**

Technical Assistance
591-1-1-.14(1)(a) - 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.

Correction Deadline: 9/20/2025

Finding
591-1-1-.14(2)(a) requires that when any child is present on the premises, at least fifty percent (50%) of the caregiver staff present shall be trained in pediatric cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and pediatric first aid. It was determined based on the consultant's review of records that only two of six employees had current evidence of pediatric cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and pediatric first aid.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
A minimum of 50% of all caregiver Staff on the premises must successfully complete a biennial training program in cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and a triennial training program in first aid taught by certified or licensed health care professionals or trainers and must deal with the provision of emergency care to infants and children. The Director will send copies via email of verification of completed CPR/First Aid certification to the Consultant upon completion.

Correction Deadline: 9/20/2025

Finding
591-1-1-.14(2)(d) requires the Center Director must have current evidence of successful completion of pediatric cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and pediatric first aid at all times. It was determined based on the consultant's review of records that the Center Director did not have current evidence of successful completion of pediatric cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and pediatric first aid as required.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
The Center Director must successfully complete a biennial training program in cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and a triennial training program in first aid taught by certified or licensed health care professionals or trainers and must deal with the provision of emergency care to infants and children. The Director will send copies via email of verification of completed CPR/First Aid certification to the Consultant upon completion.

Correction Deadline: 9/20/2025

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

Technical Assistance
591-1-1-.33(1) - Discussed that all Employees, including volunteers, independent contractors, students-in-training, etc. should have a completed initial program orientation form on file.

Correction Deadline: 8/21/2025

Technical Assistance
591-1-1-.33(5)(b)1. - New - 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.

Correction Deadline: 9/20/2025

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

Comment
Staff observed to be compliant with applicable laws and regulations.

Staffing and Supervision

Records Reviewed: 7 **Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 1**

Staff # 2 Not Met

Records Reviewed: 7 **Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 1**

Date of Hire: 10/01/2010

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.14(2)-CPR missing,.14(2)-First Aid Missing

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) **Not Met**

Finding
591-1-1-.32(7) requires that children be supervised at all times appropriate to the individual age, needs and capabilities of each child. Such supervision must include, but not be limited to, indoor and outdoor activities, mealtimes, naptime, transportation, field trips, and transitions between activities. "Supervision" means that the appropriate number of Staff members are physically present in the area where children are being cared for and are providing watchful oversight to the children, volunteers and Students-in-Training. The persons supervising in the child care area must be alert, positioned to maximize their ability to hear and see the children at all times, and able to respond promptly to the needs and actions of the children being supervised, as well as the actions of the volunteers and Students-in-Training, and provide timely attention to the children's actions and needs. Staff shall be attentive and participating with all children during mealtimes and shall be seated within an arm’s length away from children thirty-six (36) months of age and younger. It was determined [based on the consultant's observation that staff were not seated within an arm’s length away from children thirty-six (36) months of age and younger in Room 2 during lunch time as required.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
The Center will train Staff and monitor to ensure they are providing supervision and watchful oversight to the children at all times.

Correction Deadline: 8/21/2025