



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: 8/31/2026 **VisitType:** Licensing Study

Arrival: 11:00 AM **Departure:** 3:00 PM

CCLC-52652
Montessori Academy
 189A Sams Street Decatur, GA 30030 DeKalb County
 (404) 320-0400

Regional Consultant
 Maryn Accord
 Phone: (470) 990-0305
 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.
08/31/2026	Licensing Study	Good Standing	
03/11/2026	Monitoring Visit	Good Standing	
08/26/2025	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	1	2	C	14	C	NA	NA	Nap
Building 2	C - 2nd Left	Infants	1	4	C	13	C	NA	NA	Nap
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 32			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0							
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	2	7	C	29	C	NA	NA	Transitioning
Single	C - 1st Left Upstairs	GA PreK	2	10	C	23	C	NA	NA	Transitioning
Single	D - 1st Right Upstairs	Two Year Olds and Three Year Olds	1	7	C	24	C	NA	NA	Circle Time
Single	E - 2nd Right Upstairs		0	0	C	14	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 100			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0							
Total # Children this Date: 30			Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 132			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0				

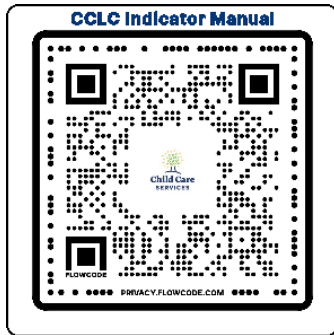
Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Single	PG/Left	44	C
Single	PG/Middle	7	C
Single	PG/Right	5	C

Enrolled Children					
Infant (0-12 months)	Toddler (1-2 yrs)	Preschool (3-5yrs/full time care)	School Age (before/after care only)	GA PreK only	Summer Only
8	13	18	0	10	0

Comments

Staff Records and Child Records were reviewed. Core Rules and Non-Core Rules were evaluated.

Plan of Improvement: Developed This Date



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>.



For additional information regarding the full compliance inspection results of this program or any licensed program in the state, access the Child Care Services Compliance-at-a Glance website by scanning this QR code or visiting: <https://families.decal.ga.gov>.

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



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Summary Report

Date: 8/31/2026 VisitType: Licensing Study

Arrival: 11:00 AM Departure: 3:00 PM

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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

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

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 a toilet plunger and a toilet scrubber were stored on the bathroom floor in Room C - 1st Left Upstairs and 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: 8/31/2026

Recited on 8/31/2026

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

Correction Deadline: 3/31/2026

Corrected on 8/31/2026

.26(4) - The previous citation was observed corrected on this date. The Consultant observed that the fencing material measured at least 4 feet in height, as required, on this date.

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 discarded in the back right corner of PG/Left and were accessible to children. It was further determined that a wooden board was installed along the left side fence on the infant and toddler playground that contained two protruding screws, creating a potential hazard on this date.

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: 9/18/2026

Recited on 8/31/2026

Health and Hygiene

591-1-1-.10 Diapering Areas & Practices(CR)
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Not Met

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, that Room B - 1st Left had a small tear on the side of diaper changing cushion. It was further determined that the diaper changing surface in Room C - 2nd Left was textured and was not smooth and nonporous, as required, on this date.

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: 9/18/2026

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

Documentation for medication dispensing observed completed on this date.

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: 10

Staff # 1

Not Met

Date of Hire: 11/17/2025

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

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

.24(1)-Evidence of Orientation Missing,.14(2)-CPR missing,.14(2)-First Aid Missing,.33(4)-Food Prep Training Missing 4 hrs.,.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training,.31(2)(b)2.-Staff Qualifications-Education Missing

Staff # 2

Not Met

Date of Hire: 04/26/2025

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

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

Staff # 3

Not Met

Date of Hire: 08/24/2026

Reminder - Health & Safety training is required within 90 calendar days of hired

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.36(5)-Drivers License Missing

Staff # 4

Not Met

Date of Hire: 07/27/2026

Reminder - Health & Safety training is required within 90 calendar days of hired

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.36(5)-Drivers License Missing

Staff # 5

Not Met

Date of Hire: 04/02/2025

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(3)-Health & Safety Certificate,.36(5)-Drivers License Missing,.24(1)-10 Yr. Work History Missing

Staff # 6

Not Met

Date of Hire: 02/17/2026

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(3)-Health & Safety Certificate,.36(5)-Drivers License Missing

Staff # 7

Not Met

Date of Hire: 02/06/2026

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(3)-Health & Safety Certificate,.24(1)-Evidence of Orientation Missing

Staff # 8

Not Met

Date of Hire: 03/16/2026

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(3)-Health & Safety Certificate

Staff # 9

Not Met

Date of Hire: 01/05/2026

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.36(5)-Drivers License Missing

Staff # 10

Not Met

Date of Hire: 06/12/2025

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(3)-Health & Safety Certificate

Comment

Criminal record checks were observed to be complete.

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

591-1-1-.14(2)(b) requires that there must always be one staff person present in each classroom where children are present that has current and valid pediatric cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and pediatric first aid training. It was determined, based on a review of records, that Staff #2, hired April 26, 2025, was the only staff member present in Room C - 2nd Left with four infants and did not have current and valid CPR and pediatric first aid training on file, as required.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Director will schedule and/or position caregiver Staff throughout the Center to ensure at least one currently pediatric CPR and First Aid trained Staff person is present in each classroom where children are present.

Correction Deadline: 9/30/2026**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 a review of records, that the Director did not have current pediatric CPR and pediatric first aid, as required, on this date.

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: 9/30/2026

591-1-1-.24 Personnel Records**Technical Assistance****Technical Assistance**

591-1-1-.24(1) requires the center to maintain a personnel file on the Director, all Employees, Provisional Employees, Personnel, Staff, Students-in-Training, Volunteers, Clerical, Housekeeping, Maintenance, and other Support Staff for the duration of the term of employment plus one calendar year, and it shall contain the following: identifying information to include: name, date of birth, social security number, current address and current telephone number; employment history; as applicable to the position held: evidence of education and qualifying work experience; evidence of all training required by these rules which shall include: title of training, date of training, trainer's signature, location of training and number of clock hours obtained; a statement completed by the staff member that the information provided is true and accurate; any other records required by these rules; and as applicable to the position held, evidence of required orientation including date and signature of person providing the orientation. The Consultant discussed with the Director to ensure that all requirements for Staff records were included and available for review, as required.

Correction Deadline: 9/5/2026

591-1-1-.33 Staff Training**Not Met****Finding**

591-1-1-.33(1) requires all Employees and Provisional Employees to receive Initial Center orientation prior to assignment to children or task. It was determined, based on a review of records, that Staff #1, hired November 17, 2025, and Staff #7, hired February 6, 2026, did not have evidence that initial Center orientation was received prior to assignment to children or task, as required.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will develop and provide orientation for all new Staff prior to their assignment to children or task.

Correction Deadline: 9/11/2026

Finding

591-1-1-.33(3)(a)-(k) requires each Staff member with direct care responsibilities to complete health and safety orientation training within the first 90 days of employment. The state-approved training hours obtained will count toward required first year training hours. The training must address the following health and safety topics:

a) prevention and control of infectious diseases (including immunizations); b) prevention of sudden infant death syndrome and use of safe sleeping practices; c) administration of medication, consistent with standards for parental consent; d) prevention of and response to emergencies due to food and allergic reactions; e) building and physical premises safety, including identification of and protection from hazards that can cause bodily injury such as electrical hazards, bodies of water, and vehicular traffic; f) prevention of shaken baby syndrome, abusive head trauma and child maltreatment; g) emergency preparedness and response planning for emergencies resulting from a natural disaster or a human-caused event (such as violence at a child care facility); h) handling and storage of hazardous materials and the appropriate disposal of bio contaminants; i) precautions in transporting children; j) recognition and reporting of child abuse and neglect; and k) child development to include all major domains: cognitive; social and emotional; physical development and motor skills; communication, language, and literacy; and approaches to play and learning. It was determined, based on a review of records, that the following staff members did not have health and safety orientation training on file:

- Staff #1, hired February 3, 2025
- Staff #5, hired April 2, 2025
- Staff #6, hired February 17, 2026
- Staff #7, hired February 6, 2026
- Staff #8, hired March 16, 2026
- Staff #10, hired June 12, 2025

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will develop and implement a plan to schedule and track this training for all employees based on their hire dates and will ensure that the training includes all required components as required.

Correction Deadline: 9/30/2026

Finding

591-1-1-.33(4) requires within the first year of employment, the Director and person with primary responsibility for food preparation shall have four clock hours of training in food nutrition planning, preparation, serving, proper dish washing and food storage. It was determined, based on a review of records, that the Director did not have four clock hours of training in food nutrition, preparation, serving, proper dish washing, and food storage on file, as required, on this date.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will schedule food preparation training, as required, and follow up to ensure the training is completed.

Correction Deadline: 9/30/2026

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.

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 observation, that Room D - 1st Right Upstairs was transitioning for outdoor play, and three 3-year-old children walked out into the hallway without a staff member present for approximately 15-30 seconds to retrieve belongings from a cubby that was located in the hallway. One staff member was present in Room D - 1st Right Upstairs with one 2-year-old child, three 3-year-old children, and one 5-year-old child. It was further determined that three staff members were positioned in the front area of the PreK Playground and were unable to provide watchful oversight of three children, ages four and five years old, who were located in the far back right corner of the playground behind multiple plants measuring approximately six to 10 feet, which obstructed Staff's line of sight of the children on this date.

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: 8/31/2026