



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: 10/30/2025 **VisitType:** Incident Investigation & Follow Up **Arrival:** 9:40 AM **Departure:** 12:20 PM

CCLC-24172

Montessori School at Emory

3021 North Decatur Road Decatur, GA 30033 DeKalb County
(404) 634-5777

Special Investigations Unit Specialist

Brittany Cook

Phone: (706) 434-4412

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brittany.cook@dec.al.ga.gov

Mailing Address

Same

Quality Rated: No

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.
10/30/2025	Incident Investigation & Follow Up	Good Standing	
10/01/2025	Licensing Study	Good Standing	
11/22/2024	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
Main	Gym		0	0	C	88	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
Main	Room A1	One Year Olds and Two Year Olds	2	11	C	22	C	NA	NA	Circle Time
Main	Room A2	One Year Olds and Two Year Olds	2	13	C	16	C	NA	NA	Transitioning
Main	Room B	Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds and Five Year Olds and Six Year Olds and Over	2	24	C	28	C	NA	NA	Centers
Main	Room C	Two Year Olds and Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds and Five Year Olds and Six Year Olds and Over	2	22	C	28	C	NA	NA	Centers
Main	Room D	Two Year Olds and Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds and Five Year Olds	2	24	C	26	C	NA	NA	Centers
Main	Room E	Two Year Olds and Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds and Five Year Olds and Six Year Olds and Over	2	23	C	30	C	NA	NA	Centers
Main	Room F	One Year Olds and Two Year Olds	2	12	C	20	C	NA	NA	Outside, Transitioning
Main	Room G		0	0	C	13	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
			Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 271			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0				

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	4yrs-12 yrs	47	C
Main	B-20 mts-5yrs	46	C

Comments

The investigation was not concluded on this date.

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.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

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The following information is associated with a Incident Investigation & Follow Up:

	Facility
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591-1-1-.26 Playgrounds(CR)

Defer

Defer

591-1-1-.26(4)- Evaluation of the previous citation was deferred on this date to the next regulatory visit. The correction deadline had a date of 10/31/2025 that had not passed yet.

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: 10/31/2025

Defer

591-1-1-.26(8)- Evaluation of the previous citation was deferred on this date to the next regulatory visit. The correction deadline had a date of 10/31/2025 that had not passed yet.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will add additional resilient surfacing to the fall zones where needed and check daily, adding resilient surfacing as needed to maintain adequate resiliency.

Correction Deadline: 10/31/2025

Defer

591-1-1-.26(9)- Evaluation of the previous citation was deferred on this date to the next regulatory visit. The correction deadline had a date of 10/31/2025 that had not passed yet.

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: 10/31/2025

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

Met

Correction Deadline: 10/17/2025

Corrected on 10/30/2025

.16(f) - The previous citation was observed corrected on this date. An amendment was submitted for review on October 9, 2025.