



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: 10/1/2025 **VisitType:** Licensing Study

Arrival: 10:00 AM **Departure:** 3:30 PM

CCLC-24172
Montessori School at Emory
3021 North Decatur Road Decatur, GA 30033 DeKalb County
(404) 634-5777

Regional Consultant
Maryn Accord
Phone: (404) 591-6031
Fax:
maryn.accord@decal.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.
10/01/2025	Licensing Study	Good Standing	
11/22/2024	Licensing Study	Good Standing	
03/15/2024	POI 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	Gym		0	0	C	88	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
Main	Room A1	Two Year Olds	3	12	C	22	C	NA	NA	Lunch
Main	Room A2	One Year Olds and Two Year Olds	3	12	C	16	C	NA	NA	Music, Transitioning
Main	Room B	Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds and Five Year Olds and Six Year Olds and Over	2	23	C	28	C	NA	NA	Centers, Transitioning
Main	Room C	Two Year Olds and Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds and Five Year Olds	2	23	C	28	C	NA	NA	Circle Time
Main	Room D	Two Year Olds and Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds and Five Year Olds	2	19	C	26	C	NA	NA	Circle Time
Main	Room E	Two Year Olds and Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds and Five Year Olds	2	21	C	30	C	NA	NA	Centers
Main	Room F	One Year Olds and Two Year Olds	3	11	C	20	C	NA	NA	Lunch
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					
Total # Children this Date: 121					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

Enrolled Children						
Under 1 years	1 years	2 years	3 years	4 years	5 years (Prekonly)	5 years and older
0	15	29	33	25	0	26

Comments

The Consultant discussed 2025 CCLC Rules & Regulation updates and left the 2025 Weather Watch Chart. The Consultant shared the DECAL webinar for "Preparing for a Regulatory Visit with Child Care Services"

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.decgal.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 user id 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 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.

Children's Records

591-1-1-.08 Children's Records Technical Assistance

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.08(6) requires the Center to maintain records of a child's daily arrival and departure for the twelve (12) preceding months that the Parent or person(s) authorized by the Parent documents, in written or electronic format, each time the Parent or authorized person drops off and picks up the child. The documentation shall include at least the date, the child's name, the arrival and departure times, and the signature or initials of the Parent or authorized person at the time of arrival and departure. These records shall be made available to the Department in printed or written form upon request.

The Consultant discussed with the Director to ensure that the signature or initials of the Parent or authorized person was included on the daily arrival and departure records, as required.

Correction Deadline: 10/1/2025

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) Technical Assistance

Correction Deadline: 12/22/2024

Corrected on 10/1/2025

.25(11) - The previous citation was observed corrected on this date. The Consultant observed that the floor coverings throughout the Center were smooth and free of hazards, as required, on this date.

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.25(12) requires heating and cooling equipment to be protected to prevent children from touching it. Fans, space heaters, etc. shall be positioned or installed so as to be inaccessible to the children.

The Consultant discussed with the Director to ensure that air purifiers in the classroom were positioned or installed to be inaccessible to children, as required.

Correction Deadline: 10/1/2025

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

591-1-1-.26(4) requires that playgrounds be protected from traffic or other hazards by a four (4) foot high fence or other barrier approved by the 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 right side of the fencing material in the garden space of the outdoor play area had a gap at the bottom of the fence, measuring 5.5 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: 10/31/2025

Correction Deadline: 12/2/2024

Corrected on 10/1/2025

.26(6) - The previous citation was observed corrected on this date. The Consultant observed that the playground equipment was maintained and free of hazards, as required, on this date.

Finding

591-1-1-.26(8) requires climbing and swinging equipment to have a resilient surface beneath the equipment and the fall zone from such equipment must be adequately maintained by the Center to assure continuing resiliency.

It was determined based on observation that the resilient surfacing located on playground Main 4 yrs – 12 yrs measured 2 inches in the fall zone areas, when 6 inches was required.

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

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 there were exposed tree roots in the front area of playground Main b 20 mts – 5 yrs and in the back right side of playground Main 4 yrs – 12 yrs, creating a potential tripping hazard. It was further determined that there was exposed concrete located in the back right side of playground Main 4 yrs – 12 yrs, 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: 10/31/2025

Health and Hygiene**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**

Staff were observed to remind children to wash hands 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****Not Met****Finding**

591-1-1-.16(f) requires the Center to submit an application for an amended License at least 30 days prior to a change if there is a change in the name of the program or Center, changes in the ages of the children to be served, an increase in the regular hours of operation such that the Center would be providing evening or night-time care in addition to day-time care, changes in the services provided, or additions to or changes in the use of the building by the licensed Center. If an emergency situation arises which makes it impossible to give thirty (30) days' notice, the management of the Center shall notify the Department by telephone and shall submit an application for an amended License as soon as management becomes aware of the change that will be necessitated by the emergency situation. In no case, however, shall a new owner operate the Center without first securing a new License or Permit from the Department.

It was determined based on observation that Classroom Main Room A2 had four 1-year-olds and eight 2-year-olds present, and ventilation had been added to the room to meet diapering room requirements, but an application for an amended License was not submitted at least 30 days prior to these changes, as required.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

An application for amendment and all necessary documentation will be submitted.

Correction Deadline: 10/17/2025

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)**Technical Assistance****Technical Assistance**

591-1-1-.36(4)(b) requires that the interior of a transportation vehicle be clean, in safe repair and free of hazardous items, objects and/or other non-essential items which could cause injury.

The Consultant discussed with the Director to ensure that that interior of the vehicle had any required repairs, as needed, before transportation services resume.

Correction Deadline: 10/2/2025

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**

Criminal record checks were observed to be complete.

591-1-1-.14 First Aid & CPR(CR)**Met****Comment**

Please continue to be attentive to training expiration dates to support ongoing compliance and staff readiness.

Comment

Staff observed to be compliant with applicable laws and regulations.

Staffing and Supervision

Comment

Center observed to maintain appropriate staff:child ratios.

Comment

Staff observed to provide direct supervision and be attentive to children's needs.