



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: 8/26/2025 VisitType: Licensing Study

Arrival: 9:40 AM Departure: 1:30 PM

CCLC-52652

Montessori Academy

189A Sams Street Decatur, GA 30030 DeKalb County
(404) 320-0400 office@montessoriacademydecatur.com

Regional Consultant

Maryn Accord

Phone: (404) 591-6031

Fax:

maryn.accord@decal.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.
08/26/2025	Licensing Study	Good Standing	
10/28/2024	Licensing Study	Good Standing	
01/08/2024	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;1st Left Lft-Inf/Tod		0	0	C	13	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
Building 2	B;Left Inf/Tod	Infants and One Year Olds	2	6	C	14	C	NA	NA	Floor Play
Building 2	C: Right Inf/Tod		0	0	C	5	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 25			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0			Building @35 capacity limited by Insufficient Toilets/Sinks				
Single	A/1L/1's & 2's	One Year Olds and Two Year Olds	1	7	C	16	C	NA	NA	Snack
Single	B/2L/6 wks- 18 mths		0	0	C	13	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
Single	C/3L/AS		0	0	C	10	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
Single	D/1L/ Upper- 3-6 yrs	GA PreK	2	11	C	23	C	NA	NA	Transitioning,Snack
Single	E/1R/Upper- 3-6 yrs	Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds and Five Year Olds	1	5	C	24	C	NA	NA	Circle Time
Single	F/2R/3-6 yrs		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: 29			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

Enrolled Children						
Under 1 years	1 years	2 years	3 years	4 years	5 years (Prekonly)	5 years and older
1	4	7	2	13	1	5

Comments

The Consultant reviewed Staff Records and Children's Record and evaluated Core Rules and Non-Core Rules.

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 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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(Findings Report)

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The following information is associated with a LS:

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

Comment

Please secure cleaning tools (i.e., broom, plunger) out of reach of children.

Finding

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. It was determined based on observation that an air purifier was positioned accessible to children located in Building 2 Gym: Infant/Toddler and in the hallway located outside of classroom Single B/2L/6 wks- 18 mths.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will re-position or re-install equipment, as needed, and will make all such equipment inaccessible to children.

Correction Deadline: 9/9/2025

Prior Visits: 10/28/2024

Technical Assistance

591-1-1.25(13) requires that potentially hazardous equipment, materials and supplies be stored in a locked area inaccessible to children. The Consultant discussed with the Staff in Charge that grocery bags observed in children's cubbies should be stored inaccessible to children as required.

Correction Deadline: 8/26/2025

Prior Visits: 01/30/2023, 10/11/2022

591-1-1-.26 Playgrounds(CR)**Met****Comment**

Playground observed to be clean and in good repair on this date.

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 classrooms Single A/1L/1's & 2's and Single B/2L/6 weeks-18 months were combined into one classroom by removing the dividing wall. However, the Center did not submit an application for an amended License at least 30 days prior to the change as required.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

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

Correction Deadline: 9/2/2025

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)**N/A****Comment**

Center does not provide routine transportation.

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

Discussed SIDS and infant sleeping position.

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****Correction Deadline: 11/4/2024****Prior Visits: 01/08/2024****Corrected on 8/26/2025**

.14(3) - Correction of previous citation on this date. The Consultant observed the first aid kits in each building of the Center was complete with all required items

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)**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 observation, that four children were left unsupervised in the upper hallway outside of classroom Single D/1L/Upper-3-6 years for approximately one minute when Staff #5 exited the hallway and entered the classroom to assist another Staff member.

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: 8/26/2025**Prior Visits: 01/08/2024****Recited on 8/26/2025**