



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: 12/12/2025 **VisitType:** Monitoring Visit

Arrival: 11:30 AM **Departure:** 3:15 PM

CCLC-62023

Lifespan Montessori of Athens

570 Research Drive Athens, GA 30605 Clarke County
(706) 424-3861

Regional Consultant

Lynn Schnitzer

Phone: (678) 717-5720

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lynn.schnitzer@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.
12/12/2025	Monitoring Visit	Good Standing	
11/25/2024	Licensing Study	Good Standing	
05/31/2024	Incident Investigation/Monitoring Visit	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	1L-Infant	Infants and One Year Olds	2	12	C	19	C	NA	NA	Nap,Floor Play
Main	1R-Preschool	Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds	1	9	C	44	C	NA	NA	Outside,Lunch
Main	2nd Hallway 1R		0	0	C	88	C	NA	NA	
Main	2nd Hallway 2R		0	0	C	27	C	NA	NA	
Main	2nd Hallway 3R	One Year Olds and Two Year Olds	2	12	C	30	C	NA	NA	Circle Time,Transitioning
Main	Middle-Toddler	Two Year Olds	1	10	C	24	C	NA	NA	Diapering,Transitioning,Nap
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 138			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0			Building @35 capacity limited by Fire Marshall Limitations				
Total # Children this Date: 43			Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 138			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0				

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	Playground A	76	C
Main	Playground C	44	C
Main	pygd B-behind ctr	20	C

Enrolled Children						
Under 1 years	1 years	2 years	3 years	4 years	5 years (Prekonly)	5 years and older
10	18	13	12	3	2	0

Comments

The consultant discussed the visit report with the Assistant Director, Rebecca Nix, on December 25, 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.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 Monitoring Visit:

Activities and Equipment

591-1-1-.12 Equipment & Toys(CR)

Met

Comment

Equipment and furniture observed to be properly secured, as applicable.

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

The Center appeared clean and well maintained on this date.

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 the following hazards were present during the visit:

- adult scissors on a shelf in classroom 1R,
- wipes and plastic bags accessible to children in the restroom in classroom 1R,
- adult scissors, a tape dispenser, and stapler on top of the teacher desk in classroom 2nd Hallway 1R,
- wipes and plastic bags accessible to children in the restroom in classroom 2nd Hallway 1R, and
- wipes and gloves stored accessible to children in the restroom in classroom Middle.

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: 12/12/2025

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.25(17) - Consultant discussed with provider to remove the fruit from the ground on playground pygb B. The fruit presented potential choking hazard. The consultant also discussed removing the thorny plants growing through the fence on the back playground.

Correction Deadline: 12/12/2025

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.26(6) - Consultant discussed with director to ensure that the canopy is hung up on playground pygd B and that the splintering seat on the wooden bench is repaired on the front playground.

Correction Deadline: 12/22/2025

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.26(9) - Consultant discussed with director to ensure that the sunscreen and bug spray is stored inaccessible to children on the front playground and that the exposed roots are repainted on each playground.

Correction Deadline: 12/12/2025

Health and Hygiene**591-1-1-.10 Diapering Areas & Practices(CR)****Met****Comment**

Staff stated proper knowledge of diapering procedures.

Correction Deadline: 11/25/2024

Corrected on 12/12/2025

.10(6) - The previous citation was observed corrected on this date. The Consultant observed that there were no hazards stored within children's reach on the diapering station.

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

Proper hand washing observed throughout the center on this date.

591-1-1-.20 Medications(CR)**Not Evaluated****Comment**

The Provider currently does not dispense/administer medication.

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

591-1-1-.21(2)(r) - New - 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.

Also 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.dec.state.ga.us/CCS/Regulations.aspx> or through the Center on Shaken Baby Syndrome found at: <https://dontshake.org/>.

Correction Deadline: 12/17/2025

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

Age-appropriate discussion and/or redirection observed.

591-1-1-.36 Transportation(CR)**Met****Comment**

Center does not provide routine transportation.

Sleeping & Resting Equipment

Comment

Staff stated knowledge of infant safe sleep requirements.

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.30(1)(d) - Consultant discussed with director to ensure that the children's sleeping equipment is placed 12-inches away from the next child's and that children are positioned so that the head of the child is facing the feet of the next child.

Correction Deadline: 12/12/2025

Staff Records

Records Reviewed: 16

Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 13

Staff # 1

Not Met

Date of Hire: 06/09/2025

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.14(2)-CPR missing,.14(2)-First Aid Missing,.33(3)-Health & Safety Certificate

Staff # 3

Not Met

Date of Hire: 07/29/2025

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.14(2)-CPR missing,.14(2)-First Aid Missing,.33(3)-Health & Safety Certificate

Staff # 4

Not Met

Date of Hire: 03/12/2025

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.14(2)-CPR missing,.14(2)-First Aid Missing,.33(3)-Health & Safety Certificate

Staff # 5

Not Met

Date of Hire: 10/20/2025

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

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

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

Staff # 6

Not Met

Date of Hire: 03/13/2025

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

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

Staff # 7

Not Met

Date of Hire: 09/16/2024

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.31(2)(b)2.-Staff Qualifications-Education Missing

Staff # 9

Not Met

Date of Hire: 07/10/2024

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

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

Staff # 10

Not Met

Date of Hire: 03/24/2025

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(3)-Health & Safety Certificate

Staff # 12

Not Met

Date of Hire: 10/28/2025

Reminder - Health & Safety training is required within 90 calendar days of hired"Missing/Incomplete Components"

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

Staff # 13

Not Met

Date of Hire: 04/02/2025

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.31(2)(b)2.-Staff Qualifications-Education Missing

Staff # 14

Not Met

Date of Hire: 04/18/2025

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.14(2)-CPR missing,.14(2)-First Aid Missing,.33(3)-Health & Safety Certificate

Staff # 15

Not Met

Date of Hire: 10/20/2025

Reminder - Health & Safety training is required within 90 calendar days of hired"Missing/Incomplete Components"

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

Staff # 16

Not Met

Date of Hire: 07/28/2025

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.14(2)-CPR missing,.14(2)-First Aid Missing,.33(3)-Health & Safety Certificate

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

Criminal record checks were observed to be complete.

Comment

Director provided 13 files for employees hired since last visit November 25, 2025..

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

Finding

Previously Cited: 591-1-1-.14(2) requires a Staff member who is trained in CPR and first aid to be on the premises and on any field trip whenever any child is present. In addition, Staff who provide direct care to children must satisfactorily obtain certification in first aid and CPR by December 29, 2016 if employed prior to September 30, 2016 and within 90 days of their hire date if employed after September 30, 2016. It was determined based on review of records that Staff #4 and Staff #13 and Staff#17 did not have evidence of current CPR certification.

591-1-1-.14(1)(a) requires all Staff who provide direct care to children must obtain certification in a biennial training program in pediatric cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and a triennial training program in pediatric first aid within the first 45 days of employment. Current and valid evidence of the successful completion of such training shall be maintained on the Center's premises. The hours obtained completing this certification will not count towards the required annual training hours. It was determined based on review of records that the following staff did not have certification in a biennial training program in pediatric cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and a triennial training program in pediatric first aid on file:

staff #1, date of hire June 9, 2025,
staff #3, date of hire July 29, 2025,
staff #4, date of hire March 12, 2025,
staff #5 date of hire October 20, 2025,
staff #6, date of hire March 16, 2025,
staff #9, date of hire July 10, 2024,
staff #12, date of hire October 28, 2025,
staff #14, date of hire April 18, 2025,
staff #15, date of hire October 20, 2025, and
staff #16, date of hire July 28, 2025.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

Previously Cited: The Center will develop a schedule to ensure there is always a staff person with current first aid and CPR training present and will develop and implement a plan to ensure all staff members have satisfactorily completed first aid and CPR training by the specified date.

All caregiver Staff will complete the required training. The Director will send copies via email verification of completed CPR/First Aid certification to the consultant upon completion and will develop a plan to ensure all caregiver Staff have completed this training within the first 45 days of employment and that evidence of successful completion of the training is on file available for inspection.

Correction Deadline: 1/2/2026

Recited on 12/12/2025

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

591-1-1-.33(3) 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: prevention and control of infectious diseases (including immunizations); prevention of sudden infant death syndrome and use of safe sleeping practices; administration of medication, consistent with standards for parental consent; prevention of and response to emergencies due to food and allergic reactions; 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; prevention of shaken baby syndrome, abusive head trauma and child maltreatment; 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); handling and storage of hazardous materials and the appropriate disposal of bio contaminants; precautions in transporting children; recognition and reporting of child abuse and neglect; and child development. It was determined based on review of records that the following staff did not have evidence of health and safety orientation training:

staff #1, date of hire June 9, 2025,
staff #3, date of hire July 29, 2025,
staff #4, date of hire March 12, 2025,
staff #10, date of hire March 24, 2025.
staff #14, date of hire April 18, 2025, and
staff #16, date of hire July 28, 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: 1/2/2026

Recited on 12/12/2025

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.33(5)(b)(2)(i)-(iv) - 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: 1/11/2026

591-1-1-.31 Staff(CR)**Technical Assistance****Comment**

Staff observed to be compliant with applicable laws and regulations.

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.31(2)(b)3.(i) - Consultant discussed with the director that newly hired lead teachers have six months from their hire dated to enroll in a program to obtain a lead credential, and 18-months from enrollment to complete it.

Correction Deadline: 12/12/2025

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)**Met****Comment**

Adequate supervision observed on this date.