



**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:** 10/1/2024 **VisitType:** Monitoring Visit

**Arrival:** 9:55 AM **Departure:** 2:00 PM

**CCLC-36660**

**Stepping Stone Montessori**

820 Sanders Road Cumming, GA 30041 Forsyth County  
(770) 205-0317 info@steppingstonemontessori.com

Regional Consultant

Amanda Schofield

Phone: (404) 463-3585

Fax:

amanda.schofield@decal.ga.gov

**Mailing Address**

Same

**Quality Rated:** ★ ★

| <u>Compliance Zone Designation</u> |                                |               | <b>Compliance Zone Designation</b> - 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.<br><br><b>Good Standing</b> - Program is demonstrating an acceptable level of performance in meeting the rules.<br><b>Support</b> - Program performance is demonstrating a need for improvement in meeting rules.<br><b>Deficient</b> - Program is not demonstrating an acceptable level of performance in meeting the rules. |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 10/01/2024                         | Monitoring Visit               | Good Standing |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| 06/03/2024                         | Incident Investigation Closure | Good Standing |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| 03/21/2024                         | 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                            | A 1st Left  | Infants                                               | 2                               | 6        | C    | 12                            | C            | NA         | NA           | Diapering, Free Play |
| Main                            | B 2nd left  | One Year Olds                                         | 2                               | 11       | C    | 12                            | C            | NA         | NA           | Centers, Breakfast   |
| Main                            | C 3rd left  | Two Year Olds                                         | 2                               | 14       | C    | 19                            | C            | NA         | NA           | Circle Time, Outside |
| Main                            | D 1st Right | One Year Olds and Two Year Olds                       | 2                               | 18       | C    | 21                            | C            | NA         | NA           | Centers              |
| Main                            | E 2nd Right | Two Year Olds and Three Year Olds                     | 2                               | 14       | C    | 24                            | C            | NA         | NA           | Centers              |
| Main                            | F 3rd Right | Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds and Five Year Olds | 2                               | 20       | C    | 26                            | C            | NA         | NA           | Centers              |
| Main                            | G 4th Right | Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds and Five Year Olds | 2                               | 22       | C    | 29                            | C            | NA         | NA           | Centers              |
| Main                            | H 5th right |                                                       | 0                               | 0        | C    | 36                            | C            | NA         | NA           |                      |
|                                 |             |                                                       | Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 179 |          |      | Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0 |              |            |              |                      |
| Total # Children this Date: 105 |             |                                                       | Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 179 |          |      | Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0 |              |            |              |                      |

| Building | Playground      | Playground Occupancy | Playground Compliance |
|----------|-----------------|----------------------|-----------------------|
| Main     | A PG Front Left | 17                   | C                     |

|      |            |     |   |
|------|------------|-----|---|
| Main | B PG Rear  | 114 | C |
| Main | C PG Right | 76  | C |

| Enrolled Children |         |         |         |         |                    |                   |
|-------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|--------------------|-------------------|
| Under 1 years     | 1 years | 2 years | 3 years | 4 years | 5 years (Prekonly) | 5 years and older |
| 7                 | 15      | 34      | 36      | 16      | 0                  | 5                 |

#### Comments

The purpose of this visit was to conduct a Monitoring Visit. New hire staff files and criminal records checks were reviewed.

#### Reminders:

- Please be sure to enter all temporary closures in DECAL KOALA under the Required Report tab whenever your facility is closed temporarily for one day or more.
- Incident Reports are to be submitted via DECAL KOALA with all signed staff statements for staff and the director. Consultant left a copy of Required Reporting Guidelines.
- All amendments are required to be electronically entered in DECAL KOALA effective August 2, 2021.

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.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](http://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](mailto: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 Monitoring Visit:

**Activities and Equipment**

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

**Met**

**Comment**

A variety of equipment and toys were observed throughout the center.

**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.

**591-1-1-25 Physical Plant - Safe Environment(CR)**

**Met**

**Comment**

Please be mindful to keep items that pose a hazard inaccessible to children at all times..

**591-1-1-26 Playgrounds(CR)**

**Met**

**Comment**

Consultant discussed with the director to please ensure the route to the playground is free from hazards (i.e., water hoses, brooms, rakes, etc.). Please ensure to store items in a locked cabinet or storage inaccessible to children at all times.

**Comment**

Playground observed to be clean and in good repair.

**Health and Hygiene**

**591-1-1-10 Diapering Areas & Practices(CR)**

**Met**

**Comment**

Proper diapering procedures observed.

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|                                |            |
|--------------------------------|------------|
| <b>591-1-1-.17 Hygiene(CR)</b> | <b>Met</b> |
|--------------------------------|------------|

**Comment**

Proper hand washing observed throughout the center.

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|                                    |            |
|------------------------------------|------------|
| <b>591-1-1-.20 Medications(CR)</b> | <b>Met</b> |
|------------------------------------|------------|

**Comment**

Documentation for medication dispensing observed complete.

|  |               |
|--|---------------|
|  | <b>Safety</b> |
|--|---------------|

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|                                   |            |
|-----------------------------------|------------|
| <b>591-1-1-.11 Discipline(CR)</b> | <b>Met</b> |
|-----------------------------------|------------|

**Comment**

Consultant observed staff to provide age-appropriate discussion and/or redirection on this date.

**Comment**

Consultant observed staff to provide and maintain a positive learning environment on this date.

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|                                       |            |
|---------------------------------------|------------|
| <b>591-1-1-.36 Transportation(CR)</b> | <b>N/A</b> |
|---------------------------------------|------------|

**Comment**

Center does not provide routine transportation.

|  |                                         |
|--|-----------------------------------------|
|  | <b>Sleeping &amp; Resting Equipment</b> |
|--|-----------------------------------------|

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|                                                               |            |
|---------------------------------------------------------------|------------|
| <b>591-1-1-.30 Safe Sleeping and Resting Requirements(CR)</b> | <b>Met</b> |
|---------------------------------------------------------------|------------|

**Comment**

Consultant observed cribs/cots labeled for individual use.

**Comment**

Pleasant naptime environment observed. Consultant observed procedures for infant sleeping position.

|  |                      |
|--|----------------------|
|  | <b>Staff Records</b> |
|--|----------------------|

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|                                                                             |            |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|
| <b>591-1-1-.09 Criminal Records and Comprehensive Background Checks(CR)</b> | <b>Met</b> |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|

**Comment**

Criminal record checks were observed to be complete.

**Comment**

Director provided five staff files for employees hired since last visit conducted on March 21, 2024. Five of five staff were observed to have a satisfactory comprehensive record check on file on this date.

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|                              |            |
|------------------------------|------------|
| <b>591-1-1-.31 Staff(CR)</b> | <b>Met</b> |
|------------------------------|------------|

**Comment**

Staff observed to be compliant with applicable laws and regulations.

|  |                                 |
|--|---------------------------------|
|  | <b>Staffing and Supervision</b> |
|--|---------------------------------|

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|                                                          |            |
|----------------------------------------------------------|------------|
| <b>591-1-1-.32 Staff:Child Ratios and Group Size(CR)</b> | <b>Met</b> |
|----------------------------------------------------------|------------|

**Comment**

Center observed to maintain appropriate staff:child ratios.

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|                                    |            |
|------------------------------------|------------|
| <b>591-1-1-.32 Supervision(CR)</b> | <b>Met</b> |
|------------------------------------|------------|

**Comment**

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