



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: 5/11/2026 **VisitType:** Complaint Investigation Follow Up **Arrival:** 10:50 AM **Departure:** 3:25 PM

CCLC-24172

Montessori School at Emory

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

Regional Consultant

Cassandra Jakes-Beasley

Phone: (770) 357-7016

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cassandra.jakes-beasley@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.
05/11/2026	Complaint Investigation Follow Up	Good Standing	
04/01/2026	Monitoring Visit	Good Standing	
11/12/2025	Incident Investigation Closure	Good Standing	

Ratios/License Capacity

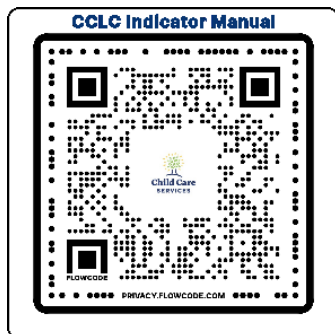
Building	Room	Age Group	Staff	Children	NC/C	Max 35 SF.	35 SF. Comp.	Max 25 SF.	25 SF. Comp.	Notes
Main	Gym	Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds and Five Year Olds and Six Year Olds and Over	3	27	C	88	C	NA	NA	Transitioning
Main	Room A1	One Year Olds and Two Year Olds	2	5	C	22	C	NA	NA	Snack
Main	Room A2	One Year Olds and Two Year Olds	2	6	C	16	C	NA	NA	Outside
Main	Room B	Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds and Five Year Olds and Six Year Olds and Over	2	12	C	28	C	NA	NA	Snack
Main	Room C	Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds and Five Year Olds and Six Year Olds and Over	2	12	C	28	C	NA	NA	Transitioning,Snack
Main	Room D	Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds and Five Year Olds and Six Year Olds and Over	2	9	C	26	C	NA	NA	Snack
Main	Room E	Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds and Five Year Olds and Six Year Olds and Over	2	8	C	30	C	NA	NA	Transitioning,Snack
Main	Room F	One Year Olds and Two Year Olds	2	4	C	20	C	NA	NA	Floor Play
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: 83			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

Consultant requested to view all Criminal Record checks for employees hired after last visit. Director stated that there have been no new hires since last visit.

Plan of Improvement: Developed This Date



For additional information regarding any licensing topics discussed during this visit, please consult the Rules and Regulations Indicator Manual. This manual provides comprehensive clarification of each rule, including evaluation indicators, related best practices, and relevant considerations to support your program's continued and sustained compliance.

To access the Indicator Manual, please scan the QR code below or visit our website at <https://www.dec.state.ga.us/CCS/RulesAndRegulations.aspx>.

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.state.ga.us/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 Complaint Investigation Follow Up:

	Facility
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591-1-1-.25 Physical Plant - Safe Environment(CR)

Technical Assistance

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.25(7) - The Consultant discussed with the Director that doors to rooms not approved for child care, other than the kitchen doors, be latched or locked so children cannot wander into those areas. Except in School-age Centers, interior Center door locks shall permit Personnel to open the locked room from outside of the room in an emergency. Please ensure that the laundry room door is securely latched or locked.

Correction Deadline: 5/11/2026

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 fencing material had a gap present at the bottom of the fence that measured wider than 3 and one-half inches, creating a potential entrapment hazard, in the following area:

- Front side of the fence in Playground B- there were two gaps present that measured 4 and one-half inches at the bottom..

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: 5/16/2026

Recited on 5/11/2026

	Food Service
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Comment

The Consultant discussed with the Director that the snack should consist of two components. Please note that water is not considered a component.

The Crediting Handbook for the CACFP can be located on DECAL and USDA's website:

DECAL

<http://dec.al.ga.gov/CACFP/Handbook.aspx>

USDA

<http://www.fns.usda.gov/cacfp/cacfp-handbooks>

Staffing and Supervision**591-1-1-.32 Supervision(CR)****Technical Assistance****Technical Assistance**

591-1-1-.32(7) -The Consultant discussed with the Director that 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.

Correction Deadline: 5/11/2026