



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: 1/8/2024 **VisitType:** Licensing Study **Arrival:** 8:10 AM **Departure:** 1:15 PM

CCLC-52652

Montessori Academy

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

Regional Consultant

Jessica Johnson

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jessica.johnson@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.
01/08/2024	Licensing Study	Good Standing	
05/18/2023	Complaint Closure	Good Standing	
05/18/2023	Complaint 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
Building 2	A;1st Left Lft-Inf/Tod	Infants and One Year Olds	1	6	C	13	C	NA	NA	Free Play,Transitionin g
Building 2	B;Left Inf/Tod	One Year Olds	1	5	C	14	C	NA	NA	Free 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	Infants	1	6	C	16	C	NA	NA	Free Play,Floor Play
Single	B/2L/6 wks- 18 mths	Two Year Olds	2	10	C	13	C	NA	NA	Free Play
Single	C/3L/AS		0	0	C	10	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
Single	D/1L/ Upper- 3-6 yrs		0	0	C	23	C	NA	NA	
Single	E/1R/Upper- 3-6 yrs	Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds and Five Year Olds	1	10	C	24	C	NA	NA	Free Play
Single	F/2R/3-6 yrs		0	0	C	14	C	NA	NA	
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 94			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0			Building @35 capacity limited by Building Department				
Total # Children this Date: 37			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
Single	PG/Right	5	C

Comments

An on-site inspection was conducted on January 8, 2023 with the Director Anjana Yonzon. Staff files, children's files, training, and background checks were all reviewed.

Plan of Improvement: Developed This Date 01/08/2024

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!

qinghua Lin, Program Official

Date

Jessica Johnson, Regional Consultant

Date



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(Findings 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.

591-1-1-.35 Swimming Pools & Water-related Activities(CR)

Met

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)

Technical Assistance

Comment

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

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.25(13) - The Consultant discussed with the Director that potentially hazardous equipment, materials and supplies be stored in a locked area inaccessible to children.

Correction Deadline: 1/8/2024

Comment

591-1-1-.25(8) - The Consultant discussed with the Director that protective caps are required on all unused electrical outlets within children's reach and requires that electrical outlets in use be made inaccessible to children.

Correction Deadline: 1/8/2024

Correction Deadline: 6/1/2023

Corrected on 1/8/2024

.26(4) - Citation corrected. No hazards observed.

Finding

591-1-1-.26(6) requires that playground equipment provide an opportunity for the children to engage in a variety of experiences and shall be age-appropriate. For example, toddlers shall not be permitted to swing in swings designed for School-age Children. The outdoor equipment shall be free of lead-based paint, sharp corners and shall be regularly maintained in such a way as to be free of rust and splinters that could pose significant safety hazard to the children. All equipment shall be arranged so as not to obstruct supervision of children. It was determined based on observation that a protruding screw was observed on a broken sink piece.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will provide a variety of age-appropriate equipment that is arranged so as not to obstruct supervision of children. Staff will check the equipment daily to ensure that the equipment is free of hazards, rust and splinters.

Correction Deadline: 1/8/2024

Recited on 1/8/2024

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 a nine inch gap was observed on the left side of the entrance fence concrete walkway on playground PG/Middle.

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: 1/22/2024

Food Service

Comment

CACFP Meal Pattern Requirements effective October 1, 2017 will be implemented October 1, 2018: 3 Components for breakfast: Grains, Vegetables, Fruits or both, Milk
5 Components for lunch – Grains, Meat/Meat alternates, Fruits, Vegetable, and Milk OR Grains, Meat/Meat alternates, 2 different types of vegetables, and Milk
2 of 5 Components for snack

Provided Updated CACFP Infant Meal pattern and Child/Adult Meal pattern flyers.

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>

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.15(2) - The Consultant discussed with the Director to update the signatures on the infant feeding plans.

Correction Deadline: 1/8/2024

Correction Deadline: 5/18/2023

Corrected on 1/8/2024

.15(2)(a) - Citation corrected. The Consultant discussed with the Director that infant's head shall be elevated while feeding.

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.15(3) - The Consultant discussed with the Director that bottles must be refrigerated at a temperature of forty (40) degrees Fahrenheit or less.

Correction Deadline: 1/8/2024

591-1-1-.18 Kitchen Operations

Met

Comment

Kitchen appears clean and well organized.

Health and Hygiene

591-1-1-.07 Children's Health

Met

Correction Deadline: 5/18/2023

Corrected on 1/8/2024

.07(5) - Citation corrected. No hazards observed.

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

Not Met

Comment

Hand washing requirements for diapering were discussed with the director on this date.

Finding

591-1-1-.10(1) requires Centers first licensed after March 1, 1991, and Centers that are renovated after March 1, 1991, to provide ventilation in the diapering areas with functioning exhaust fans and a duct system or by the required amount of window space provided by operable windows when open. It was determined based on observation that classroom A/1L did not have the screened window open to allow for adequate ventilation. It was further determined based on observation that classroom B/2L did not have ventilation in the diapering areas with a functioning exhaust fan and duct system.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The responsible person(s) at the center will ensure that the exhaust fans and duct systems are functioning or that the required amount of operable window space is provided in each diapering area.

Correction Deadline: 1/22/2024

Recited on 1/8/2024

591-1-1-.17 Hygiene(CR)

Met

Comment

Proper hand washing of children and staff was discussed with the director on this date.

Correction Deadline: 5/18/2023

Corrected on 1/8/2024

.17(7) - Citation correction. The Consultant observed appropriate handwashing.

591-1-1-.20 Medications(CR)

Met

Comment

The Provider currently does not dispense/administer medication.

Policies and Procedures

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.21(3) - The Consultant discussed with the Director that the Center must conduct drills for fire, tornado and other emergency situations. The fire drills will be conducted monthly and tornado and other emergency situation drills will be conducted every six months. The Center shall maintain documentation of the dates and times of these drills for two years.

Correction Deadline: 1/13/2024

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.21(1)(p) - The Consultant discussed with the Director that the Center must update the written plan for handling emergencies. The center must have a written plan for handling emergencies, including but not limited to severe weather, loss of electrical power or water and death, serious injury or loss of a child, a threatening event, or natural disaster which may occur at the Center; to have in place procedures for evacuation, relocation, shelter-in-place, lock-down, communication and reunification with families, and continuity of operations. The plan must apply to all children in care and include specific accommodations for infants and toddlers, children with disabilities, and children with chronic medical conditions and shall include assurance that no Center Personnel will impede in any way the delivery of emergency care or services to a child by licensed or certified emergency health care professionals.

Correction Deadline: 1/13/2024

591-1-1-.27 Posted Notices**Technical Assistance****Technical Assistance**

591-1-1-.27 - The Consultant discussed with the Director adding a copy of these rules; and the names of persons responsible for the administration of the Center in the administrator's absence to the posted items.

Correction Deadline: 1/8/2024

Safety**591-1-1-.05 Animals****Met****Comment**

Animals maintained clean and appropriately caged.

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

Age-appropriate discussion and/or redirection observed.

591-1-1-.13 Field Trips(CR)**Met****Comment**

Center does not participate in field trips at this time.

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

Center does not provide routine transportation.

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

Discussed SIDS and infant sleeping position.

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.30(4) The Consultant discussed with the Director that if cots and mats are stored in the children's activity room or area, they shall be stored to prevent children's access to them and to allow maximum use of play space. When storage is available and used for the storage of cots and mats that allows the cots, mats and any bedding to be stored without touching any other cots, mats or bedding, the bedding may be left on the cot or mat. When such storage is not available for the cots and mats, each child's bedding shall be kept separate from other children's bedding and stored in containers marked for individual use, such as, but not limited to, bins, cubbies, or bags.

Correction Deadline: 1/8/2024

Staff Records

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

Met

Correction Deadline: 5/18/2023

Corrected on 1/8/2024

.09(1)(j) - Citation corrected. Criminal records checks observed complete.

591-1-1-.09 Criminal Records Check(CR)

Met

Comment

Criminal records checks were observed to be complete.

591-1-1-.14 First Aid & CPR

Not Met

Finding

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 a review of records that staff # 7 did not complete the CPR and first aid certification within the first 90 days of employment. The Consultant discussed with the Director that Online-only CPR training and adult-only training do not meet this rule requirement. "Blended" training (online study plus hands-on skill practice and assessment) is acceptable.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

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.

Correction Deadline: 2/7/2024

Finding

591-1-1-.14(3) requires the Center to have a first aid kit in each building of the Center and in any vehicle used by the Center for transportation of children, that contains scissors, tweezers, gauze pads, adhesive tape, thermometer, band-aids, assorted sizes, antibacterial ointment, insect-sting preparation, an antiseptic cleansing solution, triangular bandages, rubber gloves, protective eye wear, a protective face mask, and a cold pack. The first aid kit, together with a first aid instruction manual which must be kept with the kit at all times, shall be stored so that it is not accessible to children but is easily accessible to Staff. It was determined based on observation that the following items were missing from the first aid kit:

- Tweezers
- Protective Mask
- Antibacterial Ointment (such as Bacitracin or Neosporin)
- Antiseptic cleaning solution (such as Betadine, alcohol, alcohol wipes, hydrogen peroxide)

POI (Plan of Improvement)

Center Staff will provide any missing first aid kits, add any missing items to each first aid kit and will develop and use a plan for checking the kits and replacing missing items in each kit in the future. First aid kits and instruction manuals will be stored so that they kits are not accessible to children but are easily accessible to Center Staff.

Correction Deadline: 1/15/2024

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

591-1-1-.33(4) - The Consultant discussed with the Director that within the first year of employment, the person with primary responsibility for food preparation shall have four clock hours of training in food nutrition planning, preparation, serving, proper dish washing and food storage.

Correction Deadline: 2/7/2024

Finding

91-1-1-.33(5) requires that every calendar year after the first year of employment, all supervisory and caregiver Personnel, except independent contractors, Students-in-Training and volunteers shall attend ten (10) clock hours of diverse training which is task-focused in on-going health, safety and early childhood or child development related topics and which is offered by an accredited college, university or vocational program or other Department-approved source. The annual ten (10) clock hours of training shall be chosen from the following fields: child development, including discipline, guidance, nutrition, injury control and safety; health, including sanitation, disease control, cleanliness, detection and disposition of illness; child abuse and neglect, including identification and reporting, and meeting the needs of abused and/or neglected children; and business related topics, including parental communication, recordkeeping, etc.; provided however that such business related training shall be limited to no more than two (2) of the required ten (10) clock hours of training. Records of completion of such training shall be maintained, as required by these rules. It was determined based on observation that staff # 7 and staff #10 did not complete the (10) clock hours of diverse training for the 2023 calendar year.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will plan and schedule the required 10 hours of annual training each year and follow up to ensure the training is completed.

Correction Deadline: 2/7/2024

591-1-1-.31 Staff(CR)**Met****Comment**

Discussed that all lead staff must enroll in an approved education program within 6 months of hire and complete degree within 18 months.

Staffing and Supervision

591-1-1-.32 Staff:Child Ratios and Group Size(CR)**Met****Comment**

Center observed to maintain appropriate staff:child ratios.

Correction Deadline: 5/18/2023

Corrected on 1/8/2024

.32(2) Citation corrected. The Consultant observed the appropriate staff:child ratio's.

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 10 children were observed unsupervised in classroom E/1R/Upper, while the teacher stood outside the classroom door speaking with a parent.

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: 1/8/2024