



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: 10/17/2023 **VisitType:** Licensing Study

Arrival: 9:45 AM

Departure: 2:00 PM

CCLC-56497

Decatur Montessori

1429 Church Street Decatur, GA 30030 DeKalb County
 (404) 370-0620 najee@decaturmontessori.com

Regional Consultant

Jessica Johnson

Phone: (770) 357-5090

Fax:

jessica.johnson@decal.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.
10/17/2023	Licensing Study	Good Standing	
11/23/2022	Incident Investigation Closure	Good Standing	
09/15/2022	Incident Investigation & Follow Up	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 1	A Right One Year Old	Infants and One Year Olds	3	10	C	18	C	NA	NA	Free Play,Nap,Floor Play
Building 1	B Left	One Year Olds and Two Year Olds	3	13	C	24	C	NA	NA	Free Play
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 42			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0							
Building 2	C-Front	Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds	2	11	C	26	C	NA	NA	Free Play
Building 2	D-Left	One Year Olds and Two Year Olds	3	11	C	24	C	NA	NA	Free Play,Transitioning
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 50			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0							
Building 3	E-Hill	Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds	2	9	C	30	C	NA	NA	Free Play
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 30			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0							
Total # Children this Date: 54			Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 122			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0				

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Building 3	Hill Playground	45	C
Building 3	Playground Toddler 2	7	C

Comments

An on-site inspection was conducted on October 17, 2023 with the Director Ciara Walton. Staff files, children's files, training, and background checks were all reviewed.

Plan of Improvement: Developed This Date 10/17/2023

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 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.ga.gov for more information. Free technical assistance is available!

Sesealy Owens, Program Official

Date

Jessica Johnson, Regional Consultant

Date



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

(Findings Report)

Date: 10/17/2023 VisitType: Licensing Study

Arrival: 9:45 AM

Departure: 2:00 PM

CCLC-56497

Decatur Montessori

1429 Church Street Decatur, GA 30030 DeKalb County
(404) 370-0620 najee@decaturmontessori.com

Regional Consultant

Jessica Johnson

Phone: (770) 357-5090

Fax:

jessica.johnson@decal.ga.gov

Mailing Address
Same

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-.06 Bathrooms

Met

Comment

Bathrooms observed to be clean and well maintained.

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)

Not Met

Comment

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

Comment

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

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 observed:

C-Front

- Bleach, dish soap, and cleaning solution in a clear bottle were observed in an unlocked cabinet under the sink accessible to children in care.
- A vacuum cleaner was observed next to the cots accessible to children in care.
- A plastic grocery bag was observed in a brown paper bag hanging from the hooks on the left side of the classroom accessible to children in care.
- A plastic grocery bag was observed in an unlocked cabinet near the sink accessible to children in care.

E-Hill

- A hanging white cord near the white wire shelf.
- A hanging cord near the green chair.

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: 10/17/2023

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 (4) four foot high fence or other barrier approved by this 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 there were two gaps located at the gates entrance in the Toddler playground fence that measured approximately 4 inches in width.

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: 10/31/2023

Recited on 10/17/2023

Correction Deadline: 7/27/2022

Corrected on 10/17/2023

.26(6) - Citation corrected. The Consultant did not observe the hazardous equipment on the playground on this date.

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.26(9) - The Consultant discussed with the Director cutting back the vegetation from the fence on the left side and removing the large tree limb from the Hill playground.

Correction Deadline: 10/17/2023

Food Service

591-1-1-.15 Food Service & Nutrition**Met****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>

Health and Hygiene

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

Staff state proper knowledge of diapering procedures.

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

Staff were observed to remind children to wash hands.

591-1-1-.20 Medications(CR)**Met****Comment**

The Provider currently does not dispense/administer medication.

Policies and Procedures

591-1-1-.27 Posted Notices**Met****Comment**

591-1-1-.27 - The Consultant discussed with the Director that each Center must post in each building a designated area for public viewing near the front entrance the following: the Center's current License or Permit; a copy of these rules; a copy of the current communicable disease chart; a statement allowing Parent(s) access to all child care areas upon notifying any staff member of his or her presence; names of persons responsible for the administration of the Center in the administrator's absence; the dated current week's menu for meals and snacks; emergency plans for severe weather, fire, and other emergency situations; a statement requiring visitors to check in with Staff when entering the Center; no smoking signs; and a notice provided by the Department which advises Parents of their right to review a copy of the Center's most recent licensure evaluation report upon request to the Center Director. The Center shall provide any Parent with a copy of this evaluation report upon request.

Correction Deadline: 10/17/2023

Safety

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

Center does not keep animals on premises.

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

Comment

Staff were observed to maintain a positive learning environment on this date.

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)	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-.33 Staff Training	Met
-----------------------------------	------------

Comment

591-1-1-.33(4) -The Consultant discussed with the Director that the Director and 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: 11/16/2023

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.

591-1-1-.32 Supervision(CR)	Met
------------------------------------	------------

Comment

Adequate supervision observed on this date.