



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: 11/5/2025 **VisitType:** Monitoring Visit

Arrival: 12:30 PM **Departure:** 3:30 PM

CCLC-35301

Excellent Montessori

1828 Stephenson Road Lithonia, GA 30058 DeKalb County
(678) 526-0160

Regional Consultant

Evon Hewitt

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Mailing Address

1828 STEPHENSON ROAD
Lithonia, GA 30058

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.
11/05/2025	Monitoring Visit	Good Standing	
02/11/2025	Licensing Study	Good Standing	
09/21/2023	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	Activity Rm.	Six Year Olds and Over	1	4	C	0	NC	NA	NA	
Main	A-Infants		0	0	C	6	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
Main	B-Toddler C		0	0	C	15	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
Main	C-Elem. A/AS		0	0	C	22	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
Main	D-Elem. D/AS		0	0	C	22	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
Main	F- Primary A	Two Year Olds and Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds	1	12	C	21	C	NA	NA	Lunch,Nap
Main	G-Primary A		0	0	C	21	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
Main	H-Toddler B		0	0	C	23	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
Main	I-Toddler A		0	0	C	15	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
Main	J-Crawlers		0	0	C	16	C	NA	NA	Not In Use

Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 138

Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0

Building @35 capacity limited by Centers Request

Total # Children this Date: 16

Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 138

Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
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Enrolled Children						
Under 1 years	1 years	2 years	3 years	4 years	5 years (Prekonly)	5 years and older
0	0	3	6	3	0	21

Comments

The findings of this report were reviewed with the Provider on this date. Previous rule violations were observed/discussed.

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.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@decgal.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)

Not Met

Finding

591-1-1-.12(4) requires that equipment and furniture is secured if it is of a weight or mass that could cause injury from tipping, falling, or being pulled or pushed over. It was determined based on observation that there was a cot leaning against the closet door at the back left of classroom F- Primary A posing a potential tipping hazards on this date.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will ensure that the identified equipment or furniture and any other such existing or future items are secured adequately and will have a system for checking these for stability.

Correction Deadline: 11/5/2025

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

Met

Comment

Pool not in use at this time, gates observed locked.

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

Finding

591-1-1-.25(12) requires heating and cooling equipment to be protected to prevent children from touching it. Fans, space heaters, etc. shall be positioned or installed so as to be inaccessible to the children. It was determined based on observation that there was a bladeless fan at the front right of classroom Activity Rm. on this date.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will re-position or re-install equipment, as needed, and will make all such equipment inaccessible to children.

Correction Deadline: 11/5/2025

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 observations that the following potential hazards were accessible to children on this date:

Main Hallway

-There was a pack of Art Naturals wipes and a pack of Pampers baby wipes on a shelf at the left side of the hallway near the front desk.

Classroom F- Primary A

- There was a plastic grocery bag on top of the children's cubby at the front right.
- There was a plastic grocery bag inside a child's cubby at the front right.
- There was a plastic grocery bag inside a multicolored vinyl bag on the floor at the front right.
- There were two plastic slider bags inside a child's cubby at the front right.
- There were two plastic trash bags inside an unlocked closet at the back left.
- There was a broom inside an unlocked closet at the back left.

Classroom Activity Rm.

- There was a pack of Huggies wipes on a desk at the front right.
- There was a stapler on a desk at the front right.
- There was a pair of adult scissors inside a storage bin on the floor at the front right.
- There was a pack of Pampers baby wipes at the left middle.
- There was a broom and a Bissel sweeper at the left middle.
- There was a plastic grocery bag inside a child's cubby at the front left.

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: 11/6/2025

Recited on 11/5/2025

Finding

591-1-1-.25(8) requires protective caps on all unused electrical outlets within children's reach and requires that electrical outlets in use be made inaccessible to children. It was determined based on observation that the following potential electrical hazards were accessible to children on this date:

Classroom F- Primary A

-There were hanging cords at the back left and left middle.

Classroom Activity Rm.

- There were electrical cords stored in a bin on the floor at the front right.
- There was a hanging cord at the front right.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will train Staff to check outlets and replace protective caps when needed and identify and monitor how outlets in use are inaccessible to children.

Correction Deadline: 11/5/2025

591-1-1-.26 Playgrounds(CR)**Not Met****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 the following playground hazards were accessible to children on this date:

Toddler Playground

- There were two active ant piles at the middle of the playground near the bucket swings.
- There was a broom and a dust pan at the back right.

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: 11/7/2025

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

There were no children requiring diapering enrolled in the program on this date. This rule was not evaluated on this date.

591-1-1-.17 Hygiene(CR)**Not Met****Finding**

591-1-1-.17(6) requires garbage and organic waste to be stored in containers that are lined with plastic liners and have tight-fitting covers. Trash and garbage shall be removed from the building daily or as often as necessary to maintain the premises in a clean condition. It was determined based on observation that the trash can inside classroom F- Primary A did not have a tight fitting cover as required on this date.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will provide the required containers and implement a plan to ensure that trash and garbage are taken out daily, or more often, if needed.

Correction Deadline: 11/5/2025**591-1-1-.20 Medications(CR)****N/A****Comment**

The Provider currently does not dispense/administer medication.

Safety**591-1-1-.05 Animals****Not Met****Finding**

591-1-1-.05(2) requires Center Staff to confine animals in pens or covered areas except during specific teacher-directed learning experiences and to keep animal pens and confinement areas clean. It was determined based on observation that the animal pens in classroom Toddler A were not kept clean when there was a strong odor was present on this date.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will maintain and keep animals in a suitable pen or covered area except when a teacher is using the animal in a specific learning experience. If needed, the pen or covered area will be cleaned and the Center will develop and follow a plan to keep the area clean.

Correction Deadline: 11/5/2025**591-1-1-.11 Discipline(CR)****Met****Comment**

Age-appropriate discussion and/or redirection observed.

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

The vehicle had an approved fire extinguisher and first aid kit on this date.

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

The correct number of mats, sheets and blankets were observed on this date. Cleaning and disinfecting of mats was discussed with the director on this date.

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

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

591-1-1-.14 First Aid & CPR(CR)**Met****Comment**

Evidence observed of 100% of center Staff certified in First Aid and CPR containing emergency care for infants and children on this date.

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

Staff observed to be compliant with applicable laws and regulations.

Staffing and Supervision

591-1-1-.32 Staff:Child Ratios and Group Size(CR)**Not Met****Finding**

591-1-1-.32(2) requires the Center maintain Staff:child ratios in mixed-age groups based on the age of the youngest group of children that includes more than twenty percent of the total number of children in the mixed-age group. It was determined based on observation that classroom F- Primary A had a Staff:child ratio of 1:16 for approximately one minute due to a Staff member leaving the room to retrieve lunch bags for students when a Staff:child ratio of 2:16 was required. Classroom F- Primary A had two 2-year-olds, six 3-year-olds, three 4-year-olds, one 6-year-old, two 7-year-olds, and one 8-year-old children present during the visit.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will provide adequate staff when there is a mixed-age group.

Correction Deadline: 11/5/2025

Finding

591-1-1-.32(4) requires that children under three years old be housed in separate physical areas from older children and cannot be mixed with older children except at specified times and circumstances. It was determined based on observation that classroom F- Primary A housed two 2-year-olds, six 3-year-olds, three 4-year-olds, one 6-year-old, two 7-year-olds, and one 8-year-old children present during the visit.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will maintain separation of these children under three years old.

Correction Deadline: 11/5/2025

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

Adequate supervision observed on this date.