



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: 9/15/2026 **VisitType:** Licensing Study

Arrival: 10:30 AM **Departure:** 3:10 PM

CCLC-36660

Stepping Stone Montessori

820 Sanders Road Cumming, GA 30041 Forsyth County
(770) 205-0317

Regional Consultant

Angela Hall

Phone: (404) 977-2140

Fax:

angela.hall@dec.al.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.
09/15/2026	Licensing Study	Good Standing	
03/05/2026	Monitoring Visit	Good Standing	
07/15/2025	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 and One Year Olds	2	9	C	19	C	NA	NA	Nap,Floor Play
Main	B 2nd left		0	0	C	12	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
Main	C 3rd left	One Year Olds and Two Year Olds	2	11	C	19	C	NA	NA	Lunch
Main	D 1st Right	One Year Olds and Two Year Olds	3	17	C	21	C	NA	NA	Lunch
Main	E 2nd Right		0	0	C	24	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
Main	F 3rd Right	Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds and Five Year Olds	2	23	C	26	C	NA	NA	Outside
Main	G 4th Right	Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds	2	23	C	29	C	NA	NA	Outside
Main	H 5th right		0	0	C	36	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 186					Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0					
Total # Children this Date: 83		Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 186			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0					

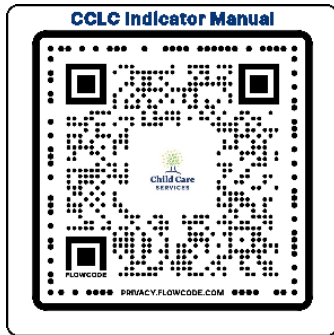
Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	A PG Front Left	17	C
Main	B PG Rear	114	C
Main	C PG Right	76	C

Enrolled Children					
Infant (0-12 months)	Toddler (1-2 yrs)	Preschool (3-5yrs/full time care)	School Age (before/after care only)	GA PreK only	Summer Only
9	31	45	0	0	0

Comments

Consultant followed up on past citations. Consultant emailed a copy of the report to the Provider.

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.decal.ga.gov/CCS/RulesAndRegulations.aspx>.



For additional information regarding the full compliance inspection results of this program or any licensed program in the state, access the Child Care Services Compliance-at-a Glance website by scanning this QR code or visiting: <https://families.decal.ga.gov>.

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.al.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!



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Summary Report

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The following information is associated with a Licensing Study:

Activities and Equipment

591-1-1-.03 Activities

Technical Assistance

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.03(2) - Consultant discussed lesson plans with the Provider.

Correction Deadline: 9/15/2026

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

Met

Comment

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

Correction Deadline: 3/12/2026

Corrected on 9/15/2026

.12(2) - The previous citation was observed corrected. Consultant did not observe peeled vinyl on three areas of the couch in Room A and a green child sized chair with peeled vinyl on the right arm rest in room H on this date.

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

N/A

Comment

Center does not provide swimming activities.

Children's Records

591-1-1-.08 Children's Records

Met

Comment

Records were observed to be complete and well organized.

Facility

591-1-1-.06 Bathrooms

Technical Assistance

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.06(4) - Consultant discussed the ventilation systems with the Provider.

Correction Deadline: 10/15/2026

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)**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.

591-1-1-.26 Playgrounds(CR)**Met****Comment**

Trees located on the site or that encroach onto the site from adjacent properties may have structural issues that present an elevated level of risk. Consider having these trees inspected by a certified arborist to determine their structural integrity and associated levels of risk.

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

Please ensure that bottles are covered and fully labeled with child's full name.

Comment

Please ensure that infant feeding forms are updated regularly.

591-1-1-.18 Kitchen Operations**Met****Comment**

Kitchen appears clean and well organized on this date.

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

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

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

Staff were observed to remind children to wash hands on this date.

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

Discussed proper medication documentation and procedures.

Policies and Procedures**591-1-1-.21 Operational Policies & Procedures****Met****Comment**

Program observed complete emergency drills

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)**N/A****Comment**

Center does not provide routine transportation.

Sleeping & Resting Equipment

591-1-1-.30 Safe Sleeping and Resting Requirements(CR)

Met

Comment

Please ensure that cribs/cots are labeled for individual use.

Staff Records

Records Reviewed: 20

Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 9

Staff # 1 Not Met

Date of Hire: 02/07/2024

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training

Staff # 2 Not Met

Date of Hire: 04/14/2014

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training

Staff # 4 Not Met

Date of Hire: 12/10/2014

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training

Staff # 5 Not Met

Date of Hire: 08/30/2023

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training

Staff # 10 Not Met

Date of Hire: 07/14/2025

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training

Staff # 11 Not Met

Date of Hire: 08/08/2022

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training

Staff # 12 Not Met

Date of Hire: 12/12/2013

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training

Staff # 13 Not Met

Date of Hire: 10/02/2023

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training

Staff # 18 Not Met

Date of Hire: 08/05/2024

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training

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

Criminal record checks were observed to be complete.

Comment

Director provided two files for employees hired since last visit.

591-1-1-.09 Criminal Records Check(CR)**Met****Comment**

Criminal records checks were observed to be complete.

Comment

Director provided two files for employees hired 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-.33 Staff Training**Not Met****Finding**

591-1-1-.33(5)(b)1. requires the annual ten (10) clock hours of training shall include at least two (2) hours in evidence based, developmentally appropriate language and literacy practices. It was determined based on review of Staff records that the following staff did not complete two(2) hours of language and literacy practices training in 2025.

Staff #1 with a hire date of February 7, 2024

Staff #2 with a hire date of April 4, 2014

Staff #4 with a hire date of December 10, 2014

Staff #5 with a hire date of August 30, 2023

Staff #10 with a hire date July 14, 2025

Staff # 11 with a hire date of August 8, 2022

Staff # 12 with a hire date of December 12, 2013

Staff # 13 with a hire date of October 2, 2023

Staff # 18 with a hire date of August 5, 2024

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will plan and schedule the required 10 hours of annual training each year to include a least two (2) hours in evidence based, developmentally appropriate language and literacy practices and follow up to ensure the training is completed.

Correction Deadline: 10/15/2026**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.