



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: 2/11/2025 **VisitType:** Licensing Study

Arrival: 9:30 AM **Departure:** 12:00 PM

CCLC-35301

Excellent Montessori

1828 Stephenson Road Lithonia, GA 30058 DeKalb County
(678) 526-0160 excellentmontessori@hotmail.com

Process & QI Unit Consultant
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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.
02/11/2025	Licensing Study	Good Standing	
09/21/2023	Licensing Study	Good Standing	
02/10/2023	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
Main	Activity Rm.	Six Year Olds and Over	1	3	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		0	0	C	21	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
Main	G-Primary A	Three Year Olds	1	10	C	21	C	NA	NA	Centers
Main	H-Toddler B	Two Year Olds	1	0	C	23	C	NA	NA	Free Play
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: 13			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	3	10	10	5	4	2

Comments

The purpose of this visit was to conduct a QA Licensing Study Visit and to follow-up to the previous visit.

Consultant provided contact information on this date.

Consultant observed posted notices on this date.

Consultant observed classrooms not in use on this date due to damage ceiling tiles from the storm and awaiting insurance approval for repair at this time.

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.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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(Findings 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

Consultant discussed with the Director to ensure weekly lesson plans are posted in classrooms on this date.

Correction Deadline: 2/11/2025

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

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

Facility

591-1-1-.06 Bathrooms

Met

Comment

Please monitor bathroom vents for cleanliness.

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

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 hazardous items were observed on this date:

- broom, dust pan and a sweeper was observed in Toddler B classroom
- empty plastic Huggie diaper bag in Toddler B classroom
- broom, duster broom observed accessible on the covered patio on the playground
- container of Aquaphor diaper cream observed in a child's cubbie in Toddler B classroom
- Staff purse observed in an unlocked cabinet under diaper changing station in Toddler B classroom

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: 2/11/2025

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

Correction Deadline: 9/25/2023

Corrected on 2/11/2025

Previous citation corrected. Consultant observed the banner removed from the top of the fence on this date.

Food Service

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

Center menu meets USDA guidelines.

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

The program does not provide meals from the kitchen on site at this time.

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.

591-1-1-.20 Medications(CR)**Not Evaluated****Comment**

The Provider currently does not dispense/administer medication.

Policies and Procedures

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

Consultant observed fire extinguisher on this date.

Comment

Program observed complete emergency drills as of January 7, 2025 on this date.

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

Please make sure that all required signs are posted and up to date.

Safety

591-1-1-.05 Animals**Not Evaluated****Comment**

Center does not keep animals on premises.

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

Comment

Regulations regarding proper discipline were discussed with the staff 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) **Not Evaluated**

Comment

Center does not provide routine transportation.

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. Per conversation with the Director stated that there have been no new hires since last visit on this date.

Comment

Criminal record checks were observed to be complete for all current staff on this date.

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

Comment

Evidence observed of 100% of center staff certified in First Aid and CPR.

Comment

Please replace/add missing/expired item(s) in first aid kit(s).

591-1-1-.33 Staff Training **Met**

Correction Deadline: 10/21/2023

Corrected on 2/11/2025

Previous citation corrected. Consultant observed evidence of completed annual training for 2024 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) **Met**

Comment

Center observed to maintain appropriate staff:child ratios.

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

Comment

Adequate supervision observed on this date.