



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: 5/11/2023 **VisitType:** Monitoring Visit **Arrival:** 9:30 AM **Departure:** 12:30 PM

CCLC-37208

Stepping Stone Montessori of Sugar Hill

65 Peachtree Industrial Boulevard Sugar Hill, GA 30518 Gwinnett County
 (770) 614-4310 administrator@steppingstonemontessori.com

Region Consultant

Leena Mitchell

Phone: (706) 433-7111

Fax: (706) 310-6944

leena.mitchell@dec.al.ga.gov

Mailing Address

930 Tresillian Court
 Alpharetta, GA 30022

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.
05/11/2023	Monitoring Visit	Good Standing	
06/08/2022	Licensing Study	Good Standing	
12/14/2021	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	A/1L		0	0	C	11	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
Main	B/2L	Infants and One Year Olds	2	3	C	25	C	NA	NA	Free Play
Main	C/3L	Two Year Olds	4	16	C	17	C	NA	NA	Circle Time
Main	D/4L	One Year Olds and Two Year Olds and Three Year Olds	3	8	C	19	C	NA	NA	Centers
Main	E/1R	Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds and Five Year Olds and Six Year Olds and Over	2	20	C	32	C	NA	NA	Centers
Main	F/2R	Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds and Five Year Olds and Six Year Olds and Over	2	19	C	28	C	NA	NA	Centers
Main	G/3R	Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds and Five Year Olds and Six Year Olds and Over	2	22	C	27	C	NA	NA	Centers
Main	H/4R	Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds and Five Year Olds	2	17	C	22	C	NA	NA	Centers

Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 181

Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0

Total # Children this Date: 105

Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 181

Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	PG/A/Front L	28	C
Main	PG/B/Back L	23	C
Main	PG/C/Right	52	C

Comments

The purpose of this visit was to conduct a monitoring visit.

Plan of Improvement: Developed This Date 05/11/2023

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.state.ga.us/CCS/Regulations.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!

Elizabeth Ashworth, Program Official

Date

Leena Mitchell, 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: 5/11/2023 VisitType: Monitoring Visit Arrival: 9:30 AM Departure: 12:30 PM

CCLC-37208

Stepping Stone Montessori of Sugar Hill

65 Peachtree Industrial Boulevard Sugar Hill, GA 30518 Gwinnett
County
(770) 614-4310 administrator@steppingstonemontessori.com

Region Consultant

Leena Mitchell

Phone: (706) 433-7111
Fax: (706) 310-6944
leena.mitchell@decal.ga.gov

Mailing Address

930 Tresillian Court
Alpharetta, GA 30022

The following information is associated with a Monitoring Visit:

Activities and Equipment

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

Met

Comment

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

Comment

Equipment and furniture observed to be properly secured, as applicable.

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

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.25 - Please be mindful to keep items that pose a hazard inaccessible to children.

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.25 - Please secure cleaning tools (i.e., broom, plunger) out of reach of children.

Comment

Center appears clean and well maintained.

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.26 - Please ensure to monitor the playground areas for the following hazards:

- Normal wear and tear of playground equipment and toys.
- Potential entrapment hazards in the fence surrounding the playground area.
- Biting and/or stinging insects (i.e. ants, bees, etc.).
- Loose and/or weak tree branches surrounding the playground area.
- Standing water in and around playground equipment after inclement weather.
- Fall zones and resilient surface.

Food Service**591-1-1-.15 Food Service & Nutrition****Not Met****Finding**

591-1-1-.15(7) requires that food be served according to manufacturer's instructions and recommendations. Foods that are associated with young children's choking incidents, such as, but not limited to, peanuts, hot dogs, raw carrots, popcorn, fish with bones, cheese cubes, grapes and any other food that is of similar shape and size of the trachea/windpipe shall not be served to the children less than four (4) years of age. Children older than four (4) years of age may be served these foods provided that the foods are cut in such a way as to minimize choking. Food shall not be accessible or served to children until it has been chopped, diced, cut or mashed and is appropriate for each child's age and individual eating, chewing and swallowing ability. It was determined based on observation that three-year-old children in classroom 5R were eating raw carrots for morning snack.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will train Staff and monitor food served and accessible to children to ensure that the food does not present a choking hazard.

Correction Deadline: 5/11/2023

Health and Hygiene**591-1-1-.10 Diapering Areas & Practices(CR)****Not Met****Comment**

Discussed labeling of "diapering only" areas and staff work stations.

Comment

Hand washing requirements for diapering were discussed with the director and staff on this date 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 the ventilation fan in classroom 1L was not in working order on this date.

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: 5/19/2023

Finding

591-1-1-.10(3) requires Center Staff to change diapers in the child's own crib or on a diaper changing surface that is used for no purposes other than changing diapers and other clothing in each room where infants or any other children wearing diapers are served. It was determined based on observation that classrooms 3L and 4L did not have diaper changing tables or a diaper changing surface to change diapers.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will ensure Staff are trained regarding specifically where to change diapers and clothing in each room housing children who are wearing diapers.

Correction Deadline: 5/11/2023

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

Comment

Please ensure lids remain on trash containing organic waste.

Comment

Proper hand washing observed throughout the center.

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

Defer

591-1-1-.20(1)- The previous citation was deferred due to the provider not administering medication since the last visit.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will train Staff to obtain and review parental authorizations to ensure the authorization contains complete information. The designated person(s) will monitor daily.

Correction Deadline: 6/17/2022

Safety

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

Comment

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

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.

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

The director provided five files for staff members hired since the previous visit conducted on June 8, 2022. The consultant observed five of five newly hired staff members to have evidence of a satisfactory criminal record check letter on file.

591-1-1-.33 Staff Training	Technical Assistance
-----------------------------------	-----------------------------

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.33 - Please ensure completed orientation checklists are documented and signed.

Correction Deadline: 7/8/2022

Corrected on 5/11/2023

.33(3) - The consultant observed the previous citation to be corrected in that the consultant observed evidence of newly hired staff to have completed health and safety orientation within 90days of hire.

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

Comment

Discussed combining children of mixed ages.

Finding

591-1-1-.32(4)(a) requires that during the early morning times of arrival and late afternoon times of departure, infants and children younger than three (3) years may be grouped with older children so long as Staff: child ratios and group size are met based on the age of the youngest child in the group. It was determined based on observation that classroom 4L had children of mixed age groups outside of the specified times and circumstances, the children in the mixed-age group included three one-year-old, six two-year-olds, one three-year-old.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will maintain Staff:child ratios based on the youngest child in the group during early morning and late afternoon times when children younger than three years of age may be grouped with older children.

Correction Deadline: 5/11/2023

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

Met

Comment

A playground supervision plan was discussed on this date.

Comment

Adequate supervision observed on this date.