



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: 8/15/2023 **VisitType:** Monitoring Visit **Arrival:** 10:20 AM **Departure:** 2:40 PM

CCLC-36660

Stepping Stone Montessori

820 Sanders Road Cumming, GA 30041 Forsyth County
 (770) 205-0317 info@steppingstonemontessori.com

Regional Consultant

Amanda Schofield

Phone: ()

Fax:

amanda.schofield@decal.ga.gov

Mailing Address

Same

The subreport 'ComplianceZone' could not be found at the specified location
 Koala.Reports.Visits.RDLC.subComplianceZone.rdlc. Please verify that the subreport has been published and that the

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	2	5	C	12	C	NA	NA	Diapering, Feeding, Outside
Main	B 2nd left	One Year Olds	2	10	C	12	C	NA	NA	Diapering, Circle Time
Main	C 3rd left		0	0	C	19	C	NA	NA	
Main	D 1st Right	Two Year Olds	2	13	C	21	C	NA	NA	Circle Time
Main	E 2nd Right	Two Year Olds and Three Year Olds	2	14	C	24	C	NA	NA	Circle Time, Transitioning
Main	F 3rd Right	Two Year Olds and Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds and Five Year Olds	2	16	C	26	C	NA	NA	Free Play, Outside
Main	G 4th Right	Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds	2	22	C	29	C	NA	NA	Outside, Centers
Main	H 5th right		0	0	C	36	C	NA	NA	

Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 179

Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0

Total # Children this Date: 80

Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 179

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

Comments

The purpose of this visit was to conduct monitoring study. Staff files and criminal records checks were reviewed.

Reminders:

Please be sure to enter all temporary closures in DECAL KOALA under the Required Report tab whenever your facility is closed temporarily for one day or more.

Incident Reports are to be submitted via DECAL KOALA with all signed staff statements for staff and the director.

A satisfactory Comprehensive Records Check Determination is valid for five years provided that: the employee's records check clearance date is within the preceding 12 months of his/her hire date at the center, and employees has not had a break in service from the child care industry that lasted for 180 days (6 months) or longer.

Plan of Improvement: Developed This Date 08/15/2023

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.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!

Catherine Mauragas, Program Official

Date

Amanda Schofield, 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: 8/15/2023 **VisitType:** Monitoring Visit

Arrival: 10:20 AM

Departure: 2:40 PM

CCLC-36660

Stepping Stone Montessori

820 Sanders Road Cumming, GA 30041 Forsyth County
(770) 205-0317 info@steppingstonemontessori.com

Regional Consultant

Amanda Schofield

Phone: ()

Fax:

amanda.schofield@dec.al.ga.gov

Mailing Address

Same

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.

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)

Met

Comment

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

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 an observation that there was a hole measuring five inches on the gate that divides playground B rear and playground C right

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. The director stated they applied for the grant to get necessary repairs done to the playground

Correction Deadline: 9/1/2023

Correction Deadline: 7/29/2022

Corrected on 8/15/2023

.26(8) - Correction was observed on this date. Consultant observed six inches of resilient surfacing on this date.

Health and Hygiene

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

Comment

Proper diapering procedures observed.

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

Comment

Proper hand washing observed throughout the center.

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

Comment

Discussed proper medication documentation and procedures.

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

Per provider the 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) Not Met

Finding

591-1-1-.09(1)(a) requires that a Center ensure that every actual and potential Director, Employee and Provisional Employee of a Child Care Learning Center submit both a Records Check Application to the Department and Fingerprints to an authorized fingerprinting site. It was determined based on a review records that staff #18 date of hire June 15, 2022 did not have fingerprints on file.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

IMMEDIATE CORRECTION - The Center will ensure that every actual and potential Director, Employee and Provisional Employee of a Child Care Learning Center submit both a Records Check Application to the Department and Fingerprints to an authorized fingerprinting site as required. The program's owner or an officer/member of the corporation must view the A to Z Background Check video units pertaining to this records check rule and return the signed affidavit within one week from this visit date. The Center will ensure the CRC rules are maintained.

Correction Deadline: 8/15/2023

Finding

591-1-1-.09(1)(c) requires the Center to ensure that every Employee has a valid and current satisfactory Comprehensive Records Check Determination on file prior to being present at the Center while any child is present for care or before an individual age 17 or older resides in the Center. The Comprehensive Records Check Determination must have a Records Check Clearance Date that is no older than the preceding 12 months of the hire date; provided, however, if the Employee has had a lapse of employment from the child care industry that lasted for 180 days (6 months) or longer, a new satisfactory Comprehensive Records Check Determination is required. It was determined based on a review of records that staff #18 date of hire June 15, 2022 did not have valid Comprehensive Record Check on file.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

IMMEDIATE CORRECTION - The Center will [] to ensure that every Employee has a valid and current satisfactory Comprehensive Records Check Determination on file prior to being present at the Center while any child is present for care or before an individual age 17 or older resides in the Center. The Comprehensive Records Check Determination must have a Records Check Clearance Date that is no older than the preceding 12 months of the hire date; provided, however, if the Employee has had a lapse of employment from the child care industry that lasted for 180 days (6 months) or longer, a new satisfactory Comprehensive Records Check Determination is required. The program's owner or an officer/member of the corporation must view the A to Z Background Check video units pertaining to this records check rule and return the signed affidavit within one week from this visit date. The center will [] to ensure the CRC rules are maintained.

Correction Deadline: 8/15/2023

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

Adequate supervision observed on this date.

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

Met

Comment

Adequate supervision observed on this date.