



**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

**Cover Sheet**

**Date:** 7/20/2022    **VisitType:** Incident Investigation & Follow Up    **Arrival:** 4:00 PM    **Departure:** 5:50 PM

**CCLC-56497**

**Decatur Montessori**

1429 Church Street Decatur, GA 30030 DeKalb County  
 (404) 831-1600 najeeowens407@gmail.com

**Regional Consultant**

Tasha McDonald

Phone: (770) 344-3353

Fax: (678) 891-5601

tasha.mcdonald@decal.ga.gov

**Mailing Address**  
 Same

**Quality Rated:** No

<b>Compliance Zone Designation</b>		
07/20/2022	Incident Investigation & Follow Up	Good Standing
03/03/2022	Initial Licensing Study	Good Standing

**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.

**Ratios/License Capacity**

Building	Room	Age Group	Staff	Children	NC/C	Max 35 SF.	35 SF. Comp.	Max 25 SF.	25 SF. Comp.	Notes
Building 1	A Right	One Year Old Infants	2	8	C	18	C	NA	NA	Diapering, Floor Play
Building 1	B Left		0	0	C	24	C	NA	NA	
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.:			42		Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0					
Building 2	C-Front		0	0	C	26	C	NA	NA	
Building 2	D-Left		0	0	C	24	C	NA	NA	
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.:			50		Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0					
Building 3	E-Hill	Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds and Five Year Olds	2	21	C	30	C	NA	NA	Transitioning, Outside
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.:			30		Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0					
Total # Children this Date:			29		Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 122					
					Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0					

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Building 3	Hill Playground	45	C
Building 3	Playground Toddler 2	7	C
Building 3	Toddler 1	10	C

## Comments

07-20-22: The purpose of the visit was to conduct an incident investigation and to follow up on the previous visit.

Plan of Improvement: No Plan Developed

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



### 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](mailto:qualityrated@dec.al.ga.gov) for more information. Free technical assistance is available!**

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](http://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)

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Sesealy Owens, Program Official

Date

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Tasha McDonald, Consultant

Date



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**Findings Report**

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The following information is associated with a Incident Investigation & Follow Up:

	<b>Facility</b>
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**591-1-1-.25 Physical Plant - Safe Environment(CR)**

**Met**

**Correction Deadline: 3/3/2022**

**Corrected on 7/20/2022**

**.25(12) - The previous citation was observed to be corrected on this date. Consultant observed the outside AC unit up on the hill to contain a four foot barrier on this date.**

**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 the Consultant's observation that the fence surrounding the building and playground is under the four feet requirement and is rusted and need replacing or repairing on this date.

**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.

**Correction Deadline: 7/27/2022**

**Recited on 7/20/2022**

**Finding**

591-1-1-.26(6) requires that playground equipment provide an opportunity for the children to engage in a variety of experiences and shall be age-appropriate. For example, toddlers shall not be permitted to swing in swings designed for School-age Children. The outdoor equipment shall be free of lead-based paint, sharp corners and shall be regularly maintained in such a way as to be free of rust and splinters that could pose significant safety hazard to the children. All equipment shall be arranged so as not to obstruct supervision of children. It was determined based on the Consultant's observation that the climbing and play equipment had splinters, rust and paint that was peeling.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

The Center will provide a variety of age-appropriate equipment that is arranged so as not to obstruct supervision of children. Staff will check the equipment daily to ensure that the equipment is free of hazards, rust and splinters.

**Correction Deadline: 7/27/2022**

**Recited on 7/20/2022**