

TERMS YOU NEED TO KNOW AS A PARENT

WHAT IS BRIGHT FROM THE START **LICENSING**?

Bright From the Start Georgia Dept. of Early Care and Learning licenses facilities to assure safety and sound administrative practices for the safety and well being of children under the age of 5. In the state of Georgia facilities which operate more than four hours a day are required to be licensed. Programs for less than four hours for children under 5 and those serving above the age of 5 must obtain an exemption approval from the organization.

WHAT DOES THE **ACCREDITATION** PROCESS INCLUDE?

Accredited schools have obtained the highest level of recognition by an accrediting organization. Accreditation is earned through self-studies and a quality review team. Accreditation occurs for programs, not facilities. Our school has worked for several years to obtain SACS Accreditation and received our Montessori accreditation from American Montessori Society (AMS) in 2009. Organizations such as SACS (Southern Association of Colleges and Schools), IMC (International Montessori Council), AMS (American Montessori Society) or AMI (Association Montessori Internationale) accredit programs only after an extensive quality review.

WHAT DOES THE MONTESSORI **CERTIFICATION** INCLUDE?

Teachers are Montessori certified only after they have completed extensive training, rigorous testing and hours of observation through a MACTE (Montessori Association of Teacher Education) accredited teacher training or through Association Montessori Internationale.

WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?

Montessori is a method of teaching which the Montessori Academy views seriously. The name “Montessori” can be used by any establishment regardless of educational backgrounds of teachers, the curriculum they teach and the materials they have on the shelves. This can be very misleading to unknowing parents. The only way to be assured is by becoming informed.

PLEASE NOTE: Schools are unethical when they represent themselves as being accredited when they are not. The same is true for the statement that their teachers are certified. As parents, the only way you are assured quality is by viewing the programs accreditation certificate and/or seal and by viewing a teacher’s Montessori signed credential with the MACTE seal. At the Montessori Academy at Sharon Springs we take great pride in displaying the hard work and dedication our parents, staff, and students played in our earning SACS and AMS accreditation. Our purpose is to inform and educate our community on the differences between accreditation and certification. Further information may be found at

www.decal.state.ga.us www.sacscasi.org

www.amshq.org

www.montessori-ami.org

www.montessori.org

(conduct a google search)