**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:** 8/19/2026 **VisitType:** Licensing Study **Arrival:** 11:30 AM **Departure:** 1:10 PM

**CCLC-66004**
**Hillside Montessori of LaGrange**
1001 Hills and Dales Farm RD LaGrange, GA 30240 Troup County
(706) 812-4370

Regional Consultant
Laura Swann
Phone: (706) 340-9577
Fax:
laura.swann@decal.ga.gov

**Mailing Address**
Same

**Quality Rated:** No

| Compliance Zone Designation | | |
|---|---|---|
| 08/19/2026 | Licensing Study | Good Standing |
| 04/16/2026 | Licensing Study | Good Standing |
| 07/09/2025 | 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 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Main Building | Classroom A: Toddler 1 (18 to 36 Months) | One Year Olds and Two Year Olds and Three Year Olds | 2 | 11 | C | 17 | C | NA | NA | Story |
| Main Building | Classroom B: Toddler 2 (18 to 36 Months) | One Year Olds and Two Year Olds and Three Year Olds | 2 | 12 | C | 17 | C | NA | NA | Transitioning,Lunch |
| Main Building | Classroom C: Primary 1 (3 to 6 Years) | Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds | 1 | 12 | C | 25 | C | NA | NA | Outside |
| Main Building | Classroom D: Primary 2 (3 to 6 Years) | Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds | 1 | 12 | C | 25 | C | NA | NA | Outside |
| Main Building | Classroom E: Afterschool | | 0 | 0 | C | 26 | C | NA | NA | |
| | | Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 110 | | | Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0 | | | | | |
| Total # Children this Date: 47 | | Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 110 | | | Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0 | | | | | |

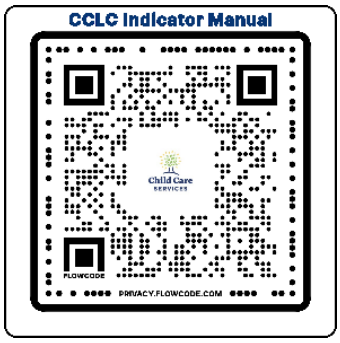
| Building | Playground | Playground Occupancy | Playground Compliance |
|---|---|---|---|
| Main Building | Playground | 74 | C |

**Enrolled Children**

| Infant (0-12 months) | Toddler (1-2 yrs) | Preschool (3-5yrs/full time care) | School Age (before/after care only) | GA PreK only | Summer Only |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 0 | 22 | 29 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

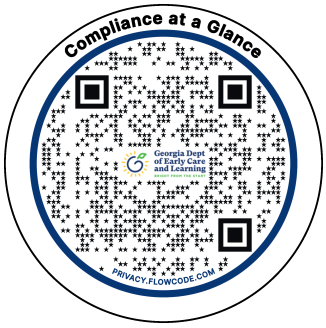
**Comments**
Licensing study completed on August 19, 2026.

Plan of Improvement: Developed This Date




For additional information regarding any licensing topics discussed during this visit, please consult the Rules and Regulations Indicator Manual. This manual provides comprehensive clarification of each rule, including evaluation indicators, related best practices, and relevant considerations to support your program's continued and sustained compliance.

To access the Indicator Manual, please scan the QR code below or visit our website at https://www.decal.ga.gov/CCS/RulesAndRegulations.aspx.




For additional information regarding the full compliance inspection results of this program or any licensed program in the state, access the Child Care Services Compliance-at-a Glance website by scanning this QR code or visiting: https://families.decal.ga.gov.

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.decal.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.

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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.

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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@decal.ga.gov for more information. Free technical assistance is available!**

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**Summary Report**

**Date:** 8/19/2026 **VisitType:** Licensing Study **Arrival:** 11:30 AM **Departure:** 1:10 PM

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**The following information is associated with a Licensing Study:**

## Activities and Equipment

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

**Comment**
A variety of equipment and toys were observed throughout the center on this date.

**591-1-1-.35 Swimming Pools & Water-related Activities(CR)** **N/A**

**Comment**
Center does not provide swimming activities.

## Facility

**591-1-1-.06 Bathrooms** **Met**

**Comment**
Bathrooms observed to be clean and well maintained.

**591-1-1-.19 License Capacity(CR)** **Met**

**Comment**
Licensed capacity observed to be routinely met by center on this date.

**591-1-1-.25 Physical Plant - Safe Environment(CR)** **Not Met**

**Comment**
Please secure cleaning tools (i.e., broom, plunger, toilet brushes) out of reach of children.

**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 observation that the following classrooms had hazardous items accessible to children in care:
Classroom A Toddler 1
Baby wipes were in a drawer near the handwashing sink and in the restroom.
A plastic grocery bag was in a child's cubbie.
Diapers in plastic bags were in the restroom.
Classroom B Toddler 2
Baby wipes were in the restroom.
"Equate" itch relief spray and "Resinol" medicated ointment were in the children's backpacks on a low shelf.
In an unlocked drawer beside the handwashing sink were staplers, tape dispenser, thumb tacks and hole punchers.

**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: 8/19/2026**

**591-1-1-.26 Playgrounds(CR)** **Not Met**

**Finding**
591-1-1-.26(8) requires climbing and swinging equipment to have a resilient surface beneath the equipment and the fall zone from such equipment must be adequately maintained by the Center to assure continuing resiliency. It was determined based on observation that the following items needed more resilient surfacing:
Playground A left side
The yellow climbing dome had one-half inch when three inches was required.
The swing had one inch when six inches was required.
Playground B right side
The green and tan climbing structure had one inch when three inches was required.
The swings had one inch when six inches was required.
The green climbing wall had one inch when three inches was required.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**
The Center will add additional resilient surfacing to the fall zones where needed and check daily, adding resilient surfacing as needed to maintain adequate resiliency. The center had resilient surfacing on the property. The center will add the resilient surfacing to the playground in the fall zones.

**Correction Deadline: 8/29/2026**

## Food Service

**591-1-1-.18 Kitchen Operations** **N/A**

**Comment**
Kitchen not in use. Parents provide children's meals.

## Health and Hygiene

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

**Correction Deadline: 7/9/2025**

**Corrected on 8/19/2026**
**.10(1) - Correction observed on this date.**

**Correction Deadline: 7/9/2025**

**Corrected on 8/19/2026**
**.10(3) - Correction observed on this date.**

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

**Comment**
Proper hand washing observed throughout the center on this date.

**591-1-1-.20 Medications(CR)** **N/A**

**Comment**
The Provider currently does not dispense/administer medication.

## Safety

**591-1-1-.05 Animals** **Met**

**Comment**
Animals maintained clean and appropriately caged.

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

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

**591-1-1-.13 Field Trips(CR)** **N/A**

**Comment**
Center does not participate in field trips at this time.

**591-1-1-.36 Transportation(CR)** **N/A**

**Comment**
Center does not provide routine transportation.

## Sleeping & Resting Equipment

**591-1-1-.30 Safe Sleeping and Resting Requirements(CR)** **Met**

**Comment**
Pleasant naptime environment observed.

## Staff Records

**591-1-1-.09 Criminal Records and Comprehensive Background Checks(CR)** **Met**

**Comment**
Criminal record checks were observed to be complete.

**Comment**
Director provided 4 file(s) for employees hired since last visit.

**591-1-1-.14 First Aid & CPR(CR)** **Met**

**Comment**
Evidence observed of 100% of center Staff certified in First Aid and CPR containing emergency care for infants and children on this date.

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

**Defer**
591-1-1-.33(5)-Defer until December 31, 2026.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**
The Center will plan and schedule the required 10 hours of annual training each year and follow up to ensure the training is completed.

**Correction Deadline: 7/30/2025**

**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**
Staff observed to provide direct supervision and be attentive to children's needs.