



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: 3/30/2026 **VisitType:** Monitoring Visit

Arrival: 9:30 AM **Departure:** 2:00 PM

CCLC-3232

Arbor Montessori School-Lavista Campus

2998 Lavista Road Decatur, GA 30033 DeKalb County
(404) 321-9304

Regional Consultant

Maryn Accord

Phone: (404) 591-6031

Fax:

maryn.accord@dec.al.ga.gov

Mailing Address

Same

Quality Rated: No

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.
03/30/2026	Monitoring Visit	Good Standing	
10/03/2025	Licensing Study	Good Standing	
12/17/2024	Licensing Study	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
Ironwood	1st Left - Pink	Two Year Olds and Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds and Five Year Olds and Six Year Olds and Over	3	18	C	54	C	NA	NA	Centers
Ironwood	1st Right - Purple	One Year Olds and Two Year Olds	2	11	C	25	C	NA	NA	Transitioning
Ironwood	2nd Right - Blue	One Year Olds and Two Year Olds	2	10	C	27	C	NA	NA	Snack
Ironwood	3rd Right - Green	Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds and Five Year Olds and Six Year Olds and Over	2	25	C	47	C	NA	NA	Centers
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 153			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0							
Main	Downstairs Left	Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds and Five Year Olds and Six Year Olds and Over	2	26	C	42	C	NA	NA	Centers
Main	Downstairs Middle		0	0	C	40	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
Main	Downstairs Right		0	0	C	28	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
Main	Downstairs Right 2	Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds and Five Year Olds and Six Year Olds and Over	2	25	C	41	C	NA	NA	Centers
Main	Nap Room (Inside Downstairs 2)	Five Year Olds	1	1	C	14	C	NA	NA	Centers
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 165			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0							
Total # Children this Date: 116			Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 318			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0				

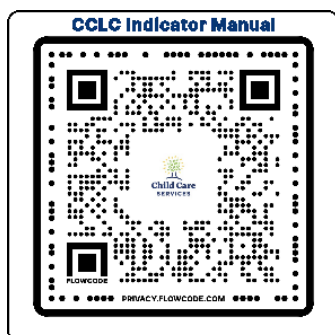
Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Ironwood	Outdoor Learning	19	C
Main	Playground A	150	C

Enrolled Children						
Under 1 years	1 years	2 years	3 years	4 years	5 years (Prekonly)	5 years and older
0	5	21	26	30	0	41

Comments

Core Rules were evaluated

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>.

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.

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



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Summary Report

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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 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-.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)

Technical Assistance

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.25(12) requires heating and cooling equipment to be protected to prevent children from touching it. Fans, space heaters, etc. shall be positioned or installed so as to be inaccessible to the children. The Consultant discussed with the Director to ensure that air purifiers were positioned to be inaccessible to children, as required.

Correction Deadline: 3/30/2026

591-1-1-.26 Playgrounds(CR)

Not Met

Finding

591-1-1-.26(9) requires the playground to be kept clean, free from litter and free of hazards, such as but not limited to rocks, exposed tree roots and exposed sharp edges of concrete. It was determined, based on observation, that the wood timber border located in the upper back left corner of the playground was broken and splintered and contained a protruding nail, creating a potential hazard on this date.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will remove any litter and fix or remove hazards from the playground and will routinely monitor the playground and remove litter and hazards.

Correction Deadline: 4/13/2026

Recited on 3/30/2026

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 on this date.

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

The Provider currently does not dispense/administer medication.

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)**N/A****Comment**

Center does not provide routine transportation.

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

The correct number of mats, sheets and blankets were observed on this date.

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 of records, Staff #14, was present alone in Main Nap Room (Inside Downstairs 2), providing therapy services with one five-year-old child, and did not submit both a Records Check Application to the Department and Fingerprints to an authorized fingerprinting site, as required.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

IMMEDIATE CORRECTION - The Center will watch the videos to 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 watch the videos to ensure the CRC rules are maintained.

Correction Deadline: 3/31/2026**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 #14 was present alone in Main Nap Room (Inside Downstairs 2), providing therapy services with one five-year-old child.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

IMMEDIATE CORRECTION - The Center will watch the videos 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 watch the videos to ensure the CRC rules are maintained.

Correction Deadline: 3/31/2026

591-1-1-.14 First Aid & CPR(CR)**Not Met****Finding**

591-1-1-.14(2)(b) requires that there must always be one staff person present in each classroom where children are present that has current and valid pediatric cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and pediatric first aid training. It was determined, based on a review of records, Staff #2, hired August 1, 2025, and Staff #9, hired October 20, 2021, were present in Ironwood 1R - Purple with two 1-year-olds and nine 2-year-olds, and did not have evidence of current and valid CPR and pediatric first aid training on file, as required. It was further determined that Staff #7, hired August 9, 2018, and Staff #16, hired August 1, 2017, were present in Main Downstairs Right 2 with seven 3-year-olds, ten 4-year-olds, six 5-year-olds, and three 6-year-olds present, and did not have evidence of current and valid CPR and pediatric first aid training on file, as required.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Director will schedule and/or position caregiver Staff throughout the Center to ensure at least one currently pediatric CPR and First Aid trained Staff person is present in each classroom where children are present.

Correction Deadline: 4/13/2026

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

Correction Deadline: 12/31/2025

Corrected on 3/30/2026

.33(5)(a) - The previous citation was observed corrected. The Consultant observed applicable Staff attended ten clock hours of diverse annual training for the 2025 calendar year.

591-1-1-.31 Staff(CR)**Met****Comment**

Discussed that all lead staff must enroll in an approved education program within 6 months of hire and complete degree within 18 months.

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.