



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: 7/9/2025 **VisitType:** Initial Licensing Study **Arrival:** 8:20 AM **Departure:** 1:00 PM

CCLC-66004

Hillside Montessori of LaGrange

1001 Hills and Dales Farm RD LaGrange, GA 30240 Troup County
 (706) 812-4370 hillsidemontessoridirector@gmail.com

Application Services Unit Consultant

Derian Williams

Phone: (470) 518-8182

Fax:

derian.williams@decal.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.
07/09/2025	Initial Licensing Study	Good Standing	
			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)		0	0	C	17	C	NA	NA	
Main Building	Classroom B: Toddler 2 (18 to 36 Months)		0	0	C	17	C	NA	NA	
Main Building	Classroom C: Primary 1 (3 to 6 Years)		0	0	C	25	C	NA	NA	
Main Building	Classroom D: Primary 2 (3 to 6 Years)		0	0	C	25	C	NA	NA	
Main Building	Classroom D1: Nap Room		0	0	C	0	C	NA	NA	
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: 0					Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0					

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main Building	Playground	74	C

Comments

The child care program received a final license on this date.

- The facility does carry liability insurance.
- Areas approved for special use: Classroom D1: Nap room located in classroom D - Primary 2.

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.decgal.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

You have received permission to operate and the form received with this report is intended to serve as a temporary license which is **valid for thirty(30) days**. Your actual license/ will be emailed to you upon receipt of the licensing fee. You may pay the licensing fee either online at <http://www.decgal.ga.gov/> or by certified check or money order mailed to: Bright from the Start, 2 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive SE, Suite 670 East Tower, Atlanta, GA 30334

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



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(Findings Report)

Date: 7/9/2025 **VisitType:** Initial Licensing Study **Arrival:** 8:20 AM **Departure:** 1:00 PM

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Application Services Unit Consultant

Derian Williams

Phone: (470) 518-8182

Fax:

derian.williams@decal.ga.gov

Mailing Address

Same

The following information is associated with a ILS:

Activities and Equipment

Records Reviewed: 8

Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 6

Staff # 1

Not Met

Date of Hire: 08/21/2018

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training

Staff # 2

Not Met

Date of Hire: 08/01/2022

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training

Staff # 3

Not Met

Date of Hire: 10/01/2024

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training

Staff # 4

Not Met

Date of Hire: 08/01/2012

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training

Staff # 5

Not Met

Date of Hire: 10/01/2024

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training

Staff # 8

Not Met

Date of Hire: 08/21/2029

Reminder - Health & Safety training is required within 90 calendar days of hired

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training

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

A variety of equipment and toys were observed throughout the center.

Comment

Equipment and furniture observed to be properly secured, as applicable.

591-1-1-.35 Swimming Pools & Water-related Activities(CR)**Met****Comment**

Center does not provide swimming activities. There is not swimming pool on site.

Facility

Staff # 1

Not Met

Date of Hire: 08/21/2018

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training

Staff # 2

Not Met

Date of Hire: 08/01/2022

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training

Staff # 3

Not Met

Date of Hire: 10/01/2024

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training

Staff # 4

Not Met

Date of Hire: 08/01/2012

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training

Staff # 5

Not Met

Date of Hire: 10/01/2024

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training

Staff # 8

Not Met

Date of Hire: 08/21/2029

Reminder - Health & Safety training is required within 90 calendar days of hired"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training

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

The total licensed capacity is 110 children.

591-1-1-.25 Physical Plant - Safe Environment(CR)**Met****Comment**

Center appears clean and well maintained.

591-1-1-.26 Playgrounds(CR)**Met****Comment**

Discussed maintenance of resilient surface. Please fluff and redistribute.

Comment

Playground observed to be clean and in good repair.

Health and Hygiene**Records Reviewed: 8****Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 6**

Staff # 1

Not Met

Date of Hire: 08/21/2018

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training

Staff # 2

Not Met

Date of Hire: 08/01/2022

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training

Staff # 3

Not Met

Date of Hire: 10/01/2024

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training

Staff # 4

Not Met

Date of Hire: 08/01/2012

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training

Staff # 5

Not Met

Date of Hire: 10/01/2024

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training

Staff # 8

Not Met

Date of Hire: 08/21/2029

Reminder - Health & Safety training is required within 90 calendar days of hired"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training

Finding

591-1-1-.10(1) requires Centers first licensed after March 1, 1991, and Centers that are renovated after March 1, 1991, to provide ventilation in the diapering areas with functioning exhaust fans and a duct system or by the required amount of window space provided by operable windows when open. It was determined It was determined based on observation classroom A - Toddler 1 and classroom B - Toddler 2 lacked ventilation in the diapering areas. There was no functioning exhaust fan and a duct system or the required amount of window space to ensure that there is adequate ventilation to control odors and adequate sanitation measures to prevent the spread of contagious diseases.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The responsible person(s) at the center will ensure that the exhaust fans and duct systems are functioning or that the required amount of operable window space is provided in each diapering area.

Correction Deadline: 7/9/2025

Finding

591-1-1-.10(3) requires Center Staff to change diapers in the child's own crib or on a diaper changing surface that is used for no purposes other than changing diapers and other clothing in each room where infants or any other children wearing diapers are served. It was determined based on observation no diapering area/surfaces located in the physical space of the following diapering classrooms housing children two years or younger: Classroom A - Toddler 1 and Classroom B - Toddler 2.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will ensure Staff are trained regarding specifically where to change diapers and clothing in each room housing children who are wearing diapers.

Correction Deadline: 7/9/2025

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

Met

Comment

There were no children enrolled on this date. Proper hand washing of children and staff was discussed with the director on this date.

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

Met

Comment

Discussed proper medication documentation and procedures.

Organization

Records Reviewed: 8	Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 6
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Staff # 1

Not Met

Date of Hire: 08/21/2018

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training

Staff # 2

Not Met

Date of Hire: 08/01/2022

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training

Staff # 3

Not Met

Date of Hire: 10/01/2024

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training

Staff # 4

Not Met

Date of Hire: 08/01/2012

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

Records Reviewed: 8

Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 6

.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training

Staff # 5

Not Met

Date of Hire: 10/01/2024

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training

Staff # 8

Not Met

Date of Hire: 08/21/2029

Reminder - Health & Safety training is required within 90 calendar days of hired

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training

591-1-1-.16 Governing Body & License

Met

Correction Deadline: 8/23/2024

Corrected on 7/9/2025

It was determined based on observation that classroom 250 is no longer in use due to this center being a change of location.

Safety

Records Reviewed: 8

Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 6

Staff # 1

Not Met

Date of Hire: 08/21/2018

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training

Staff # 2

Not Met

Date of Hire: 08/01/2022

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training

Staff # 3

Not Met

Date of Hire: 10/01/2024

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training

Staff # 4

Not Met

Date of Hire: 08/01/2012

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training

Staff # 5

Not Met

Date of Hire: 10/01/2024

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training

Staff # 8

Not Met

Records Reviewed: 8**Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 6**

Date of Hire: 08/21/2029

Reminder - Health & Safety training is required within 90 calendar days of hired"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training

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

There were no children enrolled on this date. The center's discipline policy was reviewed on this date. Regulations regarding proper discipline were discussed with the director on this date.

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

Center does not provide routine transportation.

Sleeping & Resting Equipment**Records Reviewed: 8****Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 6**

Staff # 1

Not Met

Date of Hire: 08/21/2018

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training

Staff # 2

Not Met

Date of Hire: 08/01/2022

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training

Staff # 3

Not Met

Date of Hire: 10/01/2024

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training

Staff # 4

Not Met

Date of Hire: 08/01/2012

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training

Staff # 5

Not Met

Date of Hire: 10/01/2024

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training

Staff # 8

Not Met

Date of Hire: 08/21/2029

Reminder - Health & Safety training is required within 90 calendar days of hired"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training

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. Cleaning and disinfecting of mats was discussed with the director on this date.

Staff Records**Records Reviewed: 8****Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 6**

Staff # 1 Not Met

Date of Hire: 08/21/2018

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training

Staff # 2 Not Met

Date of Hire: 08/01/2022

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training

Staff # 3 Not Met

Date of Hire: 10/01/2024

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training

Staff # 4 Not Met

Date of Hire: 08/01/2012

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training

Staff # 5 Not Met

Date of Hire: 10/01/2024

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training

Staff # 8 Not Met

Date of Hire: 08/21/2029

Reminder - Health & Safety training is required within 90 calendar days of hired

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training

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

Criminal record checks were observed to be complete. Eight of eight staff records were observed to have comprehensive satisfactory Criminal Background Check determination letters on file.

Finding

91-1-1-.33(5) requires that every calendar year after the first year of employment, all supervisory and caregiver Personnel, except independent contractors, Students-in-Training and volunteers shall attend ten (10) clock hours of diverse training which is task-focused in on-going health, safety and early childhood or child development related topics and which is offered by an accredited college, university or vocational program or other Department-approved source. The annual ten (10) clock hours of training shall be chosen from the following fields: child development, including discipline, guidance, nutrition, injury control and safety; health, including sanitation, disease control, cleanliness, detection and disposition of illness; child abuse and neglect, including identification and reporting, and meeting the needs of abused and/or neglected children; and business related topics, including parental communication, recordkeeping, etc.; provided however that such business related training shall be limited to no more than two (2) of the required ten (10) clock hours of training. Records of completion of such training shall be maintained, as required by these rules. It was determined based on observation that staff #1, #2, #4; and #8 did not obtain the annual 10 clock hours of training.

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**Records Reviewed: 8****Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 6**

Staff # 1 Not Met

Date of Hire: 08/21/2018

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training

Staff # 2 Not Met

Date of Hire: 08/01/2022

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training

Staff # 3 Not Met

Date of Hire: 10/01/2024

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training

Staff # 4 Not Met

Date of Hire: 08/01/2012

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training

Staff # 5 Not Met

Date of Hire: 10/01/2024

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training

Staff # 8 Not Met

Records Reviewed: 8

Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 6

Date of Hire: 08/21/2029

Reminder - Health & Safety training is required within 90 calendar days of hired

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training

591-1-1-.32 Staff:Child Ratios and Group Size(CR)

Met

Comment

There were no children enrolled on this date. Proper ratios and classroom capacities were discussed with the director on this date.

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

Met

Comment

There were no children enrolled on this date. Proper supervision of children, including being prompt to children's needs, was discussed with the director on this date.