



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: 5/14/2026 VisitType: Licensing Study

Arrival: 9:10 AM Departure: 3:30 PM

CCLC-52036

Lemontree Academy LLC

1031 Fairgrounds Rd. Madison, GA 30650 Morgan County  
(770) 464-0768

Training & Communications Unit Coordinator

Ashley Cunningham

Phone: (866) 374-9389

Fax: (866) 375-0880

ashley.cunningham@dec.al.ga.gov

Joint with: Jennifer Johnson

Mailing Address

Same

Quality Rated: ★ ★

| 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. |
|-----------------------------|------------------|---------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 05/14/2026                  | Licensing Study  | Good Standing |                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| 09/29/2025                  | Monitoring Visit | Good Standing |                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| 03/31/2025                  | Monitoring Visit | Good Standing |                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
|                             |                  |               | <b>Good Standing</b> - Program is demonstrating an acceptable level of performance in meeting the rules.                                                                                                                |
|                             |                  |               | <b>Support</b> - Program performance is demonstrating a need for improvement in meeting rules.                                                                                                                          |
|                             |                  |               | <b>Deficient</b> - 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     | A-1R   | Infants                            | 1     | 3        | C    | 6          | C            | NA         | NA           | Floor Play  |
| Main     | B-2R   | One Year Olds                      | 2     | 8        | C    | 15         | C            | NA         | NA           | Free Play   |
| Main     | C-3R   | One Year Olds and Two Year Olds    | 2     | 19       | C    | 20         | C            | NA         | NA           | Outside     |
| Main     | D-4R   | GA PreK                            | 1     | 18       | C    | 22         | C            | NA         | NA           | Outside     |
| Main     | E-3L   | GA PreK                            | 2     | 21       | C    | 22         | C            | NA         | NA           | Circle Time |
| Main     | F - 2L | GA PreK                            | 2     | 19       | C    | 22         | C            | NA         | NA           | Free Play   |
| Main     | G - 1L | Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds | 2     | 15       | C    | 30         | C            | NA         | NA           | Free Play   |

Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 137

Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0

Total # Children this Date: 103

Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 137

Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0

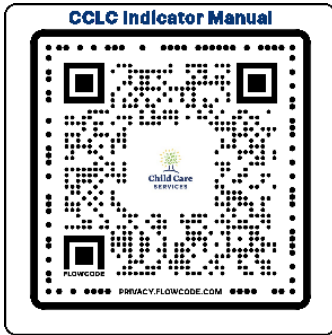
| Building | Playground | Playground Occupancy | Playground Compliance |
|----------|------------|----------------------|-----------------------|
| Main     | Lt Side    | 41                   | C                     |
| Main     | Rear       | 271                  | C                     |
| Main     | Rt Side    | 33                   | C                     |

| Enrolled Children |         |         |         |         |                    |                   |
|-------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|--------------------|-------------------|
| Under 1 years     | 1 years | 2 years | 3 years | 4 years | 5 years (Prekonly) | 5 years and older |
| 4                 | 13      | 20      | 7       | 12      | 59                 | 22                |

## Comments

An Affidavit Verifying Completion of Criminal Background Check Units affidavit which should be returned completed within five business days and a one-day criminal background check letter was left with the Director/Provider on this date.

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.dec.state.ga.us/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.dec.state.ga.us/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](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.

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



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**Summary Report**

**Date:** 5/14/2026 **VisitType:** Licensing Study

**Arrival:** 9:10 AM **Departure:** 3:30 PM

**CCLC-52036**

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The following information is associated with a Licensing Study:

**Activities and Equipment**

**591-1-1-.03 Activities**

**Technical Assistance**

**Technical Assistance**

591-1-1-.03(2) - Please ensure that lesson plans are kept current and available for all classrooms. The consultant observed one classroom that did not have a lesson plan available.

**Correction Deadline: 5/14/2026**

**Comment**

Age-appropriate activities observed throughout the center.

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

**Met**

**Comment**

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

**Comment**

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

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

**N/A**

**Comment**

Center does not provide swimming activities.

**Children's Records**

**591-1-1-.08 Children's Records**

**Met**

**Comment**

Records were observed to be complete and well organized.

**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.

**Comment**

The Center appeared clean and well maintained on this date.

**Technical Assistance**

591-1-1-.25(3) - Please ensure that child proof safety latches are in working order on all cabinets. Consultant observed the child proof safety latch on the bottom right cabinet under the sink in classroom E-3L to not be in working order.

**Correction Deadline: 5/14/2026**

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

**Correction Deadline: 10/13/2025**

**Corrected on 5/14/2026**

**.26(4) - Previous citation observed to be corrected in that all gaps were observed to be closed.**

**Technical Assistance**

591-1-1-.26(4) - Please ensure to tighten the rope on the entry gate of the fence in the back left corner of the rear playground to reduce the chance of a potential gap occurring again.

**Correction Deadline: 5/14/2026**

**Correction Deadline: 10/9/2025**

**Corrected on 5/14/2026**

**.26(6) - Previous citation observed to be corrected in that the red posts holding the swings, the green seesaw, the silver horizontal pull up bars, and the blue and yellow slide no longer had chipping paint.**

**Technical Assistance**

591-1-1-.26(6) - Please ensure that the six scooters on the rear playground are removed from the playground and not just placed out of the reach of children. The scooters were observed to still have peeling paint but the assistant director stated that they are not used by the children. The scooters were observed in the far back of the playground and were not seen being used by the children when they were outside. Also on the rear playground, the red and blue spectrum scooters on the top shelf in the outside storage cabinet poses as a safety hazard. Please remove them from the top shelf and place them on the bottom shelf to prevent children from reaching on the top shelf to get them.

**Correction Deadline: 5/24/2026**

**Technical Assistance**

591-1-1-.26(8) - Please ensure the fall zone for the green slide and rock climbing wall on the Lt Side Playground has a fall zone that extends five feet from the end of the slide and extends out into a semi-circle shaped area. The consultant observed the fall zone to measured at approximately three feet.

**Correction Deadline: 5/24/2026**

**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 resilient surface beneath the equipment and the fall zone of the play structure on the rear playground measured at approximately one half to two inches when six inches was needed.

**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.

**Correction Deadline: 5/24/2026**

**Food Service****591-1-1-.15 Food Service & Nutrition****Not Met****Comment**

Center menu meets USDA guidelines.

**Finding**

591-1-1-.15(1) requires that meals and snacks are served, with serving sizes dependent upon the age of the child, that meet nutritional guidelines as established by the United States Department of Agriculture Child and Adult Care Food Program. Meals and snacks shall be varied daily, and additional servings of nutritious food shall be offered to children over and above the required daily minimum, if not contraindicated by special diets. It was determined based on observation that USDA meal pattern requirements were not met in that children were missing the required grain component at lunch when the whole-grain crust listed on the menu was not served.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

Center Staff will prepare menus and/or serve foods that meet the USDA guidelines and will offer and serve seconds to children.

**Correction Deadline: 5/14/2026**

**Finding**

591-1-1-.15(2)(f) requires that food for infants or children less than one (1) year of age be cut into pieces one-quarter inch or smaller and food for toddlers shall be cut into pieces one-half inch or smaller to prevent choking. It was determined based on observation that toddler children in classrooms B-2R and C-3R were served soft canned apples that were not cut into one-half inch or smaller pieces to prevent choking.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

The Center will ensure that food for infants and children less than one (1) year of age is cut into pieces one-quarter inch or smaller and food for toddlers is cut into pieces one-half inch or smaller to prevent choking.

**Correction Deadline: 5/14/2026**

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**591-1-1-.18 Kitchen Operations****Met****Comment**

Kitchen appears clean and well organized on this date.

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**Health and Hygiene****591-1-1-.10 Diapering Areas & Practices(CR)****Met****Comment**

Proper diapering procedures observed.

**Comment**

Staff stated proper knowledge of diapering procedures.

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

Proper hand washing observed throughout the center on this date.

**Correction Deadline: 9/29/2025**

**Corrected on 5/14/2026**

**.17(7) - Previous citation observed to be corrected in that staff stated proper transitions times that children are to wash there hands.**

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

The Provider currently does not dispense/administer medication.

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**Policies and Procedures****591-1-1-.21 Operational Policies & Procedures****Technical Assistance****Technical Assistance**

591-1-1-.21(2)(r) - New - Please ensure that you update you polices and procedures to include a description of the practices followed by the Center to prevent shaken baby syndrome and abusive head trauma in children up to five years of age that includes the following information: how to recognize, respond to, and report the signs and symptoms of shaken baby syndrome and abusive head trauma; strategies to assist staff members in understanding how to care for infants and how to cope with a crying, fussing, or distraught child; strategies to ensure staff members understand the brain development of children up to five years of age; and a list of prohibited behaviors when dealing with children. It also needs to include behavior management and discipline actions used to include expulsion and suspension of enrolled children.

**Correction Deadline: 5/19/2026**

**Comment**

Program observed complete emergency drills

**Safety****591-1-1-.05 Animals****N/A****Comment**

Center does not keep animals on premises.

**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)****Met****Comment**

Field trip documentation observed to be complete 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**

Discussed SIDS and infant sleeping position.

**Correction Deadline: 9/29/2025**

**Corrected on 5/14/2026**

**.30(2) - Previous citation observed to be corrected in that there were no infants enrolled that required to be swaddled.**

**Staff Records****Records Reviewed: 20****Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 1**

Staff # 11

Not Met

Date of Hire: 12/12/2020

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.09-Criminal Records Check Missing

**591-1-1-.09 Criminal Records and Comprehensive Background Checks(CR)****Not Met****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 observation that staff #11 did not have a valid and current satisfactory Comprehensive Records Check Determination on file and was caring for children in classroom E-3L.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

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

**Correction Deadline: 5/14/2026**

**Finding**

591-1-1-.09(1)(l)3. requires the Center to immediately require a new Comprehensive Records Check Determination for a Director, Employee or Provisional Employee at least once every five years. It was determined based on observation that staff member #11 had an expired Comprehensive Records Check Determination on file that expired on November 11, 2025. The staff was observed caring for children in classroom E-3L.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

IMMEDIATE CORRECTION - The Center will ensure that each Director, Employee and Provisional Employee has a Comprehensive Records Check Determination on file that has been issued within the past five years. 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 ensure CRC rules are maintained.

**Correction Deadline: 5/14/2026**

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|                                            |            |
|--------------------------------------------|------------|
| <b>591-1-1-.14 First Aid &amp; CPR(CR)</b> | <b>Met</b> |
|--------------------------------------------|------------|

**Comment**

At least one staff person with current and valid pediatric first aid and pediatric CPR observed in each classroom where children were present.

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|                              |            |
|------------------------------|------------|
| <b>591-1-1-.31 Staff(CR)</b> | <b>Met</b> |
|------------------------------|------------|

**Comment**

Staff observed to be compliant with applicable laws and regulations.

|                                 |
|---------------------------------|
| <b>Staffing and Supervision</b> |
|---------------------------------|

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|                                                          |            |
|----------------------------------------------------------|------------|
| <b>591-1-1-.32 Staff:Child Ratios and Group Size(CR)</b> | <b>Met</b> |
|----------------------------------------------------------|------------|

**Comment**

Center observed to maintain appropriate staff:child ratios.

**Comment**

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

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|                                    |            |
|------------------------------------|------------|
| <b>591-1-1-.32 Supervision(CR)</b> | <b>Met</b> |
|------------------------------------|------------|

**Comment**

Adequate supervision observed on this date.