**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:** 7/30/2026 **VisitType:** Licensing Study **Arrival:** 8:55 AM **Departure:** 1:15 PM

**CCLC-53587**
**Growing Gardens Learning Center**
815 US Highway 27 Cataula, GA 31804 Harris County
(762) 524-7651

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

**Mailing Address**
Same

Quality Rated: ★ ★

| Compliance Zone Designation | | |
|---|---|---|
| 07/30/2026 | Licensing Study | Good Standing |
| 05/11/2026 | Complaint Closure | Good Standing |
| 04/30/2026 | Complaint Investigation Follow Up | 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**

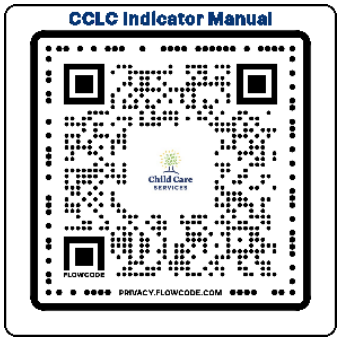
| Building | Room | Age Group | Staff | Children | NC/C | Max 35 SF. | 35 SF. Comp. | Max 25 SF. | 25 SF. Comp. | Notes |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Main | Room A | Infants and One Year Olds | 1 | 3 | C | 13 | C | NA | NA | Outside |
| Main | Room B | One Year Olds | 2 | 7 | C | 17 | C | NA | NA | Outside |
| Main | Room C | Two Year Olds | 1 | 6 | C | 20 | C | NA | NA | Outside |
| Main | Room D | Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds | 2 | 15 | C | 20 | C | NA | NA | Centers |
| Main | Room E | | 0 | 0 | C | 20 | C | NA | NA | |
| Main | Room F | Five Year Olds and Six Year Olds and Over | 1 | 12 | C | 27 | C | NA | NA | Centers |
| | | Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 117 | | | Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0 | | | | | |
| Total # Children this Date: 43 | | Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 117 | | | Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0 | | | | | |

| Building | Playground | Playground Occupancy | Playground Compliance |
|---|---|---|---|
| Main | Playground A | 15 | C |
| Main | Playground B | 65 | C |

**Enrolled Children**

| Under 1 years | 1 years | 2 years | 3 years | 4 years | 5 years (Prekonly) | 5 years and older |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2 | 7 | 6 | 8 | 7 | 0 | 10 |

**Comments**
Licensing study completed on July 30, 2026.




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.

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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**

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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.

## Children's Records

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

**Technical Assistance**
591-1-1-.08(1) - Please continue to monitor the children's enrollment forms to ensure they are filled out completely.

**Correction Deadline: 7/30/2026**

## 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**

**Comment**
Please be mindful to keep items that pose a hazard inaccessible to children.

**Technical Assistance**
591-1-1-.25(3) - Please continue to monitor ventilation fans in the restrooms to ensure they are operating properly.

**Correction Deadline: 7/30/2026**

**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 on the rear/left side playground the metal purple, green and yellow climbing structure had two inches when three inches was required. The swings had three inches when six inches was required. Please continue to ensure all the fall zones are covered with the required resilient surfacing.

**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: 8/9/2026**

**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 there were exposed tree roots on the left side playground posing a tripping hazard.

**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: 8/3/2026**

## Food Service

**591-1-1-.15 Food Service & Nutrition** **Met**

**Comment**
Infant feeding forms are updated regularly.

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

**Comment**
Kitchen appears clean and well organized on this date.

## 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**
Staff were observed to remind children to wash hands 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**
Age-appropriate discussion and/or redirection observed.

**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)** **Met**

**Comment**
Complete documentation of transportation observed on this date.

## 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

**Records Reviewed: 13** **Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 8**

Staff # 1 Not Met
Date of Hire: 03/08/2024
"Missing/Incomplete Components"
.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training

Staff # 2 Not Met
Date of Hire: 11/18/2024
"Missing/Incomplete Components"
.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training

Staff # 3 Not Met
Date of Hire: 07/18/2023
"Missing/Incomplete Components"
.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training

Staff # 4 Not Met
Date of Hire: 01/13/2025
"Missing/Incomplete Components"
.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training

Staff # 6 Not Met
Date of Hire: 02/25/2025
"Missing/Incomplete Components"
.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training

Staff # 11 Not Met
Date of Hire: 12/15/2020
"Missing/Incomplete Components"
.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training

Staff # 12 Not Met
Date of Hire: 03/22/2022
"Missing/Incomplete Components"
.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training

Staff # 13 Not Met
"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.

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

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

**Comment**
Complete first aid kits observed in center and on vehicles on this date.

**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** **Not Met**

**Finding**
591-1-1-.33(5)(b)1. requires the annual ten (10) clock hours of training shall include at least two (2) hours in evidence based, developmentally appropriate language and literacy practices. It was determined based on a review of records that eight staff had not completed the required two hour evidence based, developmentally appropriate language and literacy practices for 2025.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**
The Center will plan and schedule the required 10 hours of annual training each year to include a least two (2) hours in evidence based, developmentally appropriate language and literacy practices and follow up to ensure the training is completed.

**Correction Deadline: 12/31/2026**

**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**
Adequate supervision observed on this date.