



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: 8/20/2025 **VisitType:** Monitoring Visit

Arrival: 10:20 AM **Departure:** 12:15 PM

CCLC-52927

Rays of Hope Childcare

745 West Moores Crossing Road Thomaston, GA 30286 Upson
County
(706) 647-0050 raysofhopecildcare@gmail.com

Regional Consultant

Brandi Mangino

Phone: (478) 314-9726

Fax: (478) 599-0169

brandi.mangino@decal.ga.gov

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. 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.
08/20/2025	Monitoring Visit	Good Standing	
07/25/2025	Complaint Investigation Follow Up	Good Standing	
01/09/2025	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
Main	A - (1R) 5-12 yrs		0	0	C	10	C	14	C	
Main	B- (2R) 1's	One Year Olds	1	8	C	9	C	NA	NA	Free Play
Main	C- (3R) 2's	Two Year Olds	1	7	C	12	C	NA	NA	Free Play
Main	D - (3L) 4's	Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds	1	8	C	21	C	NA	NA	Circle Time
Main	E - (2L) 3's	Three Year Olds	1	9	C	13	C	NA	NA	Circle Time
Main	F - (1L) 6wks-18mths	Infants and One Year Olds	2	10	C	19	C	NA	NA	Nap,Floor Play

Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 84

Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 87

Total # Children this Date: 42

Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 84

Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 87

Building @25 capacity limited by Health Department Limitations

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	Playground A - 6wks-12 yrs	111	C

Enrolled Children						
Under 1 years	1 years	2 years	3 years	4 years	5 years (Prekonly)	5 years and older
11	8	7	10	8	0	20

Comments

The purpose of this visit was to conduct a Monitoring Visit.

The CCS Consultant discussed and left a copy of the updated Child Care Weather Watch Chart with the program today. Weather does not permit outdoor play when there is active precipitation or when weather advisories are in effect. Consult the Child Care Weather Watch Chart resource for further guidance, considering specific weather conditions.

Plan of Improvement: Developed This Date

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

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)

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Same

The following information is associated with a MV:

Activities and Equipment

Records Reviewed: 8

Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 2

Staff # 1

Not Met

Date of Hire: 04/01/2025

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.14(2)-First Aid Missing,.14(2)-CPR missing

Staff # 4

Not Met

Date of Hire: 05/21/2025

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(3)-Health & Safety Certificate

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

Technical Assistance

Technical Assistance

Consultant discussed that in Room C the kitchen and shelf in the Library area needed to be secured.

Correction Deadline: 8/20/2025

Prior Visits: 04/26/2021

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

N/A

Comment

Center does not provide swimming activities.

Facility

Records Reviewed: 8

Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 2

Staff # 1

Not Met

Date of Hire: 04/01/2025

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.14(2)-First Aid Missing,.14(2)-CPR missing

Staff # 4

Not Met

Date of Hire: 05/21/2025

Records Reviewed: 8**Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 2**"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(3)-Health & Safety Certificate

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****Technical Assistance**

Consultant discussed 7 outlets in Room A needed to be covered.

Correction Deadline: 9/19/2025**Prior Visits: 04/26/2021****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 following hazards were accessible to children in care:

Room E restroom:

lysol

baby wipes

mop

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: 8/20/2025**Prior Visits: 01/12/2023, 08/16/2022****591-1-1-.26 Playgrounds(CR)****Technical Assistance****Technical Assistance**

Consultant discussed the fencing throughout needed to meet the 48 inch requirements.

Correction Deadline: 8/20/2025**Prior Visits: 04/26/2021****Health and Hygiene****Records Reviewed: 8****Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 2**

Staff # 1

Not Met

Date of Hire: 04/01/2025

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.14(2)-First Aid Missing,.14(2)-CPR missing

Staff # 4

Not Met

Date of Hire: 05/21/2025

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(3)-Health & Safety Certificate

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

Staff stated proper knowledge of diapering procedures.

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

Please ensure lids remain on trash containing organic waste.

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

Comment

The Provider currently does not dispense/administer medication.

Policies and Procedures

Records Reviewed: 8

Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 2

Staff # 1

Not Met

Date of Hire: 04/01/2025

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.14(2)-First Aid Missing,.14(2)-CPR missing

Staff # 4

Not Met

Date of Hire: 05/21/2025

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(3)-Health & Safety Certificate

591-1-1-.21 Operational Policies & Procedures

Technical Assistance

Technical Assistance

Discussed updating the Center's policies and procedures to include the program's practices regarding the expulsion and suspension of children enrolled for care within the description of behavior management and discipline actions used by the Center.

Also discussed to ensure 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.

Correction Deadline: 8/25/2025

Prior Visits: 04/26/2021

Safety

Records Reviewed: 8

Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 2

Staff # 1

Not Met

Date of Hire: 04/01/2025

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.14(2)-First Aid Missing,.14(2)-CPR missing

Staff # 4

Not Met

Date of Hire: 05/21/2025

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(3)-Health & Safety Certificate

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

Met

Comment

Age-appropriate discussion and/or redirection observed.

591-1-1-.36 Transportation(CR)

Met

Comment

Center does not provide routine transportation.

Sleeping & Resting Equipment

Staff # 1 Not Met

Date of Hire: 04/01/2025

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.14(2)-First Aid Missing,.14(2)-CPR missing

Staff # 4 Not Met

Date of Hire: 05/21/2025

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(3)-Health & Safety Certificate

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

Technical Assistance

Technical Assistance

Consultant discussed the mats in Room E were in need of being replaced due to foam.

Correction Deadline: 8/30/2025

Prior Visits: 04/26/2021

Staff Records

Staff # 1 Not Met

Date of Hire: 04/01/2025

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.14(2)-First Aid Missing,.14(2)-CPR missing

Staff # 4 Not Met

Date of Hire: 05/21/2025

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(3)-Health & Safety Certificate

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

Met

Comment

Criminal record checks were observed to be complete.

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

Not Met

Finding

591-1-1-.14(1)(a) requires all Staff who provide direct care to children must obtain certification in a biennial training program in pediatric cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and a triennial training program in pediatric first aid within the first 45 days of employment. Current and valid evidence of the successful completion of such training shall be maintained on the Center's premises. The hours obtained completing this certification will not count towards the required annual training hours. It was determined based on a review of records that one staff member did not have first aid and CPR training on file for viewing and were hired at the center over 45 days ago.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

All caregiver Staff will complete the required training. The Director will send copies via email verification of completed CPR/First Aid certification to the Consultant upon completion and will develop a plan to ensure all caregiver Staff have completed this training within the first 45 days of employment and that evidence of successful completion of the training is on file available for inspection.

Correction Deadline: 9/19/2025

Prior Visits: 08/26/2021

Technical Assistance

Discussed that effective July 1, 2025, new staff are required to obtain pediatric First Aid and pediatric CPR training within 45 days of employment. It was further discussed that programs must have at least one person with current pediatric First Aid and pediatric CPR training in each classroom at all times.

Correction Deadline: 8/30/2025

591-1-1-.33 Staff Training**Not Met****Technical Assistance**

Discussed that all Employees, including volunteers, independent contractors, students-in-training, etc. should have a completed initial program orientation form on file.

Please review and ensure that each employee had this on file.

Correction Deadline: 8/21/2025

Finding

591-1-1-.33(3)(a)-(k) requires each Staff member with direct care responsibilities to complete health and safety orientation training within the first 90 days of employment. The state-approved training hours obtained will count toward required first year training hours. The training must address the following health and safety topics: a) prevention and control of infectious diseases (including immunizations); b) prevention of sudden infant death syndrome and use of safe sleeping practices; c) administration of medication, consistent with standards for parental consent; d) prevention of and response to emergencies due to food and allergic reactions; e) building and physical premises safety, including identification of and protection from hazards that can cause bodily injury such as electrical hazards, bodies of water, and vehicular traffic; f) prevention of shaken baby syndrome, abusive head trauma and child maltreatment; g) emergency preparedness and response planning for emergencies resulting from a natural disaster or a human-caused event (such as violence at a child care facility); h) handling and storage of hazardous materials and the appropriate disposal of bio contaminants; i) precautions in transporting children; j) recognition and reporting of child abuse and neglect; and k) child development to include all major domains: cognitive; social and emotional; physical development and motor skills; communication, language, and literacy; and approaches to play and learning. It was determined based on a review of records that one staff over 90 days of hire did not have health and safety orientation on file.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will develop and implement a plan to schedule and track this training for all employees based on their hire dates and will ensure that the training includes all required components as required.

Correction Deadline: 9/19/2025

Prior Visits: 08/16/2022**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**Records Reviewed: 8****Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 2**

Staff # 1

Not Met

Date of Hire: 04/01/2025

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.14(2)-First Aid Missing,.14(2)-CPR missing

Staff # 4

Not Met

Date of Hire: 05/21/2025

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(3)-Health & Safety Certificate

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

Center observed to maintain appropriate staff:child ratios.

Comment

Adequate supervision observed on this date.