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: 3/13/2026 **VisitType:** Licensing Study **Arrival:** 9:30 AM **Departure:** 2:00 PM

CCLC-63961
Growing Hearts and Hands Early Learning Center, Inc.
1103 N. Highway 113 Carrollton, GA 30117 Carroll County
(678) 601-3067

Regional Consultant
Kara Williams
Phone: ()
Fax:
kara.williams@decal.ga.gov

Mailing Address
Same

Quality Rated: ★ ★

Compliance Zone Designation		
03/13/2026	Licensing Study	Good Standing
09/12/2025	Monitoring Visit	Good Standing
06/24/2025	Complaint Investigation by Phone	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

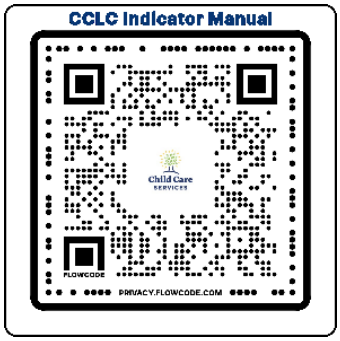
Building	Room	Age Group	Staff	Children	NC/C	Max 35 SF.	35 SF. Comp.	Max 25 SF.	25 SF. Comp.	Notes
Main	1L-Gym/Activity Room	One Year Olds	1	7	C	47	C	NA	NA	Free Play
Main	1R - 18mths - 2yrs	Two Year Olds	1	7	C	8	C	NA	NA	Transitioning,Circle Time
Main	2L- 3yrs - 4yrs		0	0	C	7	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
Main	3L- 2yrs old	Infants	1	4	C	5	C	NA	NA	Floor Play
Main	3R - 6wks - 18mths	Three Year Olds	1	10	C	16	C	NA	NA	Centers
		Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 83			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0					
Total # Children this Date: 28		Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 83			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0					

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	Playground	18	C

Enrolled Children

Under 1 years	1 years	2 years	3 years	4 years	5 years (Prekonly)	5 years and older
6	6	70	11	0	0	0

Comments
Discussed compliance with State rules and regulations to support ongoing health and safety of children in care. The program is operating in a different space that is currently unlicensed.



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

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.decal.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@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-.03 Activities **Met**

Comment
Age-appropriate activities observed throughout the center.

Comment
Lesson Plans were observed to be posted and reflected the current weeks activities in each classroom.

591-1-1-.12 Equipment & Toys(CR) **Not Met**

Finding
591-1-1-.12(4) requires that equipment and furniture is secured if it is of a weight or mass that could cause injury from tipping, falling, or being pulled or pushed over. It was determined based on observation that in Main 3R 6wks-18mths a "Hisense" TV was unsecure on the lower shelf in the middle of the classroom that presented a tipping hazard.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
The Center will ensure that the identified equipment or furniture and any other such existing or future items are secured adequately and will have a system for checking these for stability.

Correction Deadline: 3/13/2026

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.

Correction Deadline: 7/4/2025

Corrected on 3/13/2026
.08(2) - The previous citation was observed corrected on this date. Each child had evidence of age-appropriate immunizations or a signed affidavit against such immunizations on file.

Facility

591-1-1-.06 Bathrooms **Met**

Comment
Please monitor bathrooms for necessary supplies.

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

Comment
Please contact consultant. Program currently operating in an unlicensed space.

591-1-1-.25 Physical Plant - Safe Environment(CR) **Not Met**

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 the following hazards were observed accessible to children:
* Classroom 1L- A tube of Diaper rash Ointment, and baby wipes labeled "keep out of reach of children", were left accessible in children's cubbies.
* Classroom 3R- A plunger, toilet brush, and Staff book bag were left accessible. Additionally, the cabinet under the sink was left unlocked with Lysol Spray, Bleach, and unlabeled cleaning supply accessible to children.
* Classroom 1R- The cabinet under the sink was left unlocked with Lysol wipes, Lysol spray, water waste container, and Awesome cleaning solution accessible to children.

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: 3/13/2026

Recited on 3/13/2026

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 Main Playground had 1 inch of mulch within the fall zone of the swing set and jungle gym. Additionally, white and grey rocks were present through out the playground when approved resilient surfacing is required.

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: 3/23/2026

Food Service

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

Comment
CACFP Meal Pattern Requirements effective October 1, 2017 will be implemented October 1, 2018: 3 Components for breakfast: Grains, Vegetables, Fruits or both, Milk
5 Components for lunch – Grains, Meat/Meat alternates, Fruits, Vegetable, and Milk OR Grains, Meat/Meat alternates, 2 different types of vegetables, and Milk
2 of 5 Components for snack

Provided Updated CACFP Infant Meal pattern and Child/Adult Meal pattern flyers.

The Crediting Handbook for the CACFP can be located on DECAL and USDA’s website:
DECAL
http://decal.ga.gov/CACFP/Handbook.aspx
USDA
http://www.fns.usda.gov/cacfp/cacfp-handbooks

591-1-1-.18 Kitchen Operations **Not Met**

Finding
591-1-1-.18(6) requires that non-disposable dishes, glasses and silverware are properly cleaned by pre-rinsing, or scraping, washing, sanitizing and air drying. A three (3) compartment sink or a dishwasher with a sani-cycle or capability of maintaining a rinse water temperature of a minimum of one hundred fifty (150) degrees Fahrenheit and a two (2) compartment sink shall be available. Dishes, glasses and silverware shall be rinsed in the approved dishwasher or rinsed in a chemical sanitizer and air dried. It was determined based on observation that the kitchen had no sink or dishwasher accessible for sanitizing dishes when a three (3) compartment sink or a dishwasher with a sani-cycle or capability of maintaining a rinse water temperature of a minimum of one hundred fifty (150) degrees Fahrenheit and a two (2) compartment sink was required.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
The Center will train Staff in the required dishwashing methods, will repair or replace any equipment that cannot meet the standards, and will routinely check equipment and monitor dishwashing.

Correction Deadline: 3/13/2026

Health and Hygiene

591-1-1-.07 Children's Health **Not Met**

Finding
591-1-1-.07(5) requires Center Staff to not permit children to wear around their necks or attach to their clothing pacifiers or other hazardous items. It was determined based on observation that in Classroom 3L-2yrs old two infants had pacifier attachments that presented a choking hazard.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
The Center will instruct Staff regarding this safety requirement.

Correction Deadline: 3/13/2026

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

Comment
Proper diapering procedures observed.

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

Comment
Please ensure lids remain on trash containing organic waste.

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.

Organization

591-1-1-.16 Governing Body & License **Not Met**

Finding
591-1-1-.16(f) requires the Center to submit an application for an amended License at least 30 days prior to a change if there is a change in the name of the program or Center, changes in the ages of the children to be served, an increase in the regular hours of operation such that the Center would be providing evening or night-time care in addition to day-time care, changes in the services provided, or additions to or changes in the use of the building by the licensed Center. If an emergency situation arises which makes it impossible to give thirty (30) days' notice, the management of the Center shall notify the Department by telephone and shall submit an application for an amended License as soon as management becomes aware of the change that will be necessitated by the emergency situation. In no case, however, shall a new owner operate the Center without first securing a new License or Permit from the Department. It was determined based on observation that the Center changed to a new building on the same property with the same address July 2025 and did not submit an application for an amended License at least 30 days prior to a change.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
An application for amendment and all necessary documentation will be submitted.

Correction Deadline: 3/13/2026

Policies and Procedures

591-1-1-.21 Operational Policies & Procedures **Not Met**

Finding
591-1-1-.21(3) requires that the Center conduct drills for fire, tornado and other emergency situations. The fire drills will be conducted monthly and tornado and other emergency situation drills will be conducted every six months. The Center shall maintain documentation of the dates and times of these drills for two years. It was determined based on a review of records that the Center did not conduct and document Tornado Drills and Lock Down Drills for 2025 or 2026.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
The Center will hold the drills as required and keep the documentation of the drills on file for two years.

Correction Deadline: 3/18/2026

Safety

591-1-1-.05 Animals **Met**

Comment
Animals maintained clean and appropriately caged.

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) **N/A**

Comment
Center does not participate in field trips at this time.

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

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.

Comment
Pleasant naptime environment observed.

Correction Deadline: 9/12/2025

Corrected on 3/13/2026
.30(2) - The previous citation was observed corrected on his date. Infants were seen being placed on their back for nap time, no bottles or blankets were placed in the cribs, and all sleeping infants were resting in a crib.

Correction Deadline: 9/12/2025

Corrected on 3/13/2026
.30(2)(c) - The previous citation was observed corrected on this date. All infants were resting in a crib.

Staff Records

Records Reviewed: 6 **Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 2**

Staff # 2 Not Met

Date of Hire: 05/02/2024

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training

Staff # 6 Not Met

Date of Hire: 01/26/2023

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(4)-Food Prep Training Missing 4 hrs.,.14(2)-CPR missing,.14(2)-First Aid Missing

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) **Met**

Comment
Evidence observed of 50% of center Staff certified in First Aid and CPR.

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

Finding
591-1-1-.33(4) requires within the first year of employment, the Director and person with primary responsibility for food preparation shall have four clock hours of training in food nutrition planning, preparation, serving, proper dish washing and food storage. It was determined based on a review of records that Staff in the kitchen with primary responsibility for food preparation did not have four clock hours of training in food nutrition planning, preparation, serving, proper dish washing and food storage.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
The Center will schedule food preparation training, as required, and follow up to ensure the training is completed.

Correction Deadline: 4/12/2026

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 Staff #2 hired May 2, 2024 did not have annual ten (10) clock hours of training. Additionally, no Staff had at least two (2) hours in evidence based, developmentally appropriate language and literacy practices training on file.

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: 4/12/2026

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
Adequate supervision observed on this date.

Correction Deadline: 9/12/2025

Corrected on 3/13/2026
.32(7) - The previous citation was observed corrected on his date. Staff was present at all times while supervising children.