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: 7/27/2026 **VisitType:** POI Follow Up **Arrival:** 8:15 AM **Departure:** 9:40 AM

CCLC-52927
Rays of Hope Childcare
745 West Moores Crossing Road Thomaston, GA 30286 Upson County
(706) 647-0050

Regional Consultant
Brandi Mangino
Phone: (404) 548-4987
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brandi.mangino@decal.ga.gov

Mailing Address
Same

Quality Rated: ★ ★

Compliance Zone Designation		
07/27/2026	POI Follow Up	Support
07/09/2026	Monitoring Visit	Good Standing
01/06/2026	Licensing Study	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

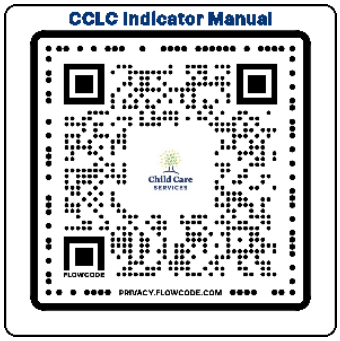
Building	Room	Age Group	Staff	Children	NC/C	Max 35 SF.	35 SF. Comp.	Max 25 SF.	25 SF. Comp.	Notes
Main	A - (1R) 5-12 yrs	Four Year Olds and Six Year Olds and Over	1	14	C	10	NC	14	C	Transitioning,Breakfast
Main	B- (2R) 1's	One Year Olds	1	3	C	9	C	NA	NA	Breakfast
Main	C- (3R) 2's	Two Year Olds	1	3	C	12	C	NA	NA	Breakfast
Main	D - (3L) 4's	Three Year Olds	1	10	C	21	C	NA	NA	Breakfast
Main	E - (2L) 3's		0	0	C	13	C	NA	NA	
Main	F - (1L) 6wks-18mths	Infants and One Year Olds	1	3	C	19	C	NA	NA	Breakfast
		Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 84			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 88					
Total # Children this Date: 33		Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 84			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 88					

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

Comments
The purpose of the visit was a POI follow-up.

A 1-day letter was left on this date.

A plan of improvement will need to be submitted by August 10, 2026 through decal koala. The plan will need to include the date of correction, how the rule will be corrected and maintained.



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.

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 POI Follow Up:

Facility

591-1-1-.19 License Capacity(CR) **Not Met**

Finding
591-1-1-.19(1) requires a Center to provide 35 square feet of usable space per child, which will determine the Center's License capacity. It was determined based on observation that the 1R classroom had 14 children in a space that was licensed for 10 children.

Correction Deadline: 7/27/2026

Recited on 7/27/2026

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

Correction Deadline: 7/9/2026

Corrected on 7/27/2026
.25(3) - Citation corrected.

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

Correction Deadline: 7/23/2026

Corrected on 7/27/2026
.26(4) - Citation corrected.

Correction Deadline: 7/9/2026

Corrected on 7/27/2026
.26(9) - CItation corrected.

Food Service

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

Correction Deadline: 7/9/2026

Corrected on 7/27/2026
.15(1) - Citation corrected. Rule was disucssed as children were served French toast sticks and fruit was later brought out after consultant was walking around.

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 in Room C, Room E and Room F toddler children were served whole french toast sicks and they were not cut to prevent chocking.

Correction Deadline: 7/27/2026

Finding
591-1-1-.15(6)(b) requires that food and beverages be served in individual plates or bowls and with individual glasses or cups. It was determined based on observation that children throughout were not given plates for the food. In Room A the children were observed to be given french toast sticks to hold in their hands, Room B and Room F the children's food was placed on the table.

Correction Deadline: 7/27/2026

Health and Hygiene

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

Correction Deadline: 7/9/2026

Corrected on 7/27/2026
.10(4) - Citation corrected.

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

Correction Deadline: 7/9/2026

Corrected on 7/27/2026
.17(6) - CItation corrected.

Correction Deadline: 7/9/2026

Corrected on 7/27/2026
.17(7) - Citation corrected.

Correction Deadline: 7/9/2026

Corrected on 7/27/2026
.17(8) - Citation corrected.

Policies and Procedures

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

Correction Deadline: 7/16/2026

Corrected on 7/27/2026
.21(2)(r) - Citation corrected.

Correction Deadline: 7/31/2026

Corrected on 7/27/2026
.21(3) - Citation corrected.

Sleeping & Resting Equipment

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

Technical Assistance
Please ensure that children that come in and go back to sleep are provider the cot or mat.

Correction Deadline: 8/6/2026

Staff Records

591-1-1-.09 Criminal Records and Comprehensive Background Checks(CR) **Not Met**

Finding
591-1-1-.09(1)(a) requires that a Center ensure that every actual and potential Director, Employee and Provisional Employee of a Child Care Learning Center submit both a Records Check Application to the Department and Fingerprints to an authorized fingerprinting site. It was determined based on observation that staff member #5 was present with children and a new background check application had not been submitted on the staff.

Correction Deadline: 7/27/2026

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 a review of records that staff member #5 was present in Room A without a satisfactory background check on file.

Correction Deadline: 7/27/2026

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

Correction Deadline: 7/9/2026

Corrected on 7/27/2026
.14(1)(a) - Citation corrected.

Correction Deadline: 7/9/2026

Corrected on 7/27/2026
.14(2)(b) - Citation corrected.

591-1-1-.33 Staff Training **Met**

Correction Deadline: 7/23/2026

Corrected on 7/27/2026
.33(3)(a)-(k) - Citation observed to be corrected.

Staffing and Supervision

591-1-1-.32 Supervision(CR) **Not Met**

Finding
591-1-1-.32(7) requires that children be supervised at all times appropriate to the individual age, needs and capabilities of each child. Such supervision must include, but not be limited to, indoor and outdoor activities, mealtime, nap time, transportation, field trips, and transitions between activities. "Supervision" means that the appropriate number of Staff members are physically present in the area where children are being cared for and are providing watchful oversight to the children, volunteers and Students-in-Training. The persons supervising in the child care area must be alert, positioned to maximize their ability to hear and see the children at all times, and able to respond promptly to the needs and actions of the children being supervised, as well as the actions of the volunteers and Students-in-Training, and provide timely attention to the children's actions and needs. Staff shall be attentive and participating with all children during mealtimes and shall be seated within an arm’s length away from children thirty-six (36) months of age and younger. It was determined based on observation that in Room E (2L) 1-year-old children were eating breakfast and the staff member was not seated within arm length and had her back turned and was in the wooden cabinet.

Correction Deadline: 7/27/2026

Recited on 7/27/2026