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: 9/23/2026 **VisitType:** Licensing Study **Arrival:** 8:05 AM **Departure:** 10:45 AM

CCLC-54749
High Hope Academy
2732 South Central Ave. Tifton, GA 31794 Tift County
(229) 387-0687

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

Mailing Address
Same

Quality Rated: ★ ★

Compliance Zone Designation		
09/23/2026	Licensing Study	Good Standing
06/09/2026	Monitoring Visit	Good Standing
10/21/2025	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

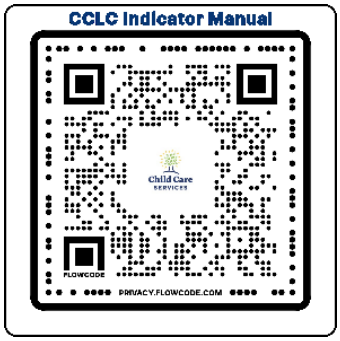
Building	Room	Age Group	Staff	Children	NC/C	Max 35 SF.	35 SF. Comp.	Max 25 SF.	25 SF. Comp.	Notes
Building 1	Room A	One Year Olds and Two Year Olds	2	10	C	19	C	NA	NA	Transitioning
		Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 19			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 86					
Building 2	Room B	Three Year Olds	1	8	C	19	C	27	C	Circle Time
Building 2	Room C	GA PreK	2	10	C	17	C	24	C	Transitioning
Building 2	Room D		0	0	C	31	C	NA	NA	
		Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 67			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 86					
Total # Children this Date: 28		Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 86			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 86					

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Building 1	Playground - A (Large)	35	C

Enrolled Children

Infant (0-12 months)	Toddler (1-2 yrs)	Preschool (3-5yrs/full time care)	School Age (before/after care only)	GA PreK only	Summer Only
0	16	10	25	10	0

Comments
The purpose of the visit was to conduct a Licensing Study.



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.



For additional information regarding the full compliance inspection results of this program or any licensed program in the state, access the Child Care Services Compliance-at-a Glance website by scanning this QR code or visiting: https://families.decal.ga.gov.

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 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

Records Reviewed: 5 **Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 5**

Child # 1 Not Met
"Missing/Incomplete Components"
.08(1)-Parent Names, Work Numbers

Child # 2 Not Met
"Missing/Incomplete Components"
.08(1)-Parent Names, Work Numbers

Child # 3 Not Met
"Missing/Incomplete Components"
.08(3)-Address of Release Person Missing

Child # 4 Not Met
"Missing/Incomplete Components"
.08(1)-Allergies and Disabilities

Child # 5 Not Met
"Missing/Incomplete Components"
.08(1)-Parent Names, Work Numbers

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

Technical Assistance
Consultant discussed that all areas of the enrollment applications need to be filled out with no blacks. If an area cannot be provided by the parent it needs to listed "none" or "n/a".

Correction Deadline: 9/23/2026

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) **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 accessible to children in care:

Building 1-Room A:
trash bags at the bottom of the diapering station

Building 2:

Room B:
trash bags in the cubbites
adults scissors and stapler on the staff desk

Room C:
hand sanitizer and stapler on the staff desk

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: 9/23/2026

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

Comment
Playground observed to be clean and in good repair on this date.

Health and Hygiene

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
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-.36 Transportation(CR) **Not Met**

Technical Assistance
Consultant discussed that an emergency medical forms should be filled out with no blacks for each child transported. The form needs to be in the transportation books that are taken on the bus routes.

Correction Deadline: 9/28/2026

Finding
591-1-1-.36(7)(c)2. requires that the driver or other designated person shall immediately document in writing, with a check or other mark/symbol to account for each child listed on the passenger transportation checklist each time a child enters and exits the vehicle. The driver or other designated staff person shall document in writing with a different mark/symbol to account for each child listed on the passenger transportation checklist who was not present on the vehicle for any reason. An explanation shall be documented in writing whenever a child is transported to a field trip site but is not present on the return trip to the Center. It was determined based on a review of records that on September 8, 2026, an unload was not accounted for on any children when the center bus returned from Annie Bell Clark.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
The driver/other designated person will immediately document in writing with a check/mark/symbol each time a child gets on and off the vehicle.

Correction Deadline: 9/24/2026

Finding
591-1-1-.36(7)(c)3. requires that the driver or other designated person document in writing the date and time of arrival and departure each time the vehicle departs from the Center, is loaded or unloaded at each school and when the vehicle returns to the Center; each time the vehicle departs from the Center, arrives at the location where any child is picked up or dropped off and when the vehicle returns to the Center; each time the vehicle leaves the Center, arrives at a field trip destination, leaves a field trip destination, and returns to the Center. It was determined based on a review of records that the week of September 21, 2026, dates were not individually listed at the bottom of the transportation form. It was further determined that on September 17, 2026 and September 18, 2026, when the center bus returned to the center from G.O. Bailey, Charles Spencer and J.T. Reddick a return time was not listed. In addition, on September 18, 2026, when the center bus returned from Northside Primary a return time was not listed.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
The Center will ensure that each date and time of arrival and departure is documented by the driver or designated person with training, review and monitoring.

Correction Deadline: 9/24/2026

Finding
591-1-1-.36(7)(d)2. requires that the second designated Staff person conduct a check of the vehicle immediately upon the completion of the first check of the vehicle. The responsible person shall physically walk through the entire vehicle; visually inspect all seat surfaces, under all seats and in all compartments or recesses in the vehicle's interior; and sign the passenger transportation checklist(s), indicating all of the children have exited the vehicle. There shall be continuous watchful oversight of the vehicle between the first check and second check. It was determined based on a review of records that on September 21, 2026, during afternoon transportation from G.O. Bailey a second check was not completed when the bus returned to the center.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
The Center will train Staff who are or may be involved in transporting children in how to thoroughly inspect a vehicle and properly complete transportation documentation. The Center will review and monitor.

Correction Deadline: 9/23/2026

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. Cleaning and disinfecting of mats was discussed with the director on this date.

Staff Records

Staff # 1 Not Met

Date of Hire: 07/11/2025

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training

Staff # 2 Not Met

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.14(2)-First Aid Missing,.14(2)-CPR missing,.24(1)-Evidence of Orientation Missing

Staff # 3 Not Met

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training

Staff # 4 Not Met

Date of Hire: 10/11/2024

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training

Staff # 5 Not Met

Date of Hire: 07/05/2026 Reminder - Health & Safety training is required within 90 calendar days of hired

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

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

Staff # 6 Not Met

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training

Staff # 7 Not Met

Date of Hire: 07/24/2023

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training

Staff # 8 Not Met

Date of Hire: 02/04/2026

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(3)-Health & Safety Certificate,.14(2)-First Aid Missing,.14(2)-CPR missing

Staff # 9 Not Met

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.24(1)-Evidence of Orientation Missing

Staff # 10 Not Met

Date of Hire: 03/02/2026

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

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

Staff # 11 Not Met

Records Reviewed: 12	Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 11
Date of Hire: 08/03/2026	Reminder - Health & Safety training is required within 90 calendar days of hired

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.24(1)-Evidence of Orientation Missing,.14(2)-First Aid Missing,.14(2)-CPR missing,.31(2)(b)2.-Staff Qualifications-Education 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) **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 staff members #1, #6, #8, and #10 were over 45 days of hire and did not have first aid and CPR on file.

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: 9/23/2026

Finding
591-1-1-.14(2)(a) requires that when any child is present on the premises, at least fifty percent (50%) of the caregiver staff present shall be trained in pediatric cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and pediatric first aid. It was determined based on a reivew of records that the center had two staff members currently trained in first aid and CPR.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
A minimum of 50% of all caregiver Staff on the premises must successfully complete a biennial training program in cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and a triennial training program in first aid taught by certified or licensed health care professionals or trainers and must deal with the provision of emergency care to infants and children. The Director will send copies via email of verification of completed CPR/First Aid certification to the Consultant upon completion.

Correction Deadline: 10/23/2026

Finding
591-1-1-.14(2)(b) requires that there must always be one staff person present in each classroom where children are present that has current and valid pediatric cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and pediatric first aid training. It was determined based on a review of records that the center had three classrooms in use and no staff present in the classrooms had current first aid and CPR.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
The Director will schedule and/or position caregiver Staff throughout the Center to ensure at least one currently pediatric CPR and First Aid trained Staff person is present in each classroom where children are present.

Correction Deadline: 9/23/2026

Finding
591-1-1-.14(2)(d) requires the Center Director must have current evidence of successful completion of pediatric cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and pediatric first aid at all times. It was determined based on a review of records that the center director did not have first aid and CPR.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
The Center Director must successfully complete a biennial training program in cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and a triennial training program in first aid taught by certified or licensed health care professionals or trainers and must deal with the provision of emergency care to infants and children. The Director will send copies via email of verification of completed CPR/First Aid certification to the Consultant upon completion.

Correction Deadline: 10/23/2026

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

Technical Assistance
Consultant discussed that documentation of orientation needs to be completed for all staff members and independent contractors.

Correction Deadline: 9/23/2026

Correction Deadline: 9/30/2026

Corrected on 9/23/2026
.33(3)(a)-(k) - Citation observed to be corrected.

Finding
591-1-1-.33(5)(a) requires that every calendar year after the first year of employment, all supervisory and caregiver Personnel, except independent contractors, Students-in-Training and volunteers, shall attend ten (10) clock hours of diverse training which is offered by an accredited college, university or vocational program or other Department-approved source. It was determined based on a review of records that no staff members had a full 10 hours of annual training for the 2025 year.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
The Center will plan and schedule the required 10 hours of annual training each year and follow up to ensure the training is completed.

Correction Deadline: 10/23/2026

591-1-1-.31 Staff(CR) **Not Met**

Finding
591-1-1-.31(1)(b)2 requires the Director to possess at least one of the sets of minimum academic requirements and qualifying child care experience listed in Rule 591-1-1-.31(1)(b)2.(i-xiii). It was determined based on a review of records that the center director was hired in August 2026, and did not have the required credential.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
The Center will ensure that the Director meets the minimum education and work requirements and secure the necessary documentation.

Correction Deadline: 9/23/2026

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.