



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: 4/13/2026 **VisitType:** Initial Licensing Study

Arrival: 9:45 AM **Departure:** 2:00 PM

CCLC-68555

Growing Hearts and Hands Early Learning Center, Inc.
1103 N Hwy 113 Bldg1 (Kids Building) A Carrollton, GA 30117
Carroll County
(678) 601-3067

Application Services Unit Lead
Yolanda Harris
Phone: (679) 739-7046
Fax:
yolanda.harris@dec.al.ga.gov

Mailing Address
Same

Quality Rated: No

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.
04/13/2026	Initial Licensing Study	Good Standing	
			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 Building	Room A-2's	Two Year Olds	1	8	C	10	C	NA	NA	Circle Time,Transitioning
Main Building	Room B-2nd L-Infants	Infants	1	6	C	17	C	NA	NA	Nap,Floor Play
Main Building	Room C-2nd R-3's/4's	Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds	1	11	C	17	C	NA	NA	Free Play,Transitioning
Main Building	Room D-1st Right-1 year olds	One Year Olds	1	8	C	10	C	NA	NA	Outside
		Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 42			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0			Building @35 capacity limited by Playground Limitations		
Total # Children this Date: 33		Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 42			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0					

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main Building	Main Playground A	14	C

Comments

The child care program received a final license on this date. The facility does not carry liability insurance. The total license capacity is limited to 42 children due to the playground capacity.

Plan of Improvement: Developed This Date



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 Initial Licensing Study:

Activities and Equipment

591-1-1-.03 Activities

Met

Comment

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

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

Met

Correction Deadline: 3/13/2026

Corrected on 4/13/2026

.12(4) - The previous citation was observed corrected on this date. The consultant observed the TV mounted on the wall out of reach of children in care.

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

Met

Comment

Center does not provide swimming activities.

Children's Records

Records Reviewed: 5

Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 2

Child # 3

Not Met

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.08(1)-Doctor, Clinic, Phone Numbers,.08(1)-Emergency Contact information Missing

Child # 5

Not Met

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.08(1)-Doctor, Clinic, Phone Numbers

591-1-1-.08 Children's Records

Technical Assistance

Technical Assistance

On this date the consultant discussed with the director to ensure children records are completed.

Correction Deadline: 4/13/2026

Facility

591-1-1-.06 Bathrooms	Met
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Comment

Please monitor bathrooms for necessary supplies.

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

The program has the following capacity limitations: License capacity limited due to the playground capacity. License capacity is 42 children.

591-1-1-.25 Physical Plant - Safe Environment(CR)	Met
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Correction Deadline: 3/13/2026

Corrected on 4/13/2026

The previous citation was observed to be corrected on this date.

Classroom 1L hazards was not accessible to the children in care.

Classroom 3 R-cabinets observed to be locked and hazards inaccessible.

Classroom 1R-cabinets observed to be locked.

591-1-1-.25 Physical Plant-Structural/Mechanical	Not Met
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Finding

591-1-1-.25(4) requires the Center to maintain the temperature in the range of 65 to 85 degrees Fahrenheit and to ventilate the Center be ventilated either by mechanical or natural means for the purpose of providing fresh air and controlling unpleasant odors. Facilities which do not have a functioning central heating and air-conditioning system shall make fifty percent (50%) of all required windows operable for ventilation. Any openings used for ventilation shall be screened. It was determined based on observation, that in room C-second right(3-year-olds/4-year-olds class did not have a ventilation, exhaust fan located in the restroom.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will add screen(s), if needed. The designated person(s) will check frequently to ensure the Center's temperature is maintained at 65 to 85 degrees Fahrenheit, will monitor to ensure that either natural or mechanical ventilation provides fresh air and controls unpleasant odors, and that any openings used for ventilation are screened.

Correction Deadline: 4/13/2026

591-1-1-.26 Playgrounds(CR)	Not Met
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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: 4/17/2026

Recited on 4/13/2026

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

Center menu meets USDA guidelines.

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. The director will be providing a letter the landlord stating that the kitchen will be utilized by the kitchen staff in the church kitchen area.

Correction Deadline: 4/15/2026

Recited on 4/13/2026

Health and Hygiene

591-1-1-.07 Children's Health

Met

Correction Deadline: 3/13/2026

Corrected on 4/13/2026

The previous citation was observed corrected on this date. The consultant did not observe pacifier attachments on the children in care.

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.

Comment

Proper hand washing observed throughout the center on this date.

591-1-1-.20 Medications(CR)

Met

Comment

The Provider currently does not dispense/administer medication.

Organization

591-1-1-.16 Governing Body & License

Met

Correction Deadline: 3/13/2026

Corrected on 4/13/2026

The previous citation was observed corrected on this date. The consultant completed her Initial Licensing Visit on this date.

Policies and Procedures

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

Met

Correction Deadline: 3/18/2026

Corrected on 4/13/2026

.21(3) - Evaluation of the previous citation was deferred on this date to the next regulatory visit. The provider does not have evidence of 2025 drills and will completing them from ongoing.

Safety

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

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

Six cribs were presenting meeting safety compliance with Consumer Product Safety Commission (CSPC) and American Society of Testing and Material International (ASTM) safety standards as they were manufactured in October 2021/2022. Consultant discussed safe sleeping requirements with the director during the inspection visit.

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

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 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(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: 4/17/2026

Recited on 4/13/2026

Defer

Evaluation of the previous citation was deferred on this date to the next regulatory visit. Staff was not able to go back and take the 2025 training and will need to show evidence for 2026.

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: 4/30/2026

Recited on 1/1/0001

Comment

Staff observed to be compliant with applicable laws and regulations.

Staffing and Supervision

Comment

Center observed to maintain appropriate staff:child ratios.

Comment

A supervision plan was created on this date for the playground supervision, bathroom supervision and classroom supervision.

Comment

Staff observed to provide direct supervision and be attentive to children's needs.