



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: 6/23/2026 **VisitType:** Licensing Study

Arrival: 9:15 AM **Departure:** 4:00 PM

CCLC-3431

Heavenly Place Childcare Learning Center

1370 Shaw Road Hinesville, GA 31313 Liberty County
(912) 876-7608

CCS Coordinator

Rebekah Mullinax

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rebekah.mullinax@decal.ga.gov

Joint with: Emily Patterson

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.
06/23/2026	Licensing Study	Support	
12/09/2025	Monitoring Visit	Good Standing	
12/06/2024	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
1	Main room	Six Year Olds and Over	3	34	C	94	C	132	C	Transitioning
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 94			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 219							
2	1	Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds	1	11	C	20	C	NA	NA	Free Play
2	2		0	0	C	17	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
2	3	Three Year Olds	3	5	C	16	C	NA	NA	Transitioning
2	4	Two Year Olds	1	8	C	17	C	NA	NA	Free Play
2	5	One Year Olds	1	7	C	16	C	NA	NA	Free Play
2	6	Infants and One Year Olds	2	8	C	20	C	NA	NA	Free Play
2	7		0	0	C	19	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 125			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 219							
Total # Children this Date: 73			Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 219			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 219				

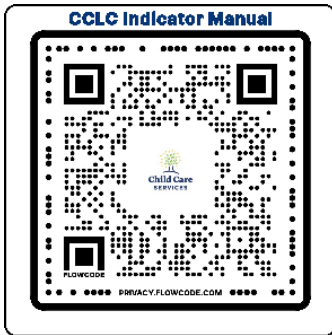
Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
1	Playground C	55	C
2	Playground A	28	C
2	Playground B	43	C

Enrolled Children						
Under 1 years	1 years	2 years	3 years	4 years	5 years (Prekonly)	5 years and older
9	8	11	11	14	14	34

Comments

The Consultant reviewed the visit report with the Director. A one day letter was left on June 23, 2026 and the Affidavit Verifying Completion of Background Check Video Units is due by June 30, 2026.

Plan of Improvement: To Be Submitted 07/08/2026



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.dec.al.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.dec.al.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@dec.al.ga.gov for more information. Free technical assistance is available!



Summary Report

Date: 6/23/2026 VisitType: Licensing Study

Arrival: 9:15 AM Departure: 4:00 PM

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The following information is associated with a Licensing Study:

Activities and Equipment

591-1-1-.03 Activities

Technical Assistance

Technical Assistance

Please ensure to keep current lesson plans on site that reflect appropriate instruction practices and activities to support children's development.

Correction Deadline: 6/23/2026

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

Not Met

Finding

591-1-1-.12(2) requires that all equipment and furniture be free from hazardous conditions such as, but not limited to, sharp rough edges or toxic paint; and be kept clean. It was determined based on observation that a black adult chair in Building 2 Room 5 was torn with exposed foam and rough plastic edging.

Correction Deadline: 6/23/2026

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.

Facility

Technical Assistance

Please ensure bathrooms have adequate ventilation to control odors.

Correction Deadline: 7/23/2026

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****Comment**

Please secure cleaning tools (i.e., broom, plunger) out of reach of children.

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 the following hazards were accessible to children:

- Building 2 Room 1- a Staff members bag, cup, and lip gloss was located on a shelf
- Building 2 Room 3- two empty plastic bags were stored in the children's cubbie area
- Building 2 Room 5- five bags of diapers labeled "Keep Out of Reach of Children", one ziploc bag, and one empty plastic grocery bag were stored in the children's cubbie area
- Boys Bathroom in Building 2- one plunger and one toilet brush
- Boys Bathroom in Building 1 Main- one plunger

Correction Deadline: 6/23/2026

Technical Assistance

Please ensure the premises be kept clean, free of debris and in good repair.

Correction Deadline: 6/23/2026

Finding

591-1-1-.25(8) requires protective caps on all unused electrical outlets within children's reach and requires that electrical outlets in use be made inaccessible to children. It was determined based on observation that 17 electrical outlets in Building 1 Main Room and two electrical outlets in Building 2 Room 1 did not have protective caps as required.

Correction Deadline: 6/23/2026

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

Not Met

Comment

Discussed maintenance of resilient surface. Please fluff and redistribute.

Finding

591-1-1-.26(4) requires that playgrounds be protected from traffic or other hazards by a (4) four foot high fence or other barrier approved by this Department. Fencing material shall not present a hazard to children and shall be maintained so as to prevent children from leaving the playground area by any means other than through an approved access route. Fence gates shall be kept closed except when persons are entering or exiting the area. It was determined based on observation the following hazards were observed:

Playground A:

- twenty five bolts measuring over 2 threads
- five and a half inch gap at the bottom of the double gate located on the back wall facing the church posing an entrapment hazard
- broken metal pole exposing rusted metal at the bottom of the fence located on the back wall facing the church
- two broken metal tension bands exposing sharp metal along the back wall facing the church
- a hole in the right side measuring six inches by three inches

Playground B:

- thirteen bolts measuring over 2 threads
 - a rusted exposed screw located on the gate between playground A and playground B
 - a broken cap exposing sharp metal on the gate located between playground A and playground B
- -----

Correction Deadline: 7/23/2026

Finding

591-1-1-.26(6) requires that playground equipment provide an opportunity for the children to engage in a variety of experiences and shall be age-appropriate. For example, toddlers shall not be permitted to swing in swings designed for School-age Children. The outdoor equipment shall be free of lead-based paint, sharp corners and shall be regularly maintained in such a way as to be free of rust and splinters that could pose significant safety hazard to the children. All equipment shall be arranged so as not to obstruct supervision of children. It was determined based on observation that the orange merry go round trike play structure on playground A had broken seats on all four seats. Additionally, the green merry go round trike on playground B had all five seats broken.

Correction Deadline: 7/23/2026

Food Service

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

Not Met

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 2-year-old children in Building 2 Room 4 and 1-year-old children in Building 2 Room 5 were served whole chicken strips and Hawaiian bread rolls for lunch that were not cut in such a way as to minimize choking.

Correction Deadline: 6/23/2026

591-1-1-.18 Kitchen Operations

Met

Comment

Kitchen appears clean and well organized on this date.

Health and Hygiene

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

Met

Comment

Proper diapering procedures observed.

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

Met

Comment

Proper hand washing observed throughout the center on this date.

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

Met

Comment

Discussed proper medication documentation and procedures.

Safety

591-1-1-.05 Animals

N/A

Comment

Center does not keep animals on premises.

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)

Met

Comment

Field trip documentation observed to be complete on this date.

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

Met

Comment

Complete documentation of transportation observed on this date.

Sleeping & Resting Equipment

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

Technical Assistance

Technical Assistance

Please ensure cots and mats are stored to prevent children's access to them and stored without touching any other cots, mats or bedding.

Correction Deadline: 6/23/2026

Staff Records

Records Reviewed: 17

Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 14

Staff # 1 Not Met

Date of Hire: 08/01/2000

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training

Staff # 2 Not Met

Date of Hire: 05/01/2023

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training

Staff # 4 Not Met

Date of Hire: 12/04/2025

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.09-Criminal Records Check Missing,.24(1)-Evidence of Orientation Missing

Staff # 5 Not Met

Date of Hire: 01/08/2026

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

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

Staff # 6 Not Met

Date of Hire: 03/07/2022

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training

Staff # 7 Not Met

Date of Hire: 11/24/2014

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training

Staff # 8 Not Met

Date of Hire: 11/30/2021

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.31(2)(b)2.-Staff Qualifications-Education Missing,.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training

Staff # 9 Not Met

Date of Hire: 03/11/2024

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training

Staff # 10 Not Met

Date of Hire: 01/03/2022

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training,.31(2)(b)2.-Staff Qualifications-Education Missing

Staff # 11 Not Met

Date of Hire: 08/08/2022

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training,.31(2)(b)2.-Staff Qualifications-Education Missing

Staff # 12 Not Met

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training

Staff # 13 Not Met

Date of Hire: 04/01/2019

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(4)-Food Prep Training Missing 4 hrs.

Staff # 14 Not Met

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.31(2)(b)2.-Staff Qualifications-Education Missing

Staff # 17 Not Met

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

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

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 a review of records that Staff #4 hired on December 4, 2025, did not submit both a Records Check Application to the Department and Fingerprints to an authorized fingerprinting site as required.

Correction Deadline: 6/23/2026

Recited on 6/23/2026

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 review of records that staff # 4 did not have a valid and current satisfactory Comprehensive Records Check Determination on file prior to being present at the Center.

Correction Deadline: 6/23/2026

Recited on 6/23/2026

Correction Deadline: 12/9/2025

Corrected on 6/23/2026

The previous citation was observed to be corrected on this date. The consultant observed staff did renew Criminal Records check.

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 # 5 and Staff # 17 did not have evidence of 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.

Correction Deadline: 6/23/2026

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 observation that Staff #5 was caring for children without evidence of current and valid pediatric CPR and pediatric first aid training.

Correction Deadline: 6/23/2026

591-1-1-.24 Personnel Records

Not Met

Finding

591-1-1-.24(1) requires the center to maintain a personnel file on the Director, all Employees, Provisional Employees, Personnel, Staff, Students-in-Training, Volunteers, Clerical, Housekeeping, Maintenance, and other Support Staff for the duration of the term of employment plus one calendar year, and it shall contain the following: identifying information to include: name, date of birth, social security number, current address and current telephone number; employment history; as applicable to the position held: evidence of education and qualifying work experience; evidence of all training required by these rules which shall include: title of training, date of training, trainer's signature, location of training and number of clock hours obtained; a statement completed by the staff member that the information provided is true and accurate; any other records required by these rules; and as applicable to the position held, evidence of required orientation including date and signature of person providing the orientation; It was determined based on a review of records that Staff #4 did not have evidence of required orientation including date and signature of person providing the orientation.

Correction Deadline: 6/28/2026

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 #13 did not have evidence of four clock hours of training in food nutrition planning, preparation, serving, proper dish washing and food storage.

Correction Deadline: 7/23/2026

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 Staff # 1, Staff # 2, Staff #8, and Staff #11 did not have evidence of ten (10) clock hours of diverse training as required.

Correction Deadline: 12/31/2026

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 # 6, Staff # 7, Staff # 9, Staff #10, and Staff #12 did not have evidence of at least two (2) hours in evidence based, developmentally appropriate language and literacy practice training as required.

Correction Deadline: 12/31/2026

591-1-1-.31 Staff(CR)

Not Met

Finding

591-1-1-.31(2)(c) requires the Center to maintain a copy and/or written verification of the credential or degree awarded to the lead teacher that is required by these rules in the lead teacher's file, to make the document available for inspection and to provide the document to Department staff upon request. It was determined based on a a review of records that Staff # 8, Staff #10, Staff #11, and Staff # 14 did not have evidence of credential or degree awarded to the lead teacher as required.

Correction Deadline: 6/23/2026

Staffing and Supervision

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

Met

Comment

Center observed to maintain appropriate staff:child ratios.

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, mealtimes, naptime, 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 Staff members were not seated with an arm's length away from 2-year-old children in Building 2 Room 4 and 1-year-old children in Building 2 Room 5.

Correction Deadline: 6/23/2026