



**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:** 12/23/2025 **VisitType:** Licensing Study

**Arrival:** 12:10 PM **Departure:** 1:50 PM

**FR-16924**

**Davis, Heather K**

1491 NEW HOPE CHURCH ROAD Comer, GA 30629 Madison  
County  
(706) 202-4077

Lead Consultant

Dianne Clarke

Phone: (770) 357-4923

Fax: (770) 357-4922

dianne.clarke@decal.ga.gov

**Mailing Address**

Same

**Quality Rated:** No

| <u>Compliance Zone Designation</u> |                 |               | <b>Compliance Zone Designation</b> - 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.<br><br><b>Good Standing</b> - Program is demonstrating an acceptable level of performance in meeting the rules.<br><b>Support</b> - Program performance is demonstrating a need for improvement in meeting rules.<br><b>Deficient</b> - Program is not demonstrating an acceptable level of performance in meeting the rules. |
|------------------------------------|-----------------|---------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 12/23/2025                         | Licensing Study | Good Standing |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| 04/17/2025                         | Licensing Study | Good Standing |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| 05/02/2024                         | Licensing Study | Good Standing |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
|                                    |                 |               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |

| Ratio Capacity                                            |                  |               |      |             |                   |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|------------------|---------------|------|-------------|-------------------|
| Age Ranges                                                | Children Present | Child For Pay | CAPS | Not for Pay | Provider Children |
| Infant (0-11 mos)                                         | 0                | 2             | 0    | 0           | 0                 |
| 1 & 2 Years                                               | 0                | 4             | 0    | 1           | 0                 |
| 3 & 4 Years                                               | 0                | 1             | 0    | 0           | 0                 |
| School Age(5+) Years                                      | 0                | 0             | 0    | 0           | 0                 |
| Total Under 13 Years                                      | 0                | 7             | 0    | 1           | 0                 |
| Total Under 18 Years                                      | 0                |               |      |             |                   |
| Children Present: 0 Total Children: 8                     |                  |               |      |             |                   |
| Caregivers/Helpers Present: 3 Total Caregivers/Helpers: 1 |                  |               |      |             |                   |

**Comments**

Reviewed visit with the provider.

There were no children present.

Plan of Improvement: Developed This Date

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.

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#### 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](http://www.decalkoala.com) with the user id 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.

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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](mailto: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**

**290-2-3-.12 Equipment and Supplies(CR)**

Met

**Comment**

Toys and equipment observed to be clean and safe from hazardous conditions.

**290-2-3-.19 Infant-Sleeping Safety Requirements(CR)**

Met

**Comment**

Discussed SIDS and infant sleeping position.

**290-2-3-.07 Swimming Pools & Water-related Activities(CR)**

Met

**Comment**

Home does not provide swimming activities.

**Children's Records**

**290-2-3-.08 Children's Records**

**Technical Assistance**

**Technical Assistance**

290-2-3-.08(8)(b) - New - Discussed updating the Home's policies and procedures to include the program's practices regarding the expulsion and suspension of children enrolled for care within the description of behavior management and discipline actions used by the Home.

Discussed to ensure a description of the practices followed by the Home to prevent shaken baby syndrome and abusive head trauma in children up to five years of age that includes the following information: how to recognize, respond to, and report the signs and symptoms of shaken baby syndrome and abusive head trauma; strategies to assist staff members in understanding how to care for infants and how to cope with a crying, fussing, or distraught child; strategies to ensure staff members understand the brain development of children up to five years of age; and a list of prohibited behaviors when dealing with children.

Additional information can be found in the FCCLH Indicator Manual found on DECAL's website at: <https://www.dec.al.ga.gov/CCS/RulesAndRegulations.aspx> or through the Center on Shaken Baby Syndrome found at: <https://dontshake.org/>.

**Correction Deadline:** 12/23/2025

**Facility**

**290-2-3-.11 Physical Plant - Safe Environment(CR)**

Met

**Comment**

No hazards observed accessible to children on this date.

**290-2-3-.13 Physical Plant-Structural/Mechanical(CR)****Met****Comment**

The Home appeared clean and free from hazards.

**290-2-3-.13 Playgrounds(CR)****Met****Comment**

The outside area appeared clean and well maintained.

**Health and Hygiene****290-2-3-.11 Children's Health and Hygiene(CR)****Met****Comment**

Staff stated proper knowledge of hand washing and hygiene procedures.

**290-2-3-.11 Diapering Areas & Practices(CR)****Met****Comment**

Staff stated proper knowledge of diapering procedures.

**290-2-3-.11 Medications(CR)****Met****Comment**

Per the provider no medication is currently dispensed

**Licensure****290-2-3-.04 Application Requirements(CR)****Met****Comment**

Appropriate number of children observed in Family Child Care Learning Home this date. No children enrolled.

**Safety and Discipline****290-2-3-.11 Animals****Not Met****Finding**

290-2-3-.11(1)(n) requires pets in the Home be properly vaccinated in accordance with the requirements of the local county Boards of Health. Unconfined pets shall not be permitted in child care areas when any Child is present except for supervised learning experiences. It was determined based on a review of records that the vaccination for the cat expired on May 5, 2024.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

The Home will ensure that all animals are properly vaccinated and that unconfined animals are not allowed in child care areas. The provider stated that they will take the cat while they are on break.

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**Correction Deadline: 12/23/2025**

**290-2-3-.11 Discipline(CR)****Met****Comment**

There were no children present during the time of the inspection. (This rule was not evaluated on this date)  
Provider stated redirection is used for discipline.

**290-2-3-.11 Transportation(CR)****Met****Comment**

The provider does not provide routine transportation.

**Staff Records**

**Comment**

Criminal records checks were observed to be complete.

-Please ensure that applicants/staff are listing exact dates (including month/day/year) on 10-year work history form in order to determine any breaks in service from the childcare industry.

-Please ensure that all staff, volunteers, independent contractors, substitutes, therapists, etc...has their records check electronically ported to the center's list in KOALA before being present at the facility.

-Please ensure that records checks are redone if there is a six-month (180 calendar days) break in service from the childcare industry.

-Please also ensure that satisfactory records checks are updated before the expiration date.

-Ensure that all therapists and other independent contractors have an updated records check on file, before being present at the center or home or ensure that the individual is supervised at all times by a staff member who has a comprehensive records check if they do not have a records check on file.

-Please ensure that staff with a national background check is always present with a staff member who has a comprehensive background check. Staff should never be by themselves.

**290-2-3-.07 First Aid & CPR****Technical Assistance****Technical Assistance**

290-2-3-.07(8)(b) - Discussed that effective July 1, 2025, new staff are required to obtain pediatric First Aid and pediatric CPR training within 45 days of employment. It was further discussed that Homes must have at least one person with current pediatric First Aid and pediatric CPR training present during field trips, transportation of children, and on the Home's premises whenever any Child is present.

**Correction Deadline: 12/23/2025**

**290-2-3-.07 Other Staff Direct Contact with Children(CR)****Technical Assistance****Technical Assistance**

290-2-3-.07(28) - New - Discussed that all Employees, including volunteers, independent contractors, students-in-training, etc. should have a completed initial program orientation form on file.

**Correction Deadline: 12/23/2025**

**290-2-3-.07 Staff Qualifications(CR)****Met****Comment**

Staff observed to be compliant with applicable laws and regulations.

**290-2-3-.07 Staff Training****Technical Assistance****Technical Assistance**

290-2-3-.07(9)(b)1 - Discussed that effective July 1, 2025, all staff are required to obtain at least two hours in evidence based, developmentally appropriate language and literacy practices and at least two hours in on-going child development and health and safety related topics as part of their 10 hours of annual training.

**Correction Deadline: 1/22/2026**

**Staff:Child Ratios and Supervision****290-2-3-.07 Staff:Child Ratios(CR)****Met****Comment**

There were no children present during the time of the inspection. (This rule was not evaluated on this date)

**290-2-3-.07 Supervision(CR)****Met****Comment**

There were no children present during the time of the inspection. (This rule was not evaluated on this date)

Discussed the supervision rule during mealtimes which states: 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.