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: 7/30/2025 **VisitType:** Monitoring Visit **Arrival:** 10:45 AM **Departure:** 12:00 PM

FR-9900108154
Conner, Denise A
167 WILLIAMS WAY Thomaston, GA 30286 Upson County
(706) 741-2033 DCONNER01@GMAIL.COM

Regional Consultant
Brandi Mangino
Phone: (478) 314-9726
Fax: (478) 599-0169
brandi.mangino@decal.ga.gov

Mailing Address
Same

Quality Rated: No

Compliance Zone Designation		
07/30/2025	Monitoring Visit	Good Standing
03/24/2025	Monitoring Visit	Good Standing
07/23/2024	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.

Ratio Capacity

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

Children Present: 7
Total Children: 12
Caregivers/Helpers Present: 1
Total Caregivers/Helpers: 1

Comments
Plan developed on this date.

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.

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 techincal assistance is available!**

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(Findings Report)

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The following information is associated with a MV:

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
Pleasant naptime environment observed.

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

Comment
Home does not provide swimming activities.

Facility

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

Technical Assistance
Consultant discussed keeping hazards inaccessible to children in care. Baby wipes and hand soaps that read "keep out of reach of children" should be inaccessible.

Correction Deadline: 8/9/2025

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) **Technical Assistance**

Technical Assistance
Consultant discussed spraying tree roots and cleaning outside toys.

Correction Deadline: 7/30/2025 **Prior Visits: 02/18/2020**

Food Service

290-2-3-.10 Food Service & Nutrition **Not Met**

Finding
290-2-3-.10(8) requires that food be served according to manufacturer's instructions and recommendations. Foods that are associated with young children's choking incidents, such as, but not limited to, peanuts, hot dogs, raw carrots, popcorn, fish with bones, cheese cubes, grapes and any other food that is of similar shape and size of the trachea/windpipe shall not be served to the children less than four (4) years of age. Children older than four (4) years of age may be served these foods provided that the foods are cut in such a way as to minimize choking. Food shall not be accessible or served to children until it has been chopped, diced, cut or mashed and is appropriate for each child's age and individual eating, chewing and swallowing ability. It was determined based on observation meatballs were being served on this date to children under the age of four.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
The Home will train Staff and monitor food served and accessible to children to ensure that the food does not present a choking hazard.

Correction Deadline: 7/30/2025

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) **Not Evaluated**

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.

Policies and Procedures

290-2-3-.20 E-mail Contact Information **Technical Assistance**

Technical Assistance
• FCCLH Policies: 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.
Also 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.decal.ga.gov/CCS/RulesAndRegulations.aspx or through the Center on Shaken Baby Syndrome found at: https://dontshake.org/.

Correction Deadline: 7/30/2025

Safety and Discipline

290-2-3-.11 Animals **Met**

Correction Deadline: 3/24/2025 **Prior Visits: 03/24/2025**

Corrected on 7/30/2025
.11(1)(n) - Citation corrected. The dog was in a a room inaccessible to children in care.

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

Comment
Age-appropriate discussion and/or redirection observed.

290-2-3-.11 Transportation(CR) **N/A**

Comment
The provider does not provide routine transportation.

Staff Records

290-2-3-.21 Criminal Records and Comprehensive Background Checks(CR) **Met**

Comment
Consultant requested to view all Criminal Record checks for employees hired after last visit. Provider stated that there have been no new hires since last visit

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

Technical Assistance
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: 8/29/2025

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
• 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.

Discussed that all Employees, including volunteers, independent contractors, students-in-training, etc. should have a completed initial program orientation form on file.

Correction Deadline: 8/29/2025

Staff:Child Ratios and Supervision

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

Comment
Appropriate ratios were observed on this date.

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

Comment
Adequate supervision observed on this date.