



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: 11/20/2025 **VisitType:** Licensing Study

Arrival: 10:05 AM **Departure:** 11:15 AM

FR-22612

Wilhite, Pecolia A

605 VINCENT DRIVE Athens, GA 30607 Clarke County
(706) 351-1434

CCS Coordinator

Margarita Collier

Phone: (770) 342-7934

Fax: (678) 891-5989

margarita.collier@dec.al.ga.gov

Mailing Address

Same

Quality Rated: No

<u>Compliance Zone Designation</u>			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.
11/20/2025	Licensing Study	Good Standing	
12/18/2024	Licensing Study	Good Standing	
06/12/2024	Licensing Study	Good Standing	

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	0	0	0	0	0
3 & 4 Years	0	0	0	0	0
School Age(5+) Years	0	0	0	0	0
Total Under 13 Years	1	1	0	0	0
Total Under 18 Years	1				
Children Present: 1 Total Children: 1					
Caregivers/Helpers Present: 2 Total Caregivers/Helpers: 0					

Comments

The CCS Consultant discussed and emailed a copy of the updated Child Care Weather Watch Chart with the program today. Weather does not permit outdoor play when there is active precipitation or when weather advisories are in effect. Consult the Child Care Weather Watch Chart resource for further guidance, considering specific weather conditions.

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 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.

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

Date: 11/20/2025 VisitType: Licensing Study

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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

Currently there are no children enrolled in the program. (This rule was not evaluated on this date)

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

Met

Comment

The provider does not offer swimming activities.

Correction Deadline: 11/20/2025

Children's Records

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

Met

Comment

No children were enrolled during the visit. 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.dec.al.ga.gov/CCS/RulesAndRegulations.aspx> or through the Center on Shaken Baby Syndrome found at: <https://dontshake.org/>.

290-2-3-.08 Parental Authorization(CR)

Met

Comment

Currently there are no children enrolled in the program. (This rule was not evaluated on this date)

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

An operable and appropriately sized fire extinguisher was observed in the home this date.

Comment

Operable smoke detector(s) were observed as required in the home 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**

Discussed monitoring the playground area for the following hazardous items:

- Exposed tree roots.
- Biting and/or stinging insects (i.e., bees, ants, etc.).
- Normal wear and tear of the fence surrounding the playground areas.
- Normal wear and tear of playground equipment (i.e., chipped paint, etc.).
- Excessive leaves, sweet gum tree balls, etc.
- Refluff resilient surface as needed.
- Standing water in and/or around playground equipment and/or toys.

Food Service**290-2-3-.10 Food Service & Nutrition****Met****Comment**

CACFP Meal Pattern Requirements: 3 Components for breakfast: Grains, Vegetables, Fruits or both, Milk 5 Components for lunch – Grains, Meat/Meat alternates, Fruits, Vegetable, and Milk OR Grains, Meat/Meat alternates, 2 different types of vegetables, and Milk 2 of 5 Components for snack Provided Updated CACFP Infant Meal pattern and Child/Adult Meal pattern flyers. The Crediting Handbook for the CACFP can be located on DECAL and USDA's website: DECAL <http://dec.al.ga.gov/CACFP/Handbook.aspx> USDA <http://www.fns.usda.gov/cacfp/cacfp-handbooks>

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

There were no children enrolled on this date. Proper hand washing of children and staff were discussed with the provider on this date.

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

Currently there are no children enrolled in the program. (This rule was not evaluated on this date)

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**

Application requirements reviewed with the Provider on this date.

Safety and Discipline

290-2-3-.11 Animals	Met
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Comment

Animals maintained clean and appropriately caged.

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

Currently there are no children enrolled in the program. (This rule was not evaluated on this date)

290-2-3-.11 First Aid Kit	Met
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Comment

Discussed replacing bandages as needed in the home's first aid kit.

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

Currently there are no children enrolled in the program. (This rule was not evaluated on this date)

Staff Records

Records Reviewed: 1

Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 1
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Staff # 1

Not Met

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

CPR/First Aid -.07(8)

290-2-3-.21 Criminal Records and Comprehensive Background Checks(CR)	Met
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Correction Deadline: 12/18/2024

Corrected on 11/20/2025

The previous citation was observed to be corrected. The Consultant observed the Provider to have evidence of a current satisfactory comprehensive determination letter on file.

Comment

The consultant discussed the following criminal record check reminders with the provider:

New records checks will be required to be completed if a staff member experiences a six month break in service from the childcare 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 satisfactory comprehensive records check clearance.
- Facilities are required to use DECAL KOALA for Criminal Records Checks, including to verify portability of an employee. A re-check maybe needed under the following circumstances:
- When the family childcare learning home knows or reasonably should know that a provider, Employee or Provisional Employee, Resident has been arrested or charged for any covered crime.
- When there is a lapse of employment from the childcare industry that lasted for 180 calendar days (6 months) or longer.
- When the Department so requests.

Correction Deadline: 12/18/2024

Corrected on 11/20/2025

The previous citation was observed to be corrected. The Consultant observed the Provider to have evidence of a current satisfactory comprehensive determination letter on file.

290-2-3-.07 First Aid & CPR	Not Met
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Correction Deadline: 1/17/2025

Corrected on 11/20/2025

The previous citation was corrected.

Finding

290-2-3-.07(8)(a) requires the Home to maintain for the Provider and any Provisional Employee or Employee with direct care responsibilities current evidence of successful completion of a biennial training program in pediatric cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and a triennial training program in pediatric first aid which have been offered by certified or licensed health care professionals or trainers. Such training must be completed prior to initial licensure for the Provider and within 45 days from date of hire for Provisional Employees and Employees. Current and valid evidence of the successful completion of such training shall be maintained on the Home's premises. It was determined based on review of records that the Provider did not have evidence of a current first aid and CPR training card on file. No children were enrolled at the family child care learning home during the visit.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Home will obtain the required pediatric CPR and first aid training and will keep certificates, cards, or other proof of training on file. The Home will submit proof of training to the Department, if requested. The Home will ensure that there is always a Staff person on the Home's premises whenever any Child is present.

Correction Deadline: 12/20/2025

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**Met****Comment**

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

Correction Deadline: 11/25/2025

Correction Deadline: 1/17/2025

Corrected on 11/20/2025

The previous citation was corrected. The Consultant observed the Provider to have completed the required 10-clock hours of annual training for the year 2024.

Comment

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: 12/20/2025

Staff:Child Ratios and Supervision

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

Currently there are no children enrolled in the program. (This rule was not evaluated on this date)

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

Currently there are no children enrolled in the program. (This rule was not evaluated on this date)