



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: 4/9/2026

VisitType: Initial Licensing Study

Arrival: 9:30 AM

Departure: 1:25 PM

FR-68276

Hopkins, Elsie

989 Pineland Ave Hinesville, GA 31313 Liberty County

(912) 876-2918

Application Services Unit Consultant

Toni Williams

Phone: (770) 302-7628

Fax: (770) 302-8357

toni.williams@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.
04/09/2026	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.

Ratio Capacity					
Age Ranges	Children Present	Child For Pay	CAPS	Not for Pay	Provider Children
Infant (0-11 mos)	0	0	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	0	0	0	0	0
Total Under 18 Years	0				
Children Present: 0 Total Children: 0 Caregivers/Helpers Present: 1 Total Caregivers/Helpers: 1					

Comments

A final license was not issued on this date based on equipment missing for infants and playground area completion. The Consultant will follow up with license once the provider sends photos of the corrections. The provider does not carry liability insurance and the total capacity is 6.

Plan of Improvement: No Plan Developed



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

You have received permission to operate and the form received with this report is intended to serve as a temporary license which is **valid for thirty(30) days**. Your actual license/ will be emailed to you upon receipt of the licensing fee. You may pay the licensing fee either online at <http://www.decal.ga.gov/> or by certified check or money order mailed to: Bright from the Start, 2 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive SE, Suite 670 East Tower, Atlanta, GA 30334

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!



Summary Report

Date: 4/9/2026 VisitType: Initial Licensing Study

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The following information is associated with a Initial Licensing Study:

Activities and Equipment

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

Technical Assistance

Comment

The consultant discussed with the provider the importance of adding more equipment and toys to enhance the variety for all age groups being serviced.

Comment

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

Technical Assistance

290-2-3-.12(7) - The consultant discussed with the provider the need to make sure that all furniture was secured and not easily moved.

Correction Deadline: 4/9/2026

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

Technical Assistance

Technical Assistance

290-2-3-.19(1)(a) - The provider does not care for infants or children that require a playpen at this point but was requesting to be licensed for care for that age group in the future. The consultant advised the provider that she would need to provide proof of those items and area where they would be in the event of enrollment of children requiring a crib or playpen.

Correction Deadline: 4/16/2026

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

N/A

Comment

Center does not provide swimming activities. No pool observed on site.

Children's Records

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

Defer

Defer

290-2-3-.08(1)-Evaluation of the previous citation was deferred on this date to the next regulatory visit no children or files were on site.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Home Provider will obtain the missing information and maintain the Children's records as required. Provider understands that the children cannot be present until the required documentation is obtained.

Correction Deadline: 10/21/2025

Defer

290-2-3-.08(2)-Evaluation of the previous citation was deferred on this date to the next regulatory visit. No children or files were on site on the day of the visit.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Home Provider will ensure that an immunization record/signed affidavit is on file for each enrolled Child.

Correction Deadline: 10/21/2025

Defer

290-2-3-.08(9)-Evaluation of the previous citation was deferred on this date to the next regulatory visit. No children or files were on site on the day of the visit.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Home will develop, if needed, and implement sign-in and out procedures that include all required information, will inform Parents of the procedures and will monitor to ensure Children are signed in and out as required.

Correction Deadline: 10/21/2025

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

Correction Deadline: 11/20/2025

Corrected on 4/9/2026

.11(2)(c) - The previous citation was observed corrected on this date. The Consultant observed that the emergency drill log was complete and up to date. The last drill was completed in February 2026.

Comment

290-2-3-.11(2)(g) - Provider does not have fire arms in the home.

Correction Deadline: 4/9/2026

Comment

An operable and appropriately sized fire extinguisher was observed in the home this date. The provider had a 3-A-40 B:C extinguisher.

Comment

Operable smoke detector(s) were observed as required in the home this date.

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

The Home appeared clean and free from hazards. The consultant reminded the provider to please be mindful to keep items and areas that pose a hazard inaccessible to children.

290-2-3-.13 Playgrounds(CR)	Defer
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Defer

290-2-3-.13(2)(a)- Evaluation of the previous citation was deferred on this date to the next regulatory visit. This ILS was for a different address.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Home will repair any and all identified outdoor hazards and will monitor playground daily or more often as needed to ensure that the Home's outdoor play area is kept clean and free of hazards.

Correction Deadline: 10/31/2025

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**

Staff stated proper knowledge of diapering procedures. Hand washing and sanitizing requirements for diapering were discussed with the Provider on this date.

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

The consultant discussed proper medication documentation and procedures.

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

290-2-3-.04(1)(d)-Evaluation of the previous citation was deferred on this date to the next regulatory visit. This ILS was completed on a different location.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Family Child Care Learning Home caring for more than six children shall reduce the number of children in care to six. The Family Child Care Learning Home will submit an application for a Child Care Learning Center and receive a license to operate from the Department before caring for more than six children, related or unrelated, for pay.

Correction Deadline: 10/21/2025

Comment

A final license was not issued on this date based on equipment for infants not being available and in the center and the playground area fenced off. The Consultant will follow up with the provider and get photos of the area for the infants and license the program once those are provided.

Comment

290-2-3-.04(2)(f) - Consultant discussed Business License requirement with the Provider. The Provider has a month after licensing to submit the Business License to the Consultant.

Correction Deadline: 4/9/2026

Safety and Discipline**290-2-3-.11 Animals****Met****Comment**

The Family Child Care Learning Home does not keep animals on premises.

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

There were no children present during the time of the inspection. Consultant discussed appropriate discipline and guidance techniques with the provider.

290-2-3-.11 First Aid Kit**Technical Assistance****Technical Assistance**

290-2-3-.11(1)(e) - The consultant discussed with the provider the importance of having a complete first aid kit and advised her to add scissors, antibacterial ointment, insect sting preparation and a triangular bandage to the first aid kit.

Correction Deadline: 4/19/2026

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

The provider does not provide routine transportation. Consultant discussed transportation requirements if/when the facility decides to incorporate transportation. The center will contact their regional consultant and complete the required two (2) hour transportation training prior to transporting children.

Staff Records

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

One (1) record was observed to have comprehensive satisfactory Criminal Background Check determination letters on file for the provider. There were no other residents living in the home that was seventeen (17) years and older.

290-2-3-.07 First Aid & CPR(CR)	Met
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Comment

Evidence observed that the Provider was certified in pediatric First Aid and CPR on this date.

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

Staff observed to be compliant with applicable laws and regulations.

Staff:Child Ratios and Supervision

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

290-2-3-.07(16)-Evaluation of the previous citation was deferred on this date to the next regulatory visit. The ILS completed today was for a new location there were no children or files available.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Home will reduce the number of unrelated children, both for pay and not for pay, so that the total number of unrelated children in care does not exceed the number of children as specified in these rules.

Correction Deadline: 10/31/2025

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

There were no children present during the time of the inspection. Consultant discussed direct supervision with the Provider on this date.