



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: 5/26/2026 VisitType: Initial Licensing Study

Arrival: 1:30 PM Departure: 2:55 PM

FR-68541

Dowdell, Sonyika

1972 Taylor Ave Atlanta, GA 30344 Fulton County
(678) 368-1611

Application Services Unit Consultant

Margaret Pringle

Phone: (678) 913-0625

Fax: Margaret Pringle

margaret.pringle@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.
05/26/2026	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

The final license was not issued on this date.based on outstanding citations on the playground. Consultant requesting submission of pictures prior to issuance of final license. This program does not carry liability insurance. Provider will have a copy of family child care home rules and regulations available to the parents.

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

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!



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Summary Report

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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

Discussed with the provider to add toys and materials to enhance the learning environment in the area of musical toys, puzzles for toddlers and five year old, add construction paper, primary pencils and scissors for ages being served.

Comment

Equipment and furniture observed to be properly secured, as applicable.

Technical Assistance

290-2-3-.12(8) -Please ensure there are appropriately sized chair or bench available for each child being served.

Correction Deadline: 5/26/2026

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

Not Met

Comment

Currently the provider is not caring for infants.

Technical Assistance

290-2-3-.19(1)(b)4 - Please ensure two additional covers are added for the cots.

Correction Deadline: 5/26/2026

Finding

290-2-3-.19(1)(b)3 requires that sheets or similar coverings for cots or mats shall either be marked for individual use or laundered daily. If individually marked, they must be laundered weekly or more frequently if needed. It was determined based on observation the cots lacked six sheets.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Home Provider will launder sheets for cots or mats as required. Sheets will be provided for cots.

Correction Deadline: 5/26/2026

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

Met

Comment

Home does not provide swimming activities.

Facility

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

Home observed complete emergency drills

Comment

Please be mindful to keep items that pose a hazard inaccessible to children.

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)**Not Met****Finding**

290-2-3-.13(2)(d) requires that outside play areas be protected from traffic or other hazards by fencing or other barriers at least four feet in height and approved by the Department. Fencing material shall not present a hazard to children. It was determined based on observation the deck lacked the required four feet barrier, the guard rail measured at three feet eight inches and it lacked a four feet door at the steps leading to the yard.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Home will enclose the outside play area(s) with a four-foot high fence or other Department-approved barrier and inspect regularly to ensure fencing material is safe and any hazards identified are repaired or replaced.

Correction Deadline: 6/5/2026

Comment

There is no pool on the property

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.

Comment

There are no diapered children currently enrolled in the program.

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

Discussed proper medication documentation and procedures.

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****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. Discipline was discussed with the Provider. Redirection will be used as a form of discipline.

290-2-3-.11 First Aid Kit**Not Met****Finding**

290-2-3-.11(1)(e) requires the Home and any vehicle used for transportation Children to have a first aid kit which at least contains: scissors, tweezers, gauze pads, thermometer, adhesive tape, band-aids, insect - sting preparation, antiseptic cleaning solution, antibacterial ointment, bandages, disposable rubber gloves, protective eye wear, face mask, and cold pack. The first aid kit, together with a first aid instruction manual which must be kept with the kit at all times, shall be stored in a central location so that it is not accessible to Children but is easily accessible to the Provider and Staff. The Home must also maintain written directions for the use of universal precautions for handling blood and bodily fluids. The directions on the use of universal precautions must be kept with the first aid kit at all times. It was determined based on observation the kit lacked the following items: tweezer, thermometer, face mask, insect sting preparation, triangular bandage and protective eye wear.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Home will replace any missing items in the first aid kit, keep the instruction manual and written universal precautions with the kit and will check the kit regularly. The Home will store the kit where children will not have access to it.

Correction Deadline: 6/5/2026**290-2-3-.11 Transportation(CR)****Met****Comment**

The provider does not provide routine transportation.

Staff Records**Records Reviewed: 1****Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 1**

Staff # 1

Not Met

Date of Hire: 05/26/2026

Reminder - Health & Safety training is required within 90 calendar days of hired

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

Education Credentials -.07(2)

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

Criminal records checks were observed to be complete.

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

Staff observed to be compliant with applicable laws and regulations.

Staff:Child Ratios and Supervision

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

Currently there are no children enrolled in the program. Ratios were discussed with the Provider.

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

Currently there are no children enrolled in the program. Supervision was discussed with the Provider.