



**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:** 6/24/2025 **VisitType:** Monitoring Visit

**Arrival:** 12:00 PM **Departure:** 1:20 PM

**FR-9900105534**  
**Shepherd, Sandra V**  
3601 OAKLAND COURT Savannah, GA 31404 Chatham County  
(912) 355-2588 SVSLANG62@HOTMAIL.COM

CCS Coordinator  
Sondra Paster  
Phone: (478) 314-5803  
Fax: (478) 314-5811  
sondra.paster@dec.al.ga.gov

**Mailing Address**  
Same

**Quality Rated:** ★ ★

| <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. |
|------------------------------------|------------------|---------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 06/24/2025                         | Monitoring Visit | Good Standing |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| 10/30/2024                         | Licensing Study  | Good Standing |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| 01/24/2024                         | Licensing Study  | Good Standing |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
|                                    |                  |               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |

| <b>Ratio Capacity</b>                                     |                  |               |      |             |                   |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|------------------|---------------|------|-------------|-------------------|
| 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                | 2             | 0    | 0           | 0                 |
| 3 & 4 Years                                               | 2                | 2             | 0    | 0           | 0                 |
| School Age(5+) Years                                      | 3                | 3             | 0    | 0           | 0                 |
| Total Under 13 Years                                      | 5                | 7             | 0    | 0           | 0                 |
| Total Under 18 Years                                      | 5                |               |      |             |                   |
| Children Present: 5 Total Children: 7                     |                  |               |      |             |                   |
| Caregivers/Helpers Present: 6 Total Caregivers/Helpers: 2 |                  |               |      |             |                   |

**Comments**

The purpose of the visit is to conduct a monitor visit.

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 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.

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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:**

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 CAPS/ QR Provisional Status, allowing for scholarships while working toward an initial star rating. Provisional Status eligibility will be determined at the time of CAPS enrollment as part of the CAPS application process.

**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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**(Findings Report)**

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The following information is associated with a Monitoring Visit:

**Activities and Equipment**

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

**Met**

**Comment**

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

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

**Met**

**Comment**

Care is not provided for any infant required to be in a crib

**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)**

**Met**

**Comment**

No hazards observed accessible to children on this date.

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

**Met**

**Comment**

The Home appears clean and free from hazards.

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

**Not Met**

**Finding**

290-2-3-.13(2)(c) requires that climbing and swinging equipment that are not portable have a resilient surface beneath the equipment and the fall zone from such equipment, which is adequately maintained by the Home to assure continuing resiliency. It was determined based on observation that there was three inches of resilient surfacing around the jungle gym when six inches were required.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

The Home will ensure that there is an adequate resilient surface under and in the fall zone of climbing and swinging equipment. The Home will inspect equipment and resilient surfacing material regularly and repair or replenish as needed.

**Correction Deadline: 7/4/2025**

**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. A fence shall be provided around swimming pools to make them inaccessible when not in use. It was determined based on observation that the left side fencing gate was observed to have a four feet gap.  
gate

**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. The Home will install or repair a fence around swimming pools that makes them inaccessible to children.

**Correction Deadline: 6/24/2025**

|                           |
|---------------------------|
| <b>Health and Hygiene</b> |
|---------------------------|

|                                                      |            |
|------------------------------------------------------|------------|
| <b>290-2-3-.11 Children's Health and Hygiene(CR)</b> | <b>Met</b> |
|------------------------------------------------------|------------|

**Comment**

Proper hand washing observed throughout the Home.

|                                                        |            |
|--------------------------------------------------------|------------|
| <b>290-2-3-.11 Diapering Areas &amp; Practices(CR)</b> | <b>Met</b> |
|--------------------------------------------------------|------------|

**Comment**

Staff state proper knowledge of diapering procedures.

|                                    |            |
|------------------------------------|------------|
| <b>290-2-3-.11 Medications(CR)</b> | <b>N/A</b> |
|------------------------------------|------------|

**Comment**

Per the provider no medication is currently dispensed

|                  |
|------------------|
| <b>Licensure</b> |
|------------------|

|                                                 |            |
|-------------------------------------------------|------------|
| <b>290-2-3-.04 Application Requirements(CR)</b> | <b>Met</b> |
|-------------------------------------------------|------------|

**Comment**

Appropriate number of children observed in Family Child Care Learning Home this date as the provider was observed to have 5 children present.

|                              |
|------------------------------|
| <b>Safety and Discipline</b> |
|------------------------------|

|                                   |            |
|-----------------------------------|------------|
| <b>290-2-3-.11 Discipline(CR)</b> | <b>Met</b> |
|-----------------------------------|------------|

**Comment**

Age-appropriate discussion and/or redirection observed.

|                                       |            |
|---------------------------------------|------------|
| <b>290-2-3-.11 Transportation(CR)</b> | <b>N/A</b> |
|---------------------------------------|------------|

**Comment**

The provider does not provide routine transportation.

|                      |
|----------------------|
| <b>Staff Records</b> |
|----------------------|

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**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 o October 30, 2024.

**Comment**

Criminal records checks were observed to be complete.

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

Staff observed to be compliant with applicable laws and regulations.

|                                           |
|-------------------------------------------|
| <b>Staff:Child Ratios and Supervision</b> |
|-------------------------------------------|

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

**Correction Deadline: 11/9/2024**

**Corrected on 6/24/2025**

**.07(15) - Previous citation observed to be corrected. The consultant observed the provider to have five children present.**

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

Adequate supervision observed on this date.