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: 1/12/2026 **VisitType:** Licensing Study **Arrival:** 9:10 AM **Departure:** 12:00 PM

FR-16112
Chadwick, Stephanie M
436 HYMAPOPPELL LOOP Odum, GA 31555 Wayne County
(912) 294-7003

Regional Consultant
Connie Boatright
Phone: (912) 544-9701
Fax: (912) 544-9700
connie.boatright@decal.ga.gov

Mailing Address
Same

Quality Rated: No

Compliance Zone Designation		
01/12/2026	Licensing Study	Good Standing
07/16/2025	Monitoring Visit	Good Standing
01/21/2025	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)	2	1	0	1	0
1 & 2 Years	6	5	0	1	0
3 & 4 Years	0	0	0	1	0
School Age(5+) Years	0	0	0	0	0
Total Under 13 Years	8	6	0	3	0
Total Under 18 Years	8				

Children Present: 8 Total Children: 9
Caregivers/Helpers Present: 10 Total Caregivers/Helpers: 2

Comments
The CCS Consultant discussed and left 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.

Plan of Improvement: No Plan Developed

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 Licensing Study:

Activities and Equipment

290-2-3-.09 Activities **Met**

Comment
290-2-3-.09(8) - The Consultant observed a variety of age appropriate activities through out the home.

Correction Deadline: 1/12/2026

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
Discussed SIDS and infant sleeping position.

Comment
Pleasant naptime environment observed.

Comment
The provider stated crib and pack and play sheets are changed daily.l

Correction Deadline: 1/12/2026

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

Comment
Home does not provide swimming activities.

Comment
The provider has a pond near the home. The provider stated children are supervised by herself when transitioning from the home to the playground and play inside of the fenced area. The provider stated at no time are the children allowed around the pond.

Comment
There is no pool on the property

Children's Records

Records Reviewed: 9 **Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 2**

Child # 6 Not Met

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

Proof of No Liability Insurance Form,Infant Feeding Plan - (.10)(4),Release Person Information - (.08)(10),Transportation Agreement - (.08)(7),Allergy/Medical Information - (.08)(4),Emergency Medical Authorization - (.08)(3),Immunization Form - (.08)(2),Physician & Emergency Contact Information - (.08)(1),Dad Work # Missing -(.08)(1),Dad Home # Missing -(.08)(1),Mom Work # Missing -(.08)(1),Mom Home # Missing -(.08)(1),Parents Names Missing -(.08)(1),Date of Birth Missing -(.08)(1),Name Missing - (.08)(1)

Child # 9 Not Met

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

Immunization Form - (.08)(2)

290-2-3-.08 Children's Records **Not Met**

Finding
290-2-3-.08(1) requires the Home to have a current and updated record for each Child in care and for a period of one (1) year after each Child leaves. Such records shall include: identifying information (Child's name, birth date, Parent's name, home and business addresses, telephone numbers); name, address and telephone number of persons, including Child's physician, to contact in emergencies; and name, address, telephone numbers, relationship to Child and to Parent(s) and other identifying information of person(s) to whom the Child may be released. It was determined based on review of child files that child # 6 was in attendance during this visit and does not have a child file as required.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
The Home Provider will obtain the missing information and maintain the Children's records as required.

Correction Deadline: 1/13/2026

Comment
The Consultant observed related child files for no pay and observed 3 completed no compensation / relationship forms on file.

Correction Deadline: 1/12/2026

Finding
290-2-3-.08(2) requires the Home to maintain a file for each Child that includes evidence of age-appropriate immunizations or a signed affidavit against such immunizations; enrollment in the Home may not continue for more than 30 days without such evidence. It was determined based on review of child files that child # 9 immunization expired August 30, 2025 and does not have a current immunization on file as required.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
The Home Provider will ensure that an immunization record/signed affidavit is on file for each enrolled Child.

Correction Deadline: 1/22/2026

Finding
290-2-3-.08(8)(b) requires that the Family Child Care Learning Home have policies and procedures which shall include written procedures for the following:
1. Behavior management and discipline techniques; actions used by the Home, to include the program's practices regarding the expulsion and suspension of children enrolled for care;
2. Handling emergency medical care, including where the Children will be taken for emergency medical care;
3. Administering medication and recording noticeable adverse reactions to medication;
4. Notifying Parents in writing of their Child's illness, injury, and exposure to a notifiable communicable disease or any cases or suspected cases of viruses or illnesses (COVID-19, etc.) identified during a public health emergency, within twenty-four (24) hours after the Home becomes aware of the illness or the next working day;
5. Noticeable adverse reaction to medication(s);
6. Exclusion of sick children;
7. Exclusion and readmission of children with communicable diseases, as defined on the most current version of the communicable diseases chart, as found on the Department's website, or with cases or suspected cases of viruses or illnesses (COVID-19, etc.) identified during a public health emergency;
8. Protection of children in the event of severe weather, fire, and physical plant problems, such as power failure, that affect climate control, loss of water, or structural damages;
9. The transportation of Children to and from school or Home, if provided, to include the procedure to be followed if no one is home to receive the transported Child;
10. Identification of others providing care. The Provider must inform the Parents of Children in care of the names of any caregiver and their responsibilities, and the names of the persons who would be called upon in an emergency;
11. Parents' ability to visit the Family Child Care Learning Home unannounced and at any time that their Child is in care;
12. Any information requested by the Parent concerning the operation of the Family Child Care Learning Home or the care of the Child, including but not limited to a description of any special procedures to be followed in caring for the Child, such as any special services which the Home agrees to provide to a Child with special needs . The Parent(s) will be provided daily communication (verbal/written) regarding the care of the Child, especially with infants, toddlers and nonverbal Children. Additionally, the Provider must bring special problems or significant developments to the Parent's attention as soon as they arise;
13. Notification of the existence of a firearm in the Family Child Care Learning Home;
14. Notification of any changes in the regular composition of the household. The Provider must notify the Parent(s) of anyone regularly on the premises, including but not limited to spouse, friend(s), relative(s), or significant other(s);
15. Notification of the existence of any pets or other animals residing in the Home or on the property of the Family Child Care Learning Home; and
16. Notification of infant sleep position practices. The Provider must notify Parent(s) of Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) risk reduction practices, sleep positioning policies, and arrangements for placing all infants on their backs for sleep. 17. 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.
It was determined based on review of the providers policy and procedure manual that the manual had not been updated to include (1) Behavior management and discipline techniques; actions used by the Home, to include the program's practices regarding the expulsion and suspension of children enrolled for care; (17) 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 as required.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
The Home Provider will add the missing documentation to the written policies and procedures. The provider stated they will update the policy and procedures by 1-22-2026 and will continue to update policies and procedures as changes occur.

Correction Deadline: 1/22/2026

Comment
The Consultant observed eight children present and 8 children signed in.

Correction Deadline: 1/12/2026

290-2-3-.08 Parental Authorization(CR) **Not Met**

Finding
290-2-3-.08(10) requires the Home to ensure that Children are only released to authorized person(s), and shall take necessary steps to determine that any such person(s) presenting to pick up a Child in care is authorized by the Parent(s) of the Child and that person matches the identifying information provided by the Parent. It was determined based on review of child files that child # 6 did not have a released to person(s) authorization on file as required. ,

POI (Plan of Improvement)
The Home will check records and identification and take any additional steps necessary to ensure children are released to authorized persons as indicated by Parent(s).

Correction Deadline: 1/13/2026

Finding
290-2-3-.08(3)requires the Home to obtain Parental authorization at the time of a Child's enrollment for emergency medical care when the Parent is not available. It was determined based on review of child files that child # 6 did not have an emergency medical care when the Parent is not available authorization on file as required.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
The Home Provider will have authorization for emergency medical care completed by the Parent for Children enrolled.

Correction Deadline: 1/13/2026

Facility

290-2-3-.11 Physical Plant - Safe Environment(CR) **Not Met**

Finding
290-2-3-.11(2)(c) requires that documentation of drills required by these rules shall be maintained in the Home. The Home shall conduct drills for fire, tornado, and other emergency situations. The fire drills will be conducted monthly and tornado and other emergency situation drills will be conducted every six months. The Home shall maintain documentation of the dates and times of these drills for two years. It was determined based on review of the fire and tornado drill log, a tornado drill was last held on June 16, 2025 and not every 6 months as required.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
The Provider will develop and implement a plan and schedule for conducting the required drills, completing the documentation, keeping the documentation on file for two years.

Correction Deadline: 1/22/2026

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
The provider has a pond near the home. The provider stated children are supervised by herself when transitioning from the home to the playground and play inside of the fenced area. The provider stated at no time are the children allowed around the pond.

Comment
The outside area appeared clean and well maintained.

Comment
Home does not provide swimming activities.

Comment
There is no pool on the property

Food Service

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

Comment
290-2-3-.10(3)(f) - Discussed with the provider that food for infants or children less than one (1) year of age be cut into pieces one-quarter inch or smaller and food for toddlers shall be cut into pieces one-half inch or smaller to prevent choking.

Correction Deadline: 1/12/2026

Comment
290-2-3-.10(3)(g) - Discussed with the provider to ensure that children do not have excessive amounts of food in their mouths while eating and are chewing their food appropriately to prevent instances of choking. Children shall always be seated when eating and shall not be allowed to lie down or be put to sleep while food is present in their mouths.

Correction Deadline: 1/12/2026

290-2-3-.10 Kitchen Operations **Met**

Comment
The Consultant observed the kitchen to be clean, neat, and organized.

Correction Deadline: 1/12/2026

Health and Hygiene

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

Comment
Proper hand washing observed throughout the Home.

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

Comment
Proper diapering procedures observed.

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
Appropriate number of children observed in Family Child Care Learning Home this date.

Policies and Procedures

290-2-3-.06 Parental Access **Not Met**

Finding
290-2-3-.06 requires that the Parent be permitted access to all child care areas of the Home while the Child is in attendance. It was determined based on review and the providers statement that the parental access notice was not posted as required.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
The Home will permit unlimited Parental access while Children are in care.

Correction Deadline: 1/12/2026

Safety and Discipline

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

Comment
Animals maintained clean and appropriately caged.

Comment
Appropriate vaccination records were available on this date.

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

Comment
Pleasant interactions observed between the provider and children in care.

Comment
Age-appropriate discussion and/or redirection observed.

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

Comment
Complete first aid kit observed in the Family Child Care Learning Home

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

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

Comment
Criminal records checks were observed to be complete.

290-2-3-.07 First Aid & CPR **Met**

Comment
290-2-3-.07(8)(a) -The Consultant observed a current First Aid and CPR card to include 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.

Correction Deadline: 2/11/2026

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 **Not Met**

Finding
290-2-3-.07(9)(b)1 requires the annual ten (10) clock hours of training shall include at least two (2) hours in evidence based, developmentally appropriate language and literacy practices. It was determined based on review of staff files that the provider did not complete (2) hours in evidence based, developmentally appropriate language and literacy practice for the year of 2025 as required.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
The Provider will plan and schedule the required 10 hours of annual training each year to include a least two (2) hours in evidence based, developmentally appropriate language and literacy practices and follow up to ensure the training is completed.

Correction Deadline: 2/11/2026

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

The Provider was observed directly supervising and being attentive to the needs of the children.