



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: 11/12/2025 **VisitType:** Licensing Study

Arrival: 10:00 AM **Departure:** 12:20 PM

FR-0001550148
Hawkins, Patricia E
429 BARBARA AVENUE Dalton, GA 30721 Whitfield County
(706) 529-6098

Regional Consultant
Megan OMary
Phone: ()
Fax:
megan.omary@decal.ga.gov
Joint with: Dianne Clarke

Mailing Address
Same

Quality Rated: ★

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. 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.
11/12/2025	Licensing Study	Good Standing	
10/08/2025	Attempted	Good Standing	
11/14/2024	Licensing Study	Good Standing	

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	2	0	0	0
Total Under 13 Years	0	1	0	0	0
Total Under 18 Years	0				
Children Present: 0 Total Children: 2					
Caregivers/Helpers Present: 3 Total Caregivers/Helpers: 1					

Comments
Reminders:

- First Aid and CPR: Effective July 1, 2025, new staff are required to obtain pediatric First Aid and pediatric CPR training within 45 days of employment. At least one person in each classroom must have current pediatric and CPR training.
- Please update the center's policies and procedures to include the programs practices regarding the expulsion and suspension of children enrolled for care within the description of behavior management and discipline actions.
- Please ensure a description of practices followed by the center on the prevention of shaking baby syndrome and abusive head trauma in children up to five years of age.
- Effective July 1, 2025, all staff are required to obtain at least two hours in evidence based, developmentally appropriate language and literacy practices at least two hours in on-going child development and health and safety related topics as part of their 10 hours of annual training.

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.decgal.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@decgal.ga.gov for more information. Free technical assistance is available!



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Summary Report

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Arrival: 10:00 AM **Departure:** 12:20 PM

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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

A variety of equipment and toys were observed.

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

Comment

Currently the provider is not caring for infants. (This rule was not evaluated on this date)

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

Comment

Home does not provide swimming activities.

Children's Records

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

Finding

290-2-3-.08(9) requires that the Parent or person(s) authorized by the Parent or guardian to drop off and pick up the Child document each time the Parent or authorized person drops off and picks up the Child. The documentation shall include at least the following information: the date, the Child's name, the arrival and departure times, and the signature or initials of the Parent or authorized person and shall be made available to the Department in printed or written form upon request. It was determined based on a review of records that the arrival and departure times for students is not available. The provider stated they have not completed sign-in or sign-out sheets since April 2024.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Home will develop 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: 11/12/2025

Recited on 11/12/2025

Facility

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 a review of records the provider does not have evidence of emergency drills for 2025.

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: 12/11/2025

Finding

290-2-3-.11(2)(f) requires that poisons, medicines, cleaning agents and other hazardous materials be in locked areas or inaccessible to children. It was determined based on observation the following hazards were present and accessible to children; deodorant, toothpaste, oil removing face wash, hair spray, lidocaine cream, arthritis pain reliever cream, toilet brush, and Lysol toilet bowl cleaner.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

To ensure the safe storage of hazardous items, the Home Provider will make these items inaccessible to the children.

Correction Deadline: 11/14/2025

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 outside area appeared clean and well maintained.

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

Staff stated proper knowledge of hand washing and hygiene procedures.

290-2-3-.11 Diapering Areas & Practices(CR)**N/A****Comment**

There were no children present during the time of the inspection. (This rule was not evaluated on this date)

290-2-3-.11 Medications(CR)**Not Met****Finding**

290-2-3-.11(1)(d) prohibits Personnel from dispensing prescription or nonprescription medications to a Child without specific written authorization from the Child's physician or Parent. All medications shall be stored as authorized by Georgia law or in accordance with the prescription or label instructions and kept in places that are inaccessible to children. Each dose of medication given to a Child shall be documented showing the Child's name, name of medication, date and time given, and the name of the person giving the medication. It was determined based on observation that Tylenol Extra Strength tablets were present in an unlocked bathroom cabinet and accessible to children.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Home will obtain written authorization before giving medicine to a Child; will document each time medicine is administered to a child; will store medicine as required in an area that is locked or not accessible to children; and will store medicine that must be refrigerated in a leak-proof container that is inaccessible to children.

Correction Deadline: 11/12/2025

Licensure

Comment

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

Safety and Discipline**290-2-3-.11 Discipline(CR)**

N/A

Comment

There were no children present during the time of the inspection. (This rule was not evaluated on this date)

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

N/A

Comment

The provider does not provide routine transportation.

Staff Records**Records Reviewed: 2****Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 1**

Staff # 2

Not Met

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

CPR/First Aid -.07(8),Annual Training 10 Hours -.07(9),Health & Safety Certificate .07(7)

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

Met

Correction Deadline: 11/14/2024

Corrected on 11/12/2025

.21(1)(b) - The previous citation was corrected because the provider has satisfactory comprehensive records check determination.

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

Not Met

Finding

Previously Cited: 290-2-3-.07(8) 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 cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and a triennial training program in first aid which have been offered by certified or licensed health care professionals or trainers and which dealt with emergency care for infants and children. Such training must be completed prior to initial licensure for the Provider and within 90 days from date of hire for Provisional Employees and Employees. The Provider, a Provisional Employee or Employee with current CPR and first aid training must always be on the Home's premises and on any field trip whenever any Child is present. It was determined based on a review of files that staff #1 had an expired CPR/1st Aid certification effective 2023.

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 9045 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 staff # 2 had an expired CPR/1st aid certification.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

Previously Cited: The Home will obtain the required 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 and on any field trip whenever any Child is present.

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: 11/30/2025

Recited on 11/12/2025

290-2-3-.07 Staff Qualifications(CR)**Not Met****Finding**

290-2-3-.07(10) requires evidence of orientation and training shall be documented and maintained in the Personnel file and/or Georgia's workforce registry and professional development system of each Staff member which shall be available to the Department for inspection. Documentation shall include the title of the training courses, the dates, and the number of hours of the courses, and the names of the trainers or sponsoring organizations. It was determined based on review of records the provider does not have documentation of training for the year 2024.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Provider will develop and implement procedures to obtain documentation of training and orientation and to file such documents in staff records or through Georgia's workforce registry and professional development system on an ongoing basis.

Correction Deadline: 11/16/2025

Staff:Child Ratios and Supervision

290-2-3-.07 Staff:Child Ratios(CR)**N/A****Comment**

There were no children present during the time of the inspection. (This rule was not evaluated on this date)

290-2-3-.07 Supervision(CR)**N/A****Comment**

There were no children present during the time of the inspection. (This rule was not evaluated on this date)