



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: 8/3/2026

VisitType: Initial Licensing Study

Arrival: 10:30 AM Departure: 1:00 PM

FR-68686

Mathews, Peggy S

111 US Highway 82 NW Poulan, GA 31781 Worth County
(229) 821-2018

Application Services Unit Consultant

Lauren Stewart

Phone: (470) 521-3484

Fax:

lauren.stewart@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.
08/03/2026	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: 0					

Data retrieval failed for the subreport, 'RatioCapacity', located at: Koala.Reports.Visits.RDLC.RatioCapacity.rdlc.

Comments

The child care program received a final license on this date. The child care program does not carry liability insurance. The overall license capacity is limited to 5 children at any time per Department of Health.

Plan of Improvement: Developed This Date



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.dec.state.ga.us/CCS/RulesAndRegulations.aspx>.



For additional information regarding the full compliance inspection results of this program or any licensed program in the state, access the Child Care Services Compliance-at-a Glance website by scanning this QR code or visiting: <https://families.dec.state.ga.us>.

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.dec.state.ga.us/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@dec.al.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)

Met

Comment

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

Comment

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

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

Met

Comment

Discussed SIDS and infant sleeping position.

Comment

One of one pack n play was present meeting safety compliance with Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) and American Society of Testing and Materials International (ASTM) safety standards. Consultant discussed safe sleeping requirements with the Provider during the inspection visit.

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

N/A

Comment

Home does not provide swimming activities. No pool observed on site. Water related activities discussed with provider.

Children's Records

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

Technical Assistance

Technical Assistance

290-2-3-.08(8)(b) - Discussed updating the Home's policies and procedures to include the program's practices regarding the expulsion and suspension of children enrolled for care within the description of behavior management and discipline actions used by the Home. Also discussed to ensure 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. Additional information can be found in the FCCLH Indicator Manual found on DECAL's website at: <https://www.dec.al.ga.gov/CCS/RulesAndRegulations.aspx> or through the Center on Shaken Baby Syndrome found at: <https://dontshake.org/>.

Correction Deadline: 8/3/2026

Facility

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

Met

Comment

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

Comment

290-2-3-.11(2)(g) - Firearms and ammunition were observed to be stored inaccessible to the children. Firearms and ammunition were stored in separate locations and securely locked.

Correction Deadline: 8/3/2026

Comment

An operable and appropriately sized fire extinguisher was observed in the home this date.

Comment

Operable smoke detector was 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)

Technical Assistance

Technical Assistance

290-2-3-.13(2)(a) - Please ensure all barriers are secured around the bottom perimeter of the house.

Correction Deadline: 8/13/2026

Comment

The outside area appeared clean and well maintained.

Technical Assistance

290-2-3-.13(2)(d) - Please ensure fence measures 48 inches tall surrounding play area and that there are no gaps exceeding 3.5 inches.

Correction Deadline: 8/3/2026

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 state 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

Discussed proper medication documentation and procedures.

Licensure

290-2-3-.04 Application Requirements(CR)

Met

Comment

Application requirements reviewed with the Provider on this date. Final License will be issued upon completion of the Exit Conference. The overall licensed capacity is five (5) children at any given time. Overall licensed capacity was limited to 5 children by the Department of Health.

290-2-3-.11 Animals

N/A

Comment

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

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

Met

Comment

Currently there are no children enrolled in the program. Consultant discussed appropriate discipline and guidance techniques with the provider.

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. Consultant discussed transportation requirements if/when the provider decides to incorporate transportation. The provider 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

Comment

Criminal records checks were observed to be complete. Four (4) records were observed to have comprehensive satisfactory Criminal Background Check determination letters on file for the provider and all residents living in the home seventeen (17) years and older.

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.

Comment

290-2-3-.07(8)(b) - Discussed that effective July 1, 2025, new staff are required to obtain pediatric First Aid and pediatric CPR training within 45 days of employment. It was further discussed that Homes must have at least one person with current pediatric First Aid and pediatric CPR training present during field trips, transportation of children, and on the Home's premises whenever any Child is present.

Correction Deadline: 8/3/2026

290-2-3-.07 Provider Qualifications

Technical Assistance

Technical Assistance

290-2-3-.07(5) - Discussed that all Employees, including volunteers, independent contractors, students-in-training, etc. should have a completed initial program orientation form on file.

Correction Deadline: 8/4/2026

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

Met

Comment

290-2-3-.07(9)(b)1 - Discussed that effective July 1, 2025, all staff are required to obtain at least two hours in evidence based, developmentally appropriate language and literacy practices and at least two hours in on-going child development and health and safety related topics as part of their 10 hours of annual training.

Correction Deadline: 9/2/2026

Staff:Child Ratios and Supervision

Comment

Currently there are no children present in the program. Consultant discussed ratios with the Provider on this date.

Comment

Currently there are no children present in the program. Consultant discussed direct supervision with the Provider on this date.