



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: 2/13/2025 **VisitType:** Licensing Study

Arrival: 11:00 AM **Departure:** 1:45 PM

FR-000003973

Pledger, Hortense G

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Regional Consultant

Cassandra Jakes-Beasley

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Mailing Address

Same

Quality Rated: No

<u>Compliance Zone Designation</u>			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.
02/13/2025	Licensing Study	Good Standing	
04/22/2024	Licensing Study	Good Standing	
10/05/2023	Monitoring Visit	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	2	2	0	0	0
School Age(5+) Years	0	4	0	0	0
Total Under 13 Years	2	6	0	0	0
Total Under 18 Years	2				
Children Present: 2 Total Children: 6					
Caregivers/Helpers Present: 0 Total Caregivers/Helpers: 0					

Comments

A Licensing Study was conducted on February 13, 2025. Backgrounds checks and children records were reviewed. The Consultant completed the exit conference, and a copy of the visit report was emailed to the Director.

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.

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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(Findings Report)

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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

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

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

Met

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)

Met

Comment

Home does not provide swimming activities.

Children's Records

Records Reviewed: 6

Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 3

Child # 2

Not Met

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

Immunization Form - (.08)(2)

Child # 3

Not Met

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

Physician & Emergency Contact Information - (.08)(1)

Child # 6

Not Met

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

Immunization Form - (.08)(2)

Technical Assistance

290-2-3-.08(1) - The Consultant discussed with the director that the Home is required 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.

Correction Deadline: 2/13/2025

Finding

290-2-3-.08(11) requires that if the Home is not covered by liability insurance sufficient to protect its clients, the Home must notify the Parent of each Child under the care of the program in writing. Each Parent must acknowledge receipt of such notice, and a copy of the acknowledgement shall be kept in the Child's file. It was determined based on review the home did not have acknowledgment signed by the parents that the home was not covered by liability insurance.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Home Provider will obtain and maintain documentation.

Correction Deadline: 2/13/2025

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 the home did not have current evidence of age-appropriate immunizations or a signed affidavit against such immunizations for child # 1 and # 5.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Home Provider will ensure that an immunization record/signed affidavit is on file for each enrolled Child.

Correction Deadline: 2/13/2025

Technical Assistance

290-2-3-.08(4) - The Consultant discussed with the Provider that the Home maintain a file for each Child that includes known allergies, physical problems, mental health disorders, mental retardation or developmental disabilities which would limit the Child's participation in the program.

Correction Deadline: 2/13/2025

Technical Assistance

290-2-3-.08(8)(b) - The Consultant discussed with the Provider that the Family Child Care Learning Home have policies and procedures which shall include written procedures for the following:

1. Guidance and discipline techniques;
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.

Correction Deadline: 2/13/2025

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 there was no evidence that the home conducted drills for fire, tornado, and other emergency situations from July through December 2024 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: 3/15/2025

Correction Deadline: 4/22/2024

Corrected on 2/13/2025

.11(2)(f) - Previous citation corrected in that based on observation the closet was locked in the downstairs children's activity room.

Comment

The Home appears clean and free from hazards.

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

Not Met

Finding

290-2-3-.13(2)(a) requires that outdoor play areas be kept clean and free of hazards such as exposed sharp corners of concrete or equipment, rust and splinters on equipment, broken glass, open drainage ditches, holes and stagnant water. It was determined based upon observation that the wooden steps that the children use leading to the playground were weathered causing a potential slipping hazard. It was further determined based on observation on the new play area in front of the home there was a propane gas tank attached to heater, the gas meter was not enclosed and there was a drop off area between the paved surface and front of the home.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Home will repair any and all identified outdoor hazards and will monitor playground daily or more often as needed to ensure that the Home's outdoor play area is kept clean and free of hazards.

Correction Deadline: 2/14/2025

Recited on 2/13/2025

Comment

- The Consultant and Provider discussed that the outdoor play area in the back of the home is currently not in use. The provider agreed that before resuming using the area, it will be free of hazards. The provider will ensure that there are no gaps in the fencing material and the entry gate to the pool does not exceed 3.5 inches.

Defer

290-2-3-.13(2)(d)-This play area is currently not in use.

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: 5/31/2024

Health and Hygiene

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

Met

Comment

Staff state proper knowledge of hand washing and hygiene procedures.

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

Met

Comment

There are no diapered children currently enrolled in the program.

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.

Safety and Discipline

290-2-3-.11 Animals	Met
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Comment

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

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

The provider and/or the home's employee were observed to maintain a positive learning environment on this date.

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

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

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

The provider does not provide routine transportation.

Staff Records

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

Criminal records checks were observed to be complete.

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

Evidence observed that the provider was certified in First Aid and CPR.

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

Appropriate ratios were observed on this date.

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

Adequate supervision observed on this date.