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: 9/23/2025 **VisitType:** Licensing Study **Arrival:** 11:20 AM **Departure:** 1:10 PM

FR-46874
Addison, Joyce M
495 Ridgecrest Drive, SE Cairo, GA 39828 Grady County
(229) 397-8592

Regional Consultant
Angela Williams-Jackson
Phone: (404) 710-3984
Fax: (678) 717-5765
angela.williams-jackson@decal.ga.gov

Mailing Address
Same

Quality Rated: No

Compliance Zone Designation		
09/23/2025	Licensing Study	Good Standing
05/19/2025	Monitoring Visit	Good Standing
10/16/2024	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.

Data retrieval failed for the subreport, 'Subreport2', located at: Koala.Reports.Visits.RDLC.SubVisitRatio.rdlc. Please

Comments
Citations and TA were left with the Provider on this date.

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!**

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

Summary Report

Date: 9/23/2025 **VisitType:** Licensing Study **Arrival:** 11:20 AM **Departure:** 1:10 PM

FR-46874
Addison, Joyce M
495 Ridgecrest Drive, SE Cairo, GA 39828 Grady County
(229) 397-8592

Regional Consultant
Angela Williams-Jackson
Phone: (404) 710-3984
Fax: (678) 717-5765
angela.williams-jackson@decal.ga.gov

Mailing Address
Same

The following information is associated with a Licensing Study:

Activities and Equipment

290-2-3-.09 Activities **Not Met**

Finding
290-2-3-.09(1) requires the Home to provide a variety of daily activities appropriate for the Childrens' ages and developmental levels. Children with special needs shall be integrated unless contraindicated medically or by parental agreement. Activities shall be planned to include indoor and outdoor play; a balance of quiet and active periods; a balance of supervised free choice and caregiver-directed activities; individual, small group, and large group activities; large muscle activities; small muscle activities; language experiences; arts and crafts; dramatic play; rhythm and music; and nature and science experiences. It was determined based on observation that the children were not provided a variety of activities to play with. Children were sitting down on the couch with no activities provided.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
The Home Provider will revise the schedule so a variety of appropriate activities are provided.

Correction Deadline: 9/23/2025

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) **Not Met**

Comment
Discussed SIDS and infant sleeping position.

Finding
290-2-3-.19(2)(c) requires that infants shall only sleep in a safety approved crib or other equipment approved for infant sleep as described in 290-2-3-.19(1)(a) and shall not sleep in any other equipment, such as, but not limited to, a car safety seat, bouncy seat, highchair, or swing. Infants who arrive at the facility asleep or fall asleep in such equipment or on the floor shall be transferred to a safety approved crib or other equipment approved for infant sleep. It was determined based on observation that there was an infant sleeping in a swing that posed a suffocation hazard.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
The Home Provider will move infants who fall asleep in equipment other than a safety-approved crib such as a car safety seat, highchair or swing, or on the floor, to a safety-approved crib.

Correction Deadline: 9/23/2025

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

Comment
Home does not provide swimming activities.

Children's Records

Records Reviewed: 12	Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 1
Child # 3	Not Met
"Missing/Incomplete Components"	
Immunization Form - (.08)(2)	

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

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 observation that one child had an immunization record that expired on March 4, 2025.

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

Correction Deadline: 9/23/2025

Technical Assistance
The Consultant discussed with the Provider 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.

Correction Deadline: 9/23/2025

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 observation that the Provider did not have evidence of a sign in/out record as required.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
The Home will develop, if needed, 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: 9/23/2025

290-2-3-.08 Parental Authorization(CR) **Met**

Comment
Parent authorizations obtained and completed.

Facility

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

Correction Deadline: 5/20/2025

Corrected on 9/23/2025
The previous citation observed corrected on this date. The Provider had a written emergency plan.

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) **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 on observation that the following hazards were accessible to children and posed a health and safety hazard:
On the playground
- A trampoline.
- A black garbage bag near the back of the home.
- A roll of metal wire near the back of the home.

On the playground walkway
- Five mattresses.
- Three dressers.
- A generator.
- Garden shears.

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: 10/3/2025

Health and Hygiene

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

Comment
Staff were observed to remind children to wash hands.

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

Comment
Staff stated proper knowledge of diapering procedures.

290-2-3-.11 Medications(CR) **N/A**

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 the Family Child Care Learning Home on this date.

Safety and Discipline

290-2-3-.11 Animals **N/A**

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

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

Comment
Age-appropriate discussion and 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) **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

Date of Hire: 06/17/2000

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

Annual Training 10 Hours -.07(9),Health & Safety Certificate .07(7)

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 the last visit. Provider stated that there have been no new hires since the last visit.

290-2-3-.07 First Aid & CPR **Technical Assistance**

Comment
Evidence observed that the Provider was certified in pediatric First Aid and CPR on this date.

Technical Assistance
The Consultant discussed with the Provider 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: 9/23/2025

290-2-3-.07 Staff Qualifications(CR) **Technical Assistance**

Technical Assistance
The Consultant discussed with the Provider that all Employees, including volunteers, independent contractors, students-in-training, etc. should have a completed initial program orientation form on file.

Correction Deadline: 9/28/2025

Comment
Staff observed to be compliant with applicable laws and regulations.

290-2-3-.07 Staff Training **Not Met**

Finding
290-2-3-.07(7)(a)-(j) requires that the Provider, Employees and Provisional Employees with direct care responsibilities shall complete health and safety orientation training within the first 90 days of employment. The state-approved training hours obtained will count toward required first year training hours. The training must address the following health and safety topics: (a) prevention and control of infectious diseases (including immunizations); (b) prevention of sudden infant death syndrome and use of safe sleeping practices; (c) administration of medication, consistent with standards for parental consent; (d) prevention of and response to emergencies due to food and allergic reactions; (e) building and physical premises safety, including identification of and protection from hazards that can cause bodily injury such as electrical hazards, bodies of water, and vehicular traffic; (f) prevention of shaken baby syndrome, abusive head trauma and child maltreatment; (g) emergency preparedness and response planning for emergencies resulting from a natural disaster or a human-caused event (such as violence at a child care facility); (h) handling and storage of hazardous materials and the appropriate disposal of bio contaminants; (i) precautions in transporting children; recognition and reporting of child abuse and neglect; and (j) child development to include all major domains: cognitive; social and emotional; physical development and motor skills; communication, language, and literacy; and approaches to play and learning. It was determined based on a review of records that the Provider's Helper did not have evidence of health and safety orientation training as required.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
The Provider will complete the required training and will ensure any Employees or Provisional Employees complete the training. The Provider will develop a plan to ensure that any new Staff hired complete the training as required.

Correction Deadline: 10/23/2025

Finding
290-2-3-.07(9)(a) requires that every calendar year, after the first year of employment the Provider, Provisional Employees or and Employees, shall attend ten (10) clock hours of diverse training which is offered by an accredited college, university or vocational program or other Department-approved source. It was determined based on a review of records that the Provider's Helper did not have evidence of 10 clock hours of annual training for the year 2024, as required.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
The Home will obtain the required annual training for Staff and will keep certificates, cards, or other proof of training on file or within the Georgia Professional Development System (GaPDS). The Home will submit proof of training to the Department, if requested.

Correction Deadline: 10/23/2025

Technical Assistance
The Consultant discussed with the Provider 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: 10/23/2025

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
Adequate supervision observed on this date.