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: 9/24/2026 **VisitType:** Licensing Study **Arrival:** 9:45 AM **Departure:** 1:30 PM

FR-17136
Gerhartz, Michaela M
6269 Sayler Park Lithonia, GA 30058 DeKalb County
(404) 552-3470

Child Care Services Manager
Tahishe Smith
Phone: (706) 340-6383
Fax:
tahishe.smith@decal.ga.gov
Joint with: Tiffany Hill

Mailing Address
6269 SAYLER PARK
LITHONIA, GA 30058-6440

Quality Rated: No

Compliance Zone Designation		
09/24/2026	Licensing Study	Good Standing
01/07/2026	Licensing Study	Good Standing
07/29/2025	Monitoring Visit	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

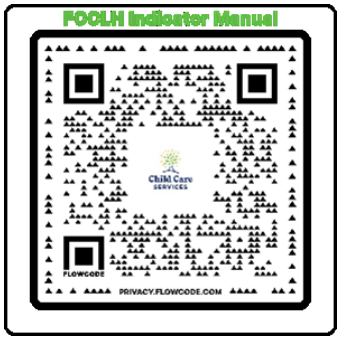
Age Ranges	Children Present	Child For Pay	CAPS	Not for Pay	Provider Children
Infant (0-11 mos)	0	0	0	0	0
1 & 2 Years	4	4	0	0	0
3 & 4 Years	1	1	0	0	0
School Age(5+) Years	1	1	0	0	0
Total Under 13 Years	6	6	0	0	0
Total Under 18 Years	6				

Children Present: 6
Total Children: 6
Caregivers/Helpers Present: 5
Total Caregivers/Helpers: 1

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

Comments
The provider participates in Quality Care for Children Food Program.
There are no children enrolled that receives CAPS subsidies.
The provider cares for two children for no pay.
The provider's hours of operation are from 7:30-5:30 p.m.

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.decal.ga.gov/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.decal.ga.gov.

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-.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
Care is not provided for any infant required to be in a crib

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

Comment
There is no pool on the property

Children's Records

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

Comment
Discussed ensuring that names are provided for Release Person and Emergency Contact.

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 child #3 and child #5 had expired immunization records on file. Child #3 immunization form expired on July 18, 2026 and Child #5 immunization expired on March 22, 2026.

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

Correction Deadline: 9/24/2026

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 observation that the Provider's Policies and Procedures were missing SIDS information, holidays, description of shaken baby syndrome and head trauma.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
The Home Provider will add the missing documentation to the written policies and procedures and will update policies and procedures as changes occur in the operation of the Home.

Correction Deadline: 9/24/2026

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 children that were present were not sign in on this date. Additionally, the children were not signed in and out on prior dates in the September.

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: 9/24/2026

Facility

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

Correction Deadline: 1/8/2026

Corrected on 9/24/2026
.11(2)(f) - The toilet brush was removed.

Comment
No hazards observed accessible to children on this date. The smoke detectors were working on both levels. The Provider stated that there are no firearms in the home.

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 was observed: There was a 2 foot opening underneath the deck that would allow the children to exit and enter. Additionally, there was a splintered tree trunk near the back on the deck area near the trees. There was standing water on the black tarp covering the playground equipment. All outdoor equipment on the playground such as the slides and toys located inside of the playhouse had heavy dirt stains. Additionally, based on observation there were several leaves on the ground and vines growing through the fence around the garden area.

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. The Provider will pressure wash all outdoor equipment.

Correction Deadline: 10/4/2026

Health and Hygiene

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

Comment
Discussed proper knowledge of hand washing and hygiene procedures.

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

Comment
Discussed proper diapering procedures.

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 Discipline(CR) **Met**

Comment
Age-appropriate discussion and/or redirection observed.

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

Comment
Please replace/add missing/expired antiseptic.

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
Criminal records checks were observed to be complete in the system. The Provider will ensure that the most recent copy of her CBC Letter is printed. Discussed upcoming expiration date of November 24, 2026 with the Provider and discussed instructions.

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. The Provider's CPR expires on January 22, 2027 and First Aid expires January 22, 2028.

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

Comment
The provider will need to obtain 2026 training by December 31, 2026. The Provider has not started any training but will do so before the end of the year.

Staff:Child Ratios and Supervision

290-2-3-.07 Staff:Child Ratios(CR) **Met**

Comment
Adequate supervision observed on this date.

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

Comment
Adequate supervision observed on this date.