



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: 1/13/2026 **VisitType:** Licensing Study

Arrival: 11:50 AM **Departure:** 1:30 PM

FR-000002153
Hartley, Cathy L
345 Elam Road Gordon, GA 31031 Wilkinson County
(478) 233-4523

Regional Consultant
Kristy Turner
Phone: (470) 373-3232
Fax:
kristy.turner@decal.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. 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.
01/13/2026	Licensing Study	Good Standing	
11/07/2025	Complaint Closure	Good Standing	
10/08/2025	Complaint Investigation Follow Up	Good Standing	

Ratio Capacity					
Age Ranges	Children Present	Child For Pay	CAPS	Not for Pay	Provider Children
Infant (0-11 mos)	3	3	0	0	0
1 & 2 Years	1	3	0	0	0
3 & 4 Years	1	2	0	0	0
School Age(5+) Years	0	0	0	1	0
Total Under 13 Years	5	8	0	1	0
Total Under 18 Years	5				
Children Present: 5 Total Children: 9					
Caregivers/Helpers Present: 2 Total Caregivers/Helpers: 2					

Comments

The visit report was completed on January 13, 2026. It was discussed and reviewed by the Owner/Provider Cathy Hartley. The Consultant emailed the language and literacy training information. Additionally, the Consultant emailed the technical assistance resources. There were no new hires and no new enrolled children since the last visit 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!



Summary Report

Date: 1/13/2026 VisitType: Licensing Study

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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)

Met

Comment

Discussed SIDS and infant sleeping position.

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

N/A

Comment

Home does not provide swimming activities.

Children's Records

Records Reviewed: 9

Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 5

Child # 2

Not Met

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

Immunization Form - (.08)(2)

Child # 4

Not Met

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

Immunization Form - (.08)(2)

Child # 5

Not Met

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

Immunization Form - (.08)(2)

Child # 8

Not Met

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

Immunization Form - (.08)(2)

Child # 9

Not Met

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

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 a review of records that Child # 2, Child # 4, Child # 5, Child # 8, and Child # 9 did not have a current age-appropriate immunization forms on file as required.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

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

Correction Deadline: 1/14/2026**Facility****290-2-3-.11 Physical Plant - Safe Environment(CR)****Met****Comment**

Home observed complete emergency drills

Comment

No hazards observed accessible to children on this date.

Comment

Operable smoke detector(s) were 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) - The Consultant discussed with the Provider to ensure that the play area was kept clean and free of hazards as required.

Correction Deadline: 1/23/2026**Correction Deadline: 10/17/2025****Corrected on 1/13/2026**

.13(2)(d) - The previous citation was observed corrected on this date. The Consultant observed that the fence panels on the left side bordering the driveway measured 4 feet as required.

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)**Met****Comment**

The provider stated appropriate 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

Application requirements reviewed with the Provider on this date.

Comment

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

Policies and Procedures**290-2-3-.14 Required Reporting****Met**

Correction Deadline: 11/20/2025

Corrected on 1/13/2026

.14(1) - The previous citation observed corrected on this date. The Provider stated proper knowledge that the Home to report or cause to be reported to the Department within twenty-four (24) hours or the next work day of any injuries that requires medical attention as required.

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

The provider and/or the home's employee were observed to maintain a positive learning environment 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 # 1

Not Met

Date of Hire: 01/01/1994

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

Annual Training 10 Hours -.07(9)

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

Comment

Criminal records checks were observed to be complete.

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

Staff observed to be compliant with applicable laws and regulations.

Finding

290-2-3-.07(9)(b)2(i)-(iv) requires the annual ten (10) clock hours of training shall include at least two (2) hours in on-going child development and health and safety related topics, which could include, but not be limited to: (i) Child development (e.g., developmental domains (cognitive; social and emotional; physical development and motor skills; communication, language, and literacy; approaches to play and learning), discipline and guidance techniques, children with special needs); (ii) Health (e.g., nutrition and the support of breast feeding, physical activity, prevention and control of illnesses and infectious diseases, immunizations, prevention of and response to emergencies due to food and allergic reactions, cleanliness, sanitation, and the appropriate disposal of bio contaminants); (iii) Safety (e.g., prevention of Sudden Unexpected Infant Death (SUID) which includes Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) and the use of safe sleeping practices, medication administration, injury control and prevention, transportation, handling and storage of hazardous materials, identification of and protection from hazards that can cause bodily injury such as electrical hazards, bodies of water, and vehicular traffic, and emergency preparedness planning and response); (iv) Child abuse and neglect (e.g., identification and reporting, meeting the needs of abused and/or neglected children, prevention of shaken baby syndrome, abusive head trauma and child maltreatment). It was determined based on a review of records that Staff #1 did not obtain the annual ten (10) clock hours of training for the year 2025 as required. Staff #1 had obtained nine (9) clock hours of annual training.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Provider will plan and schedule the required 10 hours of annual training each year to include a least two (2) hours of on-going child development and health and safety related topics and follow up to ensure the training is completed.

Correction Deadline: 2/12/2026

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

Correction Deadline: 11/7/2025

Corrected on 1/13/2026

.07(18) - The previous citation observed corrected on this date. The Consultant observed adequate supervision throughout the Home on this date as required.