



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: 2/23/2026 **VisitType:** Licensing Study

Arrival: 8:35 AM **Departure:** 9:50 AM

FR-18387

Carter, Ellen M

5892 Woodland Hwy Talbotton, GA 31827 Talbot County
(706) 674-2398

Regional Consultant

Brandi Mangino

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Mailing Address

Same

Quality Rated: ★ ★ ★

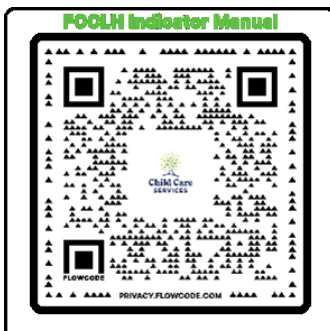
<u>Compliance Zone Designation</u>			Compliance Zone Designation - A summary measure of a program's 12 month monitoring history, as it pertains to child care health and safety rules. The three compliance zones are good standing, support, and deficient. Good Standing - Program is demonstrating an acceptable 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.
02/23/2026	Licensing Study	Good Standing	
08/13/2025	Monitoring Visit	Good Standing	
02/19/2025	Licensing Study	Good Standing	

Ratio Capacity					
Age Ranges	Children Present	Child For Pay	CAPS	Not for Pay	Provider Children
Infant (0-11 mos)	1	1	0	0	0
1 & 2 Years	7	4	0	3	0
3 & 4 Years	1	2	0	0	0
School Age(5+) Years	0	0	0	1	0
Total Under 13 Years	9	7	0	4	0
Total Under 18 Years	9				
Children Present: 9 Total Children: 11					
Caregivers/Helpers Present: 5 Total Caregivers/Helpers: 2					

Comments

The purpose of the visit was to conduct a Licensing Study.

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>.

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

You have received permission to operate and the form received with this report is intended to serve as a temporary license which is **valid for thirty(30) days**. Your actual license/ will be emailed to you upon receipt of the licensing fee. You may pay the licensing fee either online at <http://www.decal.ga.gov/> or by certified check or money order mailed to: Bright from the Start, 2 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive SE, Suite 670 East Tower, Atlanta, GA 30334

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

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

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)

Met

Comment

Home does not provide swimming activities.

Children's Records

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 a review of records that 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.

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: 2/23/2026

Facility

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

Met

Comment

Home observed complete emergency drills

Comment

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

Comment

An operable and appropriately sized fire extinguisher was observed 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)**Met****Comment**

Home does not provide swimming activities.

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**

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 Family Child Care Learning Home this date.

Safety and Discipline

290-2-3-.11 Animals**Met****Comment**

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

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

Age-appropriate discussion and/or redirection observed.

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

The provider does not provide routine transportation.

Staff Records

Records Reviewed: 5**Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 1**

Staff # 5**Not Met**

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

Health & Safety Certificate .07(7),CPR/First Aid -.07(8),Helper Orientation-.07(5)

Comment

Criminal records checks were observed to be complete.

290-2-3-.07 First Aid & CPR**Not Met****Finding**

290-2-3-.07(8)(a) requires the Home to maintain for the Provider and any Provisional Employee or Employee with direct care responsibilities current evidence of successful completion of a biennial training program in pediatric cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and a triennial training program in pediatric first aid which have been offered by certified or licensed health care professionals or trainers. Such training must be completed prior to initial licensure for the Provider and within 9045 days from date of hire for Provisional Employees and Employees. Current and valid evidence of the successful completion of such training shall be maintained on the Home's premises. It was determined based on a review of records that one helper did not have first aid and CPR on file.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Home will obtain the required pediatric CPR and first aid training and will keep certificates, cards, or other proof of training on file. The Home will submit proof of training to the Department, if requested. The Home will ensure that there is always a Staff person on the Home's premises whenever any Child is present.

Correction Deadline: 3/25/2026

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**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 appropriate to play and learning. It was determined the helper started in November 2025 and did not have health and safety orientation on file.

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: 3/25/2026

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 helpers did not have the required 10 hours of annual training for the 2025 year.

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: 3/25/2026

Technical Assistance

Please ensure that orientation paperwork is on file for all staff members.

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.