



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: 3/19/2026 **VisitType:** Monitoring Visit

Arrival: 9:40 AM **Departure:** 11:30 AM

FR-000008766

Harris, Brenda D

270 Travelers Rest Road Montezuma, GA 31063 Macon County
(229) 591-2572

Regional Consultant

Brandi Mangino

Phone: (478) 314-9726

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brandi.mangino@decal.ga.gov

Mailing Address

Same

Quality Rated: No

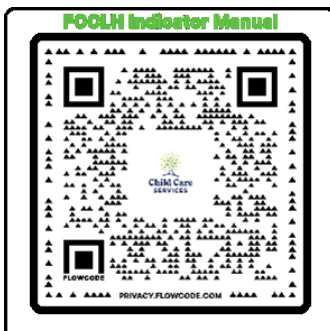
<u>Compliance Zone Designation</u>			Compliance Zone Designation - A summary measure of a program's 12 month monitoring history, as it pertains to child care health and safety rules. The three compliance zones are good standing, support, and deficient. Good Standing - Program is demonstrating an acceptable 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.
03/19/2026	Monitoring Visit	Good Standing	
09/16/2025	Licensing Study	Good Standing	
09/09/2024	Licensing Study	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	4	4	0	0	0
3 & 4 Years	1	1	0	0	0
School Age(5+) Years	0	0	0	0	0
Total Under 13 Years	5	5	0	0	0
Total Under 18 Years	5				
Children Present: 5 Total Children: 5					
Caregivers/Helpers Present: 1 Total Caregivers/Helpers: 1					

Comments

The purpose of the visit was to conduct a Monitoring Visit.

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!



Summary Report

Date: 3/19/2026 VisitType: Monitoring Visit

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The following information is associated with a Monitoring Visit:

Activities and Equipment

290-2-3-.09 Activities

Technical Assistance

Technical Assistance

Requires the Home to provide a variety of daily activities appropriate for the Children's 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.

The children were all napping upon arrival. Consultant discussed a variety of activities need to be provided to the children.

Correction Deadline: 3/19/2026

290-2-3-.12 Equipment and Supplies(CR)

Not Met

Finding

290-2-3-.12(1) requires the Home to provide a variety of age-appropriate toys, books and play equipment and materials. It was determined based on observation that the provider only had a few riding toys and no other variety of toys for the center or outside play.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Home Provider will secure a variety of appropriate equipment.

Correction Deadline: 3/19/2026

Correction Deadline: 3/19/2026

Corrected on 3/19/2026

.12(4) - Citation corrected. Consultant discussed the rockers and the ages of children enrolled at the current time and they are not age appropriate.

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

Not Met

Finding

290-2-3-.19(1)(b)1 requires that cots and mats shall be of sound construction and of sufficient size to accommodate comfortably the size and weight of the child. Mats must be in good repair, washable, covered with waterproof material and at least two inches (2") thick. It was determined based on observation that mats had exposed foam.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Home Provider will repair or replace cots and mats so they meet requirements.

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

Home does not provide swimming activities.

Children's Records**Records Reviewed: 5****Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 3**

Child # 2

Not Met

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

Emergency Medical Authorization - (.08)(3),Allergy/Medical Information - (.08)(4),Release Person Information - (.08)(10)

Child # 3

Not Met

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

Mom Work # Missing -(.08)(1)

Child # 4

Not Met

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

Immunization Form - (.08)(2)

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

290-2-3-.08(1) requires the Home 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. It was determined based on a review of records that the following information was missing from enrollment applications:

- one of five didn't have emergency contacts and any known allergies listed
- two of five didn't have the parents work information

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Home Provider will obtain the missing information and maintain the Children's records as required.

Correction Deadline: 3/19/2026**Recited on 3/19/2026****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 one of five children did not have a current immunization on file.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

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

Correction Deadline: 3/19/2026**Recited on 3/19/2026**

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 a review of records that the provider did not have a copy of the policy and procedures for review.

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: 3/19/2026

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 a review of records that the provider did not have sign in and out sheets for viewing.

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: 3/19/2026

290-2-3-.08 Parental Authorization(CR)**Not Met****Finding**

290-2-3-.08(3) requires the Home to obtain Parental authorization at the time of a Child's enrollment for emergency medical care when the Parent is not available. It was determined based on a review of records that one enrolled child did not have emergency medical care agreement on file.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Home Provider will have authorization for emergency medical care completed by the Parent for Children enrolled.

Correction Deadline: 3/19/2026**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 a review of records the provider did not have a records of emergency drills being conducted.

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: 3/31/2026**Recited on 3/19/2026****Correction Deadline: 9/16/2025****Corrected on 3/19/2026**

.11(2)(f) - Citation corrected. Consultant discussed the covered grill at the exit door needs to be placed outside.

Finding

290-2-3-.11(2)(h) requires at least one UL Approved smoke detector to be on each floor of the Home and such detectors to be maintained in working order. At least one 2-A:10-B:C fire extinguisher shall be kept in the child care area to be located no more than thirty feet from the kitchen. The extinguisher shall be maintained in working order and shall be inaccessible to the children. It was determined based on observation that the fire extinguisher was a 1-A 10-B.C

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The home provider will ensure that a working smoke detector is on each floor and a working fire extinguisher is available in the child care area as required, and is maintained inaccessible to children.

Correction Deadline: 3/19/2026**Recited on 3/19/2026****290-2-3-.13 Physical Plant-Structural/Mechanical(CR)****Not Met****Finding**

290-2-3-.13(1)(d) requires the Home shall be kept free of fire hazards and unnecessary or excessive combustible material. When in use, radiators, open fire, oil or wood burning stoves, floor furnaces and similar hazards shall have barriers or screens to prevent children from being burned. Unvented fuel fired heaters shall not be used unless equipped with an oxygen depletion safety shut off system. It was determined based on observation that two heaters were in use and accessible to children in care.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Home Provider will remove any unnecessary hazards and will ensure that access to stoves, fire places, etc. is inaccessible to children.

Correction Deadline: 3/19/2026

Finding

290-2-3-.13(1)(e) prohibits the use of multiple plugs and electric extension cords. Electrical outlets within reach of children shall be plugged or covered. It was determined based on observation that extension cords by the back exit door, and freezer were accessible to children in care. It was further determined that that plug covers were not covered.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Home will not use multiple plugs and electric extension cords and will check regularly to ensure electrical outlets are plugged or covered.

Correction Deadline: 3/19/2026

290-2-3-.13 Playgrounds(CR)**Not Met****Finding**

290-2-3-.13(2)(d) requires that outside play areas be protected from traffic or other hazards by fencing or other barriers at least four feet in height and approved by the Department. Fencing material shall not present a hazard to children. A fence shall be provided around swimming pools to make them inaccessible when not in use. It was determined based on observation that the playground did not have a gate to adequately enclosed to prevent the children from leaving the playground area.

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: 3/19/2026

Food Service**290-2-3-.10 Food Service & Nutrition****Not Met****Finding**

290-2-3-.10(8) requires that food be served according to manufacturer's instructions and recommendations. Foods that are associated with young children's choking incidents, such as, but not limited to, peanuts, hot dogs, raw carrots, popcorn, fish with bones, cheese cubes, grapes and any other food that is of similar shape and size of the trachea/windpipe shall not be served to the children less than four (4) years of age. Children older than four (4) years of age may be served these foods provided that the foods are cut in such a way as to minimize choking. Food shall not be accessible or served to children until it has been chopped, diced, cut or mashed and is appropriate for each child's age and individual eating, chewing and swallowing ability. It was determined based on a review of the menu that popcorn, grapes, cheese sticks, blueberries, franks, and smoked sausages were being served to children under the age of four.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Home will train Staff and monitor food served and accessible to children to ensure that the food does not present a choking hazard.

Correction Deadline: 3/19/2026

Recited on 3/19/2026

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)**Not Met****Finding**

290-2-3-.11(1)(f) requires diapers to be changed in the Child's own crib or on a nonporous surface which is cleaned with a disinfectant and dried with a single use disposable towel after each diaper change. It was determined based on observation that the provider did not have a nonporous diapering pad.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

To ensure the control of disease transmission, the Home Provider will change diapers in the child's crib or a nonporous surface. The diapering surface will be cleaned and disinfected between use with a single use disposable towel.

Correction Deadline: 3/19/2026

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****Not Met****Finding**

290-2-3-.11(1)(n) requires pets in the Home be properly vaccinated in accordance with the requirements of the local county Boards of Health. Unconfined pets shall not be permitted in child care areas when any Child is present except for supervised learning experiences. It was determined based on observation the provider had a cat present and no shot records.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Home will ensure that all animals are properly vaccinated and that unconfined animals are not allowed in child care areas.

Correction Deadline: 3/19/2026

Recited on 3/19/2026

Correction Deadline: 3/19/2026

Corrected on 3/19/2026

.11(1)(o) - Citation corrected.

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

Criminal records checks were observed to be complete.

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

Correction Deadline: 10/16/2025

Corrected on 3/19/2026

.07(8)(a) - Citation corrected.

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)(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 provider did not have 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: 3/19/2026

Recited on 3/19/2026

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 the provider did not have a health and safety related topic or language and literacy topic for the 2025 year.

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: 4/18/2026

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

Comment

Adequate supervision observed on this date.