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:** Complaint Investigation & Licensing Study **Arrival:** 10:45 AM **Departure:** 1:15 PM

FR-64136
Mathis, Junaid
2926 Callaway Circle Valdosta, GA 31602 Lowndes County
(229) 269-1964

Regional Consultant
Kayla Coats
Phone: (470) 676-8185
Fax:
kayla.coats@decal.ga.gov
Joint with: Rena Keene

Mailing Address
Same

Quality Rated: ★ ★

Compliance Zone Designation		
02/23/2026	Complaint Investigation & Licensing Study	Good Standing
07/11/2025	Monitoring Visit	Good Standing
11/05/2024	Initial 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.

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	5	5	0	0	0
School Age(5+) Years	0	0	0	0	0
Total Under 13 Years	9	9	0	0	0
Total Under 18 Years	9				

Children Present: 9
Caregivers/Helpers Present: 1
Total Children: 9
Total Caregivers/Helpers: 1

Helper Needed
More than 6 for pay
6 for pay present & no-pay present does not have a notorized no-pay statement

Comments
A copy of the visit report was left with the Provider on this date. A licensing study and complaint investigation was conducted on this date.

Plan of Improvement: No Plan Developed

FOCLH Indicator Manual

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 Visit:

Activities and Equipment

290-2-3-.09 Activities — **Not Met**

Finding
290-2-3-.09(3) requires that outdoor activities be provided daily, weather permitting. It was determined based on Provider statement that the children have had no outdoor play for several weeks.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
The Home Provider will follow a schedule that allows for all children to have daily outside play.

Correction Deadline: 2/23/2026

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

Comment
Equipment and furniture observed to be properly secured, as applicable.

290-2-3-.19 Infant-Sleeping Safety Requirements(CR) — **Not Evaluated**

Comment
Care is not provided for any infant required to be in a crib. The rule was not evaluated on this date.

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: 8**

Child # 1 — Not Met

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

Proof of No Liability Insurance Form

Child # 2 — Not Met

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

Mom Work # Missing -(.08)(1),Dad Work # Missing -(.08)(1),Allergy/Medical Information - (.08)(4),Proof of No Liability Insurance Form,Immunization Form - (.08)(2)

Child # 3 Not Met

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

Immunization Form - (.08)(2),Dad Work # Missing -(.08)(1),Mom Work # Missing -(.08)(1),Release Person Information - (.08)(10),Physician & Emergency Contact Information - (.08)(1),Proof of No Liability Insurance Form

Child # 4 Not Met

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

Proof of No Liability Insurance Form

Child # 5 Not Met

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

Proof of No Liability Insurance Form

Child # 6 Not Met

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

Immunization Form - (.08)(2),Dad Work # Missing -(.08)(1)

Child # 7 Not Met

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

Immunization Form - (.08)(2)

Child # 9 Not Met

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

Proof of No Liability Insurance Form

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 child files that the following information was missing:

Child #1: missing enrollment file
Child #2: missing mother and father's work numbers
Child #3: missing mother and father's work numbers, missing physician contact information
Child #6: missing father's work numbers

POI (Plan of Improvement)
The Home Provider will obtain the missing information and maintain the Children's records as required.

Correction Deadline: 2/23/2026

Finding
290-2-3-.08(11) requires that if the Home is not covered by liability insurance sufficient to protect its clients, the Home must notify the Parent of each Child under the care of the program in writing. Each Parent must acknowledge receipt of such notice, and a copy of the acknowledgement shall be kept in the Child's file. It was determined based on a review of records that the following children's files were missing a statement of no liability insurance:
Child #1, #2, #3, #4, #5, #8, and #9.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
The Home Provider will obtain and maintain documentation.

Correction Deadline: 2/23/2026

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, the following child files were missing immunization forms:
Child files #2, #3, #6, and #7

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

Correction Deadline: 2/23/2026

Finding
290-2-3-.08(8)(a) requires that the Family Child Care Learning Home have policies and procedures that shall include a written description of the services to be provided which specifies the following: ages of children served, months of operation, days of operation, hours of operation, dates the Family Child Care Learning Home will be closed, admission requirements, including parental responsibilities for supplying and maintaining accurate required record information and escorting Child to and from the Family Child Care Learning Home; standards fees, payment of fees, fees related to absences and vacations and other charges such as transportation, etc. and transportation provided, if any. It was determined based on a review of records and Provider statement that a copy of the policies and procedures were not available.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
The Home Provider will add the missing written policies to the 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) **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 Provider statement that no monthly fire drills or tornado drills have been conducted during the calendar year 2026.

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: 3/25/2026

Finding
290-2-3-.11(2)(f) requires that poisons, medicines, cleaning agents and other hazardous materials be in locked areas or inaccessible to children. It was determined based on observation that a toilet plunger was located in the children's restroom and within the reach of children.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
To ensure the safe storage of hazardous items, the Home Provider will make these items inaccessible to the children.

Correction Deadline: 2/23/2026

Comment
An operable and appropriately sized fire extinguisher was observed in the home 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) **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 playground hazards were present:
- multiple exposed tree roots and loose limbs scattered throughout
- weeds along the fence barrier
- wooden fence gate propped up on right side of playground that was not secured and had sharp corners

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: 3/5/2026

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 multiple fencing areas were not secured and had protruding nails at the corners and sections of fencing that contained gaps measuring over 4-inches wide. It was further determined that the far right side of the fence was leaning inward and not secure.

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: 2/23/2026

Food Service

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

Finding
290-2-3-.10(1) requires that meals and snacks are served, with serving sizes dependent upon the age of the child that meet nutritional guidelines as established by the United States Department of Agriculture Child and Adult Care Food Program. Meals and snacks shall be varied daily, and additional servings of nutritious food shall be offered to children over and above the required daily minimum, if not contraindicated by special diet. It was determined based on observation that no fruit or milk were served at lunch.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
The Home will prepare menus and/or serve foods that meet the USDA guidelines and will offer and serve seconds to children.

Correction Deadline: 2/23/2026

Finding
290-2-3-.10(6) requires the Home to provide a menu listing all meals and snacks to be served during the current week. Substitutions shall be recorded on the posted menu. Menus shall be retained at the Home for six (6) months. It was determined based on observation and Provider statement that no menu was available for the current week.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
The Home will list all of the current week's meals and snacks and all substitutions on the menu and keep past menus on file for six months and will implement a system to monitor this.

Correction Deadline: 2/23/2026

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 observation that bone-in chicken legs were served to children ages 3-years-old and younger.

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: 2/23/2026

290-2-3-.10 Kitchen Operations | **Technical Assistance**

Technical Assistance
290-2-3-.10(15) - Please ensure that all food not stored in the original packaging be labeled with the date and contents of the package.

Correction Deadline: 2/23/2026

Health and Hygiene

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

Comment
Proper hand washing observed throughout the Home.

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) | **Not Met**

Finding
290-2-3-.04(1)(d) requires a person that provides care for more than six children for pay, related or unrelated, as defined in these rules, shall make application to the Department for a license to operate a Child Care Learning Center, except as provided in 290-2-3-.07(15). It was determined based on observation that the home was caring for a total of nine children on this date when a limit of six children were required.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
The Family Child Care Learning Home caring for more than six children shall reduce the number of children in care to six. The Family Child Care Learning Home will submit an application for a Child Care Learning Center and receive a license to operate from the Department before caring for more than six children, related or unrelated, for pay.

Correction Deadline: 2/23/2026

Safety and Discipline

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

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

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 First Aid Kit **Not Met**

Finding
290-2-3-.11(1)(e) requires the Home and any vehicle used for transportation Children to have a first aid kit which at least contains: scissors, tweezers, gauze pads, thermometer, adhesive tape, band-aids, insect - sting preparation, antiseptic cleaning solution, antibacterial ointment, bandages, disposable rubber gloves, protective eyewear, facemask, and cold pack. The first aid kit, together with a first aid instruction manual which must be kept with the kit at all times, shall be stored in a central location so that it is not accessible to Children but is easily accessible to the Provider and Staff. The Home must also maintain written directions for the use of universal precautions for handling blood and bodily fluids. The directions on the use of universal precautions must be kept with the first aid kit at all times. It was determined based on observation that the home's first aid kit was missing the following items: triangular bandage, tweezers, and protective eyewear.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
The Home will replace any missing items in the first aid kit, keep the instruction manual and written universal precautions with the kit and will check the kit regularly. The Home will store the kit where children will not have access to it.

Correction Deadline: 3/5/2026

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 **Technical Assistance**

Technical Assistance
290-2-3-.07(8)(a) - Please ensure that a copy of First Aid and CPR training is kept on file.

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 **Technical Assistance**

Technical Assistance
290-2-3-.07(9)(b)1 - Please ensure that 2 hours of Department approved language and literacy training are completed during the 2026 calendar year.

Correction Deadline: 3/25/2026

Staff:Child Ratios and Supervision

290-2-3-.07 Staff:Child Ratios(CR) **Not Met**

Finding

290-2-3-.07(16) requires the Home to ensure that the total number of Children not Related to the Provider in the Family Child Care Learning Home, for pay or not for pay, cannot exceed six Children, except that a Provider may care for two additional children who are three years of age or older for two designated one hour periods daily upon approval by the Department. It was determined based on observation and a review of child files, a total of nine children ages 3-years-old and younger were present on this date when the limit of six children was required.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Home will reduce the number of unrelated children, both for pay and not for pay, so that the total number of unrelated children in care does not exceed the number of children as specified in these rules.

Correction Deadline: 3/5/2026

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

Comment

Adequate supervision observed on this date.