



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: 2/4/2026 **VisitType:** Licensing Study

Arrival: 10:40 AM **Departure:** 12:00 PM

FR-000008186

Groomes, Aleatha M

2554 BETHEL ROAD LOT 4 Bainbridge, GA 39817 Decatur
County
(229) 220-9420

Regional Consultant

Debrik Perry

Phone: (478) 599-9821

Fax: (478) 314-5864

debrik.perry@decal.ga.gov

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.
02/04/2026	Licensing Study	Good Standing	
08/08/2025	Monitoring Visit	Good Standing	
01/29/2025	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	2	2	1	0	0
3 & 4 Years	4	4	1	0	0
School Age(5+) Years	0	0	0	2	0
Total Under 13 Years	6	6	2	2	0
Total Under 18 Years	6				
Children Present: 6 Total Children: 8					
Caregivers/Helpers Present: 3 Total Caregivers/Helpers: 1					

Comments

An on site licensing study inspection was conducted on February 4, 2026 with the provider.

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!



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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

Currently the provider is not caring for infants. (This 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

290-2-3-.08 Children's Records

Not Met

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 observation that the provider's policies and procedures book was not updated to include the program's practices regarding the expulsion and suspension of children enrolled for care within the description of behavior management and discipline actions used by the Home. It was further determined that the information to ensure a description of the practices followed by the Home to prevent shaken baby syndrome and abusive head trauma in children up to five years was not included.

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: 2/4/2026

290-2-3-.08 Parental Authorization(CR)**Met****Comment**

Parent authorizations obtained/completed.

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

Home observed complete emergency drills

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)**Met****Comment**

The outside area appeared clean and well maintained.

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

Staff were observed to remind children to wash hands.

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****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**Met****Comment**

Complete first aid kit observed in the Family Child Care Learning Home

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**

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 Independent Contractors(CR)**N/A****Comment**

The facility does not currently have any independent contractors employed.

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**Met****Comment**

The Consultant reviewed the providers 10 hours of required annual training for 2025.

Correction Deadline: 2/9/2026

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

Provider stated that one volunteer is currently working with the learning home program. The provider further stated that they understand the rules and regulations regarding volunteers.

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.