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: 12/18/2025 **VisitType:** Licensing Study **Arrival:** 9:00 AM **Departure:** 11:30 AM

FR-000005466
Boatright, Mellissa A.
317 HILLCREST BOULEVARD Blackshear, GA 31516 Pierce County
(912) 550-7542

Regional Consultant
Connie Boatright
Phone: (912) 544-9701
Fax: (912) 544-9700
connie.boatright@decal.ga.gov

Mailing Address
Same

Quality Rated: No

Compliance Zone Designation		
12/18/2025	Licensing Study	Good Standing
11/25/2024	Licensing Study	Good Standing
12/05/2023	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	3	0	1	0
3 & 4 Years	4	3	0	1	0
School Age(5+) Years	0	2	0	3	0
Total Under 13 Years	8	8	0	5	0
Total Under 18 Years	8				

Children Present: 8
Total Children: 13
Caregivers/Helpers Present: 7
Total Caregivers/Helpers: 0

Comments
The CCS Consultant discussed and left a copy of the updated Child Care Weather Watch Chart with the program today. Weather does not permit outdoor play when there is active precipitation or when weather advisories are in effect. Consult the Child Care Weather Watch Chart resource for further guidance, considering specific weather conditions.

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-.09 Activities **Met**

Comment
The Consultant observed age appropriate activities through out the providers home.

Correction Deadline: 12/18/2025

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

Comment
Discussed with the provider to add toys and materials to enhance the learning environment.

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

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

Comment
Care is not provided for any infant required to be in a crib

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 **Technical Assistance**

Comment
Records were observed to be complete and well organized.

Technical Assistance
290-2-3-.08(8)(b) - Discussed updating the Home's policies and procedures 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.

Also discussed 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 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.

Additional information can be found in the FCCLH Indicator Manual found on DECAL's website at: https://www.decal.ga.gov/CCS/RulesAndRegulations.aspx or through the Center on Shaken Baby Syndrome found at: https://dontshake.org/

Correction Deadline: 12/18/2025

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
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) **Met**

Comment
The outside area appeared clean and well maintained.

Comment
Home does not provide swimming activities.

Comment
There is no pool on the property

Food Service

290-2-3-.10 Food Service & Nutrition **Technical Assistance**

Comment
290-2-3-.10(3)(f) - The Consultant discussed with the provider that food for infants or children less than one (1) year of age be cut into pieces one-quarter inch or smaller and food for toddlers shall be cut into pieces one-half inch or smaller to prevent choking.

Correction Deadline: 12/18/2025

Technical Assistance
290-2-3-.10(6) - Please ensure that 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

Correction Deadline: 12/18/2025

Health and Hygiene

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

Comment
Proper hand washing observed throughout the Home.

290-2-3-.11 Diapering Areas & Practices(CR) **Met**

Comment
Proper diapering procedures observed.

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
Application requirements reviewed with the Provider on this date.

Safety and Discipline

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

Comment
Animals maintained clean and appropriately caged.

Comment
Appropriate vaccination records were available on this date.

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

Comment
Pleasant interactions observed between the provider and children in care.

Comment
Age-appropriate discussion and/or redirection observed.

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) **Met**

Comment
The provider does not provide routine transportation.

Staff Records

Records Reviewed: 4 **Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 2**

Staff # 1 Not Met

Date of Hire: 01/01/2004

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

CPR/First Aid -.07(8)

Staff # 4 Not Met

Date of Hire: 04/11/2025

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

Health & Safety Certificate .07(7),Annual Training 10 Hours -.07(9),CPR/First Aid -.07(8),Helper Orientation-.07(5)

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

Comment
Criminal records checks were observed to be complete.

Comment
Provider provided no file(s) for employees hired since last visit.

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 review of staff records that staff # 1 CPR and First Aid expired August 20, 2025 and staff # 4 was hired April 11, 2025 and had not completed a biennial training program in pediatric cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and a triennial training program in pediatric first aid within 45 days of hire as required.

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: 1/17/2026

Finding
290-2-3-.07(8)(b) requires the Provider, a Provisional Employee or Employee with current evidence of successful completion of pediatric cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and pediatric first aid must always be on the Home's premises whenever any Child is present. It was determined based on review of staff records that there was noone at the home with current evidence of successful completion of pediatric cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and pediatric first aid as required.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
The Provider will ensure at least one currently pediatric CPR and First Aid trained Staff person is present on the Home's premies when children are present.

Correction Deadline: 1/17/2026

290-2-3-.07 Provider Qualifications **Technical Assistance**

Technical Assistance
290-2-3-.07(4) - Discussed that the provider will ensure a Home to maintain a personnel file on the Provider, all Employees, Provisional Employees, Personnel, Staff, Students-in-Training, Volunteers, Clerical, Housekeeping, Maintenance and other Support Staff for the duration of the term of employment plus one (1) calendar year, and it shall contain the following: identifying information to include: name, date of birth, social security number, current address and current telephone number; employment history for the past ten years; as applicable to the position held: evidence of education and qualifying work experience, evidence of required program orientation including date and signature of person providing the orientation; evidence of all training required by these rules which shall include: title of training, date of training, trainer's signature, location of training and number of clock hours obtained; a statement completed by the staff member that the information provided is true and accurate; and any other records required by these rules (Staff # 4 had no record).

Correction Deadline: 12/19/2025

Technical Assistance
290-2-3-.07(5) - The provider will ensure that prior to assignment to children or task, the Provider and all Employees (i.e., Volunteers, Students-in-Training, Independent Contractors, etc.) and Provisional Employees must receive initial program orientation.

Correction Deadline: 12/19/2025

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(7)(a)-(j) - New - Please 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 approproaches to play and learning.

Correction Deadline: 1/17/2026

Technical Assistance
290-2-3-.07(9)(b)1 - Discussed that effective July 1, 2025, all staff are required to obtain at least two hours in evidence based, developmentally appropriate language and literacy practices and at least two hours in on-going child development and health and safety related topics as part of their 10 hours of annual training.

Correction Deadline: 1/17/2026

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.