



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: 1/20/2026 **VisitType:** Licensing Study

Arrival: 3:45 PM **Departure:** 6:00 PM

FR-38419
Brown, Veronica C
638 Saddle Ridge Drive Bethlehem, GA 30620 Barrow County
(678) 576-8121

Regional Consultant
Lynn Schnitzer
Phone: (678) 717-5720
Fax: (770) 344-5683
lynn.schnitzer@dec.al.ga.gov

Mailing Address
Same

Quality Rated: No

Compliance Zone Designation			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.
01/20/2026	Licensing Study	Good Standing	
06/12/2025	Licensing Study	Good Standing	
06/12/2024	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	4	4	0	0	0
3 & 4 Years	2	2	0	0	0
School Age(5+) Years	1	1	0	0	0
Total Under 13 Years	8	8	0	0	0
Total Under 18 Years	8				
Children Present: 8 Total Children: 8					
Caregivers/Helpers Present: 3 Total Caregivers/Helpers: 0					
More than 6 for pay 6 for pay present & no-pay present does not have a notarized no-pay statement					

Comments

The consultant discussed the visit report with the Director, Veronica Brown, on January 20, 2026.

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.

Comment

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

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

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

Met

Comment

Records were observed to be complete and well organized.

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

No hazards observed accessible to children on this date.

Comment

An operable and appropriately sized fire extinguisher was observed in the home this date.

Comment

The Home appeared clean and free from hazards.

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

290-2-3-.13(2)(a) - Consultant discussed with director to ensure that the animal excrement is removed from the outside play area.

Correction Deadline: 1/30/2026

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 there was a gap measuring approximately 5 inches between the gate to the playground and the gate did not have a working latch. Further, there were cross pieces with splintered wood on the right side of the fence.

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: 1/30/2026

Recited on 1/20/2026

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

290-2-3-.10(3) - Consultant discussed with the provider that the signed written feeding plan for children less than one (1) year of age be updated regularly as new foods are added or other dietary changes are made and the feeding plan shall be posted in the main child care area.

Correction Deadline: 1/20/2026

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 a 1-year-old child and three 2-year-old children were served popcorn for snack.

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: 1/20/2026

Health and Hygiene**290-2-3-.11 Children's Health and Hygiene(CR)****Not Met****Finding**

290-2-3-.11(1)(j) requires children's hands to be washed with liquid soap and warm running water: immediately upon arrival for the day and re-entering the child care area after outside play; before and after eating meals and snacks, handling or touching food, and playing in water; after toileting and diapering, playing in sand, touching animals or pets, contact with bodily fluids such as, but not limited to, mucus, saliva, vomit or blood, and after contamination by any other means. It was determined based on observation that children did not wash their hands after eating snack.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

To ensure proper hygiene, all children will wash their hands with liquid soap and warm running water as required.

Correction Deadline: 1/20/2026

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 diapering changing surface was not non-porous and was not disinfected after the provider completed the diaper changing process.

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: 1/20/2026

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**

The consultant observed the provider to care for eight unrelated children for pay on this date.

Safety and Discipline

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

Correction Deadline: 6/12/2025

Corrected on 1/20/2026

.11(1)(n) - The previous citation was observed corrected on this date. The Consultant observed current vaccination records for the pet in the home.

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

Age-appropriate discussion and/or redirection observed.

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 June 12, 2025.

Comment

Criminal records checks were observed to be complete.

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

290-2-3-.07(8)(b) - Provider certified in first aid/ CPR.

Correction Deadline: 1/20/2026

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**Met****Comment**

290-2-3-.07(9)(b)1 - Provider completed ten hours of annual training, including two hours of language and literacy and two hours of child development.

Correction Deadline: 2/19/2026

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.