



**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:** 4/16/2026 **VisitType:** Licensing Study

**Arrival:** 10:15 AM **Departure:** 11:30 AM

**FR-26492**

**Mathis, Keisha I**

3620 STUDSTILL ROAD Valdosta, GA 31605 Lowndes County  
(229) 242-7812

Regional Consultant

Kayla Coats

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Fax:

kayla.coats@dec.al.ga.gov

**Mailing Address**

3620 STUDSTILL ROAD  
VALDOSTA, GA 31605

**Quality Rated:** ★ ★ ★

| <u>Compliance Zone Designation</u> |                  |               | <b>Compliance Zone Designation</b> - 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.<br><br><b>Good Standing</b> - Program is demonstrating an acceptable level of performance in meeting the rules.<br><b>Support</b> - Program performance is demonstrating a need for improvement in meeting rules.<br><b>Deficient</b> - Program is not demonstrating an acceptable level of performance in meeting the rules. |
|------------------------------------|------------------|---------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 04/16/2026                         | Licensing Study  | Good Standing |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| 10/22/2025                         | Monitoring Visit | Good Standing |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| 04/25/2025                         | Licensing Study  | Good Standing |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |

| <u>Ratio Capacity</u>                                                                              |                  |               |      |             |                   |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|---------------|------|-------------|-------------------|
| 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                                                                                        | 0                | 0             | 0    | 0           | 0                 |
| 3 & 4 Years                                                                                        | 3                | 6             | 0    | 0           | 0                 |
| School Age(5+) Years                                                                               | 0                | 0             | 0    | 0           | 0                 |
| Total Under 13 Years                                                                               | 3                | 6             | 0    | 0           | 0                 |
| Total Under 18 Years                                                                               | 3                |               |      |             |                   |
| Children Present: 3 Total Children: 6<br>Caregivers/Helpers Present: 3 Total Caregivers/Helpers: 1 |                  |               |      |             |                   |

**Comments**

A copy of the visit report was left with the Provider on this date.

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

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.

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#### 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](http://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.

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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](mailto:qualityrated@decal.ga.gov) for more information. Free technical assistance is available!



## Summary Report

Date: 4/16/2026 VisitType: Licensing Study

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The following information is associated with a Licensing Study:

## Activities and Equipment

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

Not Met

### Finding

290-2-3-.12(5) requires all indoor and outdoor furniture, activity materials, and equipment shall be free from hazardous conditions such as, but not limited to, sharp rough edges or toxic paint and kept clean. It was determined based on observation that three out five tricycles had broken, missing, or worn down handle bars with small areas of exposed rust.

### POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Home will repair or replace any identified hazardous or unclean equipment and will monitor all indoor and outdoor equipment to ensure it is free from hazards and kept clean.

Correction Deadline: 4/17/2026

### Comment

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

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

N/A

### 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: 6

Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 1

Child # 4

Not Met

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

Physician & Emergency Contact Information - (.08)(1)

**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 file for Child #4 was missing physician address and phone number.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

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

**Correction Deadline: 4/16/2026**

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

Technical Assistance

**Comment**

Home observed complete emergency drills

**Technical Assistance**

290-2-3-.11(2)(f) - Please ensure that bathroom cabinet with cleaning supplies are fitted with child proof locks.

**Correction Deadline: 4/16/2026**

**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.

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

Met

**Comment**

CACFP Meal Pattern Requirements: 3 Components for breakfast: Grains, Vegetables, Fruits or both, Milk 5 Components for lunch – Grains, Meat/Meat alternates, Fruits, Vegetable, and Milk OR Grains, Meat/Meat alternates, 2 different types of vegetables, and Milk 2 of 5 Components for snack Provided Updated CACFP Infant Meal pattern and Child/Adult Meal pattern flyers. The Crediting Handbook for the CACFP can be located on DECAL and USDA's website: DECAL <http://decalf.ga.gov/CACFP/Handbook.aspx> USDA <http://www.fns.usda.gov/cacfp/cacfp-handbooks>

**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)**

N/A

**Comment**

There are no diapered children currently enrolled in the program. The rule was not evaluated on this date.

**290-2-3-.11 Medications(CR)**

N/A

**Comment**

Per the provider no medication is currently dispensed

**Licensure**

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**290-2-3-.04 Application Requirements(CR)****Met****Comment**

Appropriate number of children observed in Family Child Care Learning Home this date.

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**Safety and Discipline****290-2-3-.11 Animals****N/A****Comment**

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

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**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.

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**290-2-3-.11 Transportation(CR)****N/A****Comment**

The provider does not provide routine transportation.

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**Staff Records**

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**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.

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

Evidence observed that the Provider was certified in pediatric First Aid and CPR on this date.

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

Staff observed to be compliant with applicable laws and regulations.

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**Staff:Child Ratios and Supervision**

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**290-2-3-.07 Staff:Child Ratios(CR)****Met****Comment**

Appropriate ratios were observed on this date.

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

The Provider was observed directly supervising and being attentive to the needs of the children.