



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: 3/3/2026

VisitType: Licensing Study

Arrival: 4:00 PM

Departure: 6:00 PM

FR-000003973

Pledger, Hortense G

1654 Phillips Rd Lithonia, GA 30058 DeKalb County
(678) 580-5619

Regional Consultant

Evon Hewitt

Phone: ()

Fax:

evon.hewitt@dec.al.ga.gov

Mailing Address

Same

Quality Rated: No

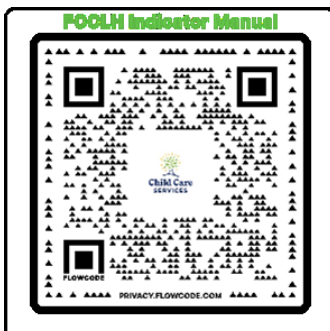
Compliance Zone Designation			Compliance Zone Designation - A summary measure of a program's 12 month monitoring history, as it pertains to child care health and safety rules. The three compliance zones are good standing, support, and deficient.
03/03/2026	Licensing Study	Good Standing	
09/17/2025	Monitoring Visit	Good Standing	
09/04/2025	Attempted	Good Standing	
			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	0	0	0	0	0
3 & 4 Years	1	3	0	0	0
School Age(5+) Years	0	6	0	0	0
Total Under 13 Years	1	9	0	0	0
Total Under 18 Years	1				
Children Present: 1 Total Children: 9					
Caregivers/Helpers Present: 0 Total Caregivers/Helpers: 0					

Comments

The findings of this report were reviewed with the Provider on this date. Previous rule violations were observed/discussed.

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.dec.al.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:

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)

Not Met

Finding

290-2-3-.19(1)(b)1 requires that cots and mats shall be of sound construction and of sufficient size to accommodate comfortably the size and weight of the child. Mats must be in good repair, washable, covered with waterproof material and at least two inches (2") thick. It was determined based on observation that four of four mats in the downstairs play area had tears with exposed foam on this date.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Home Provider will repair or replace cots and mats so they meet requirements.

Correction Deadline: 3/20/2026

290-2-3-.07 Swimming Pools & Water-related Activities(CR)

N/A

Comment

Swimming activities provided off site.

Children's Records

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

Met

Correction Deadline: 10/17/2025

Corrected on 3/3/2026

.08(11) - Previous citation corrected in that the Consultant observed the Home to have documentation of Notice of No Liability Insurance and Acknowledgement signed by the parents on this date.

Correction Deadline: 10/15/2025

Corrected on 3/3/2026

.08(2) - Previous citation corrected in that the Consultant observed the Home to have documentation of a current age-appropriate immunization or a signed affidavit against such immunizations on this date.

Facility

Correction Deadline: 9/30/2025

Corrected on 3/3/2026

.11(2)(c) - Previous citation corrected in that the Consultant observed the Provider to have evidence of completing emergency drills for the months of January and February of 2026 as required on this date.

290-2-3-.13 Physical Plant-Structural/Mechanical(CR)**Technical Assistance**

Correction Deadline: 9/17/2025

Corrected on 3/3/2026

.13(1) - Previous citation corrected in that the Consultant did not observe any potential hazards accessible to children on this date.

Technical Assistance

290-2-3-.13(1)(d) - requires the Home shall be kept free of fire hazards and unnecessary or excessive combustible material. When in use, radiators, open fire, oil or wood burning stoves, floor furnaces and similar hazards shall have barriers or screens to prevent children from being burned. Unvented fuel fired heaters shall not be used unless equipped with an oxygen depletion safety shut off system. The Consultant and Provider discussed ensuring that heating/cooling equipment remain inaccessible to children.

Correction Deadline: 3/6/2026

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 outdoor hazards were accessible to children on this date:

- There were active ant piles located at the front left and back left of the outdoor play area.
- There was a torn black playground liner causing a tripping hazard behind the swings located at the back left of the outdoor play area.

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: 3/17/2026

Recited on 3/3/2026

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 upon observation that the following fencing hazards were accessible to children:

- There was a 4 inch and a 5 inch top gap at the back right corner of the chain link fence of the outdoor play area.
- There was an 8 inch gap in back corner on the left side of the playground causing a potential entrapment hazard.

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: 3/24/2026

Recited on 3/3/2026

Health and Hygiene

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

The Consultant and Provider discussed proper handwashing on this date. There were no children present during the time of this visit.

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

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. The Consultant and Provider discussed ensuring that the diaper changing pad remains free from tears as required on this date.

Correction Deadline: 3/3/2026

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 a review of records that the Provider had nine unrelated children for pay enrolled at the Home on the date of this visit.

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: 3/3/2026

Safety and Discipline

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

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

290-2-3-.11 Discipline(CR)**Not Evaluated****Comment**

There were no children present during the time of the inspection. (This rule was not evaluated on this date)

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

There were no children present during the time of the inspection. (This rule was not evaluated on this date)
The Provider stated that she was not providing transportation for children at this time.

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 Staff Qualifications(CR)**Met****Comment**

Staff observed to be compliant with applicable laws and regulations.

Technical Assistance

290-2-3-.07(9)(b)1 - requires the annual ten (10) clock hours of training shall include at least two (2) hours in evidence based, developmentally appropriate language and literacy practices. The Consultant and Provider discussed ensuring that the annual ten (10) clock hours of training shall include at least two (2) hours in evidence based, developmentally appropriate language and literacy practices.

Correction Deadline: 4/2/2026

Staff:Child Ratios and Supervision

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

Not Evaluated

Comment

There were no children present during the time of the inspection. (This rule was not evaluated on this date)

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

Not Evaluated

Comment

There were no children present during the time of the inspection. (This rule was not evaluated on this date)