



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: 11:55 AM **Departure:** 1:35 PM

FR-61970

Carter, Melissa L

42 E. Gate Drive Tifton, GA 31794 Tift County
(229) 402-7376

Regional Consultant

Jackqueline Frederick

Phone: (229) 386-3247

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jackqueline.frederick@dec.al.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.
01/20/2026	Licensing Study	Good Standing	
07/31/2025	Monitoring Visit	Good Standing	
02/06/2025	Licensing Study	Good Standing	

Ratio Capacity					
Age Ranges	Children Present	Child For Pay	CAPS	Not for Pay	Provider Children
Infant (0-11 mos)	2	1	0	0	0
1 & 2 Years	0	1	0	0	0
3 & 4 Years	1	1	0	0	0
School Age(5+) Years	0	1	0	0	0
Total Under 13 Years	3	4	0	0	0
Total Under 18 Years	3				
Children Present: 3 Total Children: 9					
Caregivers/Helpers Present: 0 Total Caregivers/Helpers: 0					

Comments

Discussed required training.

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

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

Not Met

Correction Deadline: 8/15/2025

Corrected on 1/20/2026

.08(1) - Citation observed corrected.

Finding

290-2-3-.08(2) requires the Home to maintain a file for each Child that includes evidence of age-appropriate immunizations or a signed affidavit against such immunizations; enrollment in the Home may not continue for more than 30 days without such evidence. It was determined based on observation that the home did not have current evidence of an immunization for one child for pay.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Home Provider will ensure that an immunization record/signed affidavit is on file for each enrolled Child.

Correction Deadline: 1/20/2026

Facility

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

No hazards observed accessible to children on this date.

290-2-3-.13 Physical Plant-Structural/Mechanical(CR)	Met
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Comment

The Home appeared clean and free from hazards.

290-2-3-.13 Playgrounds(CR)	Not Met
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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 that the homes back step leading to the playground had a splintered board and was not in good repair as required.

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: 1/30/2026

Health and Hygiene

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

Proper hand washing observed throughout the Home.

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

Proper diapering procedures observed.

290-2-3-.11 Medications(CR)	Met
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Comment

Per the provider no medication is currently dispensed

Licensure

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

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

Safety and Discipline

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

Age-appropriate discussion and/or redirection observed.

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

The provider does not provide routine transportation.

Staff Records

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

290-2-3-.07 Staff Training**Not Met****Finding**

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. It was determined based on a review of records that the home did not have evidence of the required language and literacy training.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Provider will plan and schedule the required 10 hours of annual training each year to include a least two (2) hours in evidence based, developmentally appropriate language and literacy practices and follow up to ensure the training is completed.

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.