



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: 2/19/2026 **VisitType:** Monitoring Visit

Arrival: 2:05 PM **Departure:** 3:40 PM

FR-64283

McWhorter, Vanessa

2027 S County Line Rd Lithia Springs, GA 30122 Douglas County
(678) 235-1703

Regional Consultant

Kara Williams

Phone: ()

Fax:

kara.williams@dec.al.ga.gov

Mailing Address

Same

Quality Rated: No

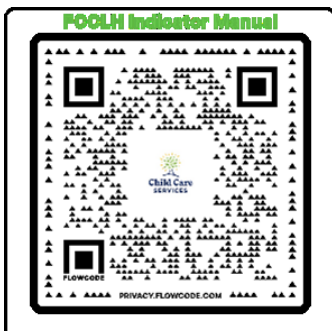
Compliance Zone Designation			Compliance Zone Designation - A summary measure of a program's 12 month monitoring history, as it pertains to child care health and safety rules. The three compliance zones are good standing, support, and deficient. Good Standing - Program is demonstrating an acceptable 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.
02/19/2026	Monitoring Visit	Good Standing	
09/19/2025	Licensing Study	Good Standing	
09/30/2024	Initial Licensing Study	Good Standing	

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	1	1	0	0	0
3 & 4 Years	1	0	0	0	1
School Age(5+) Years	0	0	0	0	0
Total Under 13 Years	2	1	0	0	1
Total Under 18 Years	2				
Children Present: 2 Total Children: 2					
Caregivers/Helpers Present: 1 Total Caregivers/Helpers: 1					

Comments

Discussed compliance with State rules and regulations to support ongoing health and safety of children in care.

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!



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

Summary Report

Date: 2/19/2026 **VisitType:** Monitoring Visit

Arrival: 2:05 PM **Departure:** 3:40 PM

FR-64283

McWhorter, Vanessa

2027 S County Line Rd Lithia Springs, GA 30122 Douglas County
(678) 235-1703

Regional Consultant

Kara Williams

Phone: ()

Fax:

kara.williams@decal.ga.gov

Mailing Address

Same

The following information is associated with a Monitoring Visit:

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)

N/A

Comment

Home does not provide swimming activities.

Children's Records

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

Not Met

Finding

290-2-3-.08(12) requires that documentation for the care of related children in the Home, other than the Providers own children, include a notarized statement of family relationships by the Parent(s). It was determined based on a review of records that the file for one related child, not for pay, did not have the required relationship affidavit.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Home Provider will obtain and maintain documentation.

Correction Deadline: 2/23/2026

Recited on 2/19/2026

Facility

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

Met

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.

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)	N/A
-----------------------------	-----

Comment

Per the provider no medication is currently dispensed

Licensure

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

Comment

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

Safety and Discipline

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

Comment

Pleasant interactions observed between the provider and children in care.

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

Comment

The provider does not provide routine transportation.

Staff Records

Records Reviewed: 1

Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 1
--

Staff # 1

Not Met

Date of Hire: 09/30/2024

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

Criminal Records Check -.21(1)(a)

290-2-3-.21 Criminal Records and Comprehensive Background Checks(CR)	Not Met
--	---------

Finding

290-2-3-.21(1)(a) requires the Home to ensure that the Provider, every actual and potential Employee(including residents age 17 and older) and Provisional Employee of the Family Child Care Learning Home has submitted both a Records Check Application to the Department and Fingerprints to an authorized fingerprinting site. It was determined based on a review of records that the provider submit a Records Check Application to the Department on September 23, 2025 that closed but did not complete her fingerprinting at an authorized site when both an application and submitted fingerprints were required.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

IMMEDIATE CORRECTION - The Home will keep a record of CBC applications to ensure that every actual and potential Provider, Employee and Provisional Employee of a Family Child Care Learning Home submit both a Records Check Application to the Department and Fingerprints to an authorized fingerprinting site as required. The provider must view the A to Z Background Check video units pertaining to this records check rule and return the signed affidavit within one week from this visit date. The Home will review state rules and regulations to ensure the CRC rules are maintained.

Correction Deadline: 2/19/2026

Finding

290-2-3-.21(1)(b) requires every Provider to have a current and valid satisfactory Comprehensive Records Check Determination on file prior to being present at the Home while any child is present for care or before residing in the Home. The Comprehensive Records Check Determination must have a Records Check Clearance Date that is no older than the preceding 12 months of the license date; provided, however, if the Provider has had a lapse of employment from the child care industry that lasted for 180 days (6 months) or longer, a new satisfactory Comprehensive Records Check Determination is required. It was determined based on a review of records that the Provider did not have a current and valid satisfactory Comprehensive Records Check Determination on file prior to children being present in the home.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

IMMEDIATE CORRECTION - The Home will keep a log of Staff CBC records to ensure that the Provider has a valid and current satisfactory Comprehensive Records Check Determination on file prior to being present at the Home while any child is present for care or before an individual age 17 or older resides in the Home. The Comprehensive Records Check Determination must have a Records Check Clearance Date that is no older than the preceding 12 months of the hire date; provided, however, if the Director has had a lapse of employment from the child care industry that lasted for 180 days (6 months) or longer, a new satisfactory Comprehensive Records Check Determination is required. The provider must view the A to Z Background Check video units pertaining to this records check rule and return the signed affidavit within one week from this visit date. The Home will review state rules and regulations to ensure the CRC rules are maintained.

Correction Deadline: 2/19/2026

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

Discussed staff qualifications and compliance with applicable laws and regulations.

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.