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: 1/2/2026 **VisitType:** Complaint Investigation & Licensing Study **Arrival:** 12:00 PM **Departure:** 2:30 PM

FR-24536
Neal, Sherlynn T
5002 HAMDEN COURT Evans, GA 30809 Columbia County
(706) 339-0127

Regional Consultant
Christina Jennings
Phone: (404) 463-0970
Fax: (770) 342-3177
christina.jennings@decal.ga.gov

Mailing Address
Same

Quality Rated: No

Compliance Zone Designation		
01/02/2026	Complaint Investigation & Licensing Study	Good Standing
08/26/2025	Monitoring Visit	Good Standing
02/11/2025	Licensing Study	Good Standing

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.

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	0	0	0	0	0
School Age(5+) Years	0	0	0	0	0
Total Under 13 Years	0	0	0	0	0
Total Under 18 Years	0				

Children Present: 0
Total Children: 0
Caregivers/Helpers Present: 3
Total Caregivers/Helpers: 0

Comments
The Consultant reviewed the report with the Provider and discussed best practices.

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 Visit:

Activities and Equipment

290-2-3-.09 Activities **Technical Assistance**

Technical Assistance
290-2-3-.09(1) - The Consultant and Provider discussed ensuring that children are provided with age appropriate activities through out the day.

Correction Deadline: 1/2/2026

290-2-3-.12 Equipment and Supplies(CR) **Not Met**

Finding
290-2-3-.12(7) requires all indoor and outdoor furniture and equipment shall be secured if equipment and furniture is of a weight or mass that could cause injury from tipping, falling, or being pulled or pushed over. Potentially unstable equipment and furniture that might injure a child if not secured include, but are not limited to, televisions, chests of drawers, bookcases, shelving, cabinets and fish tanks. Examples of items not required to be secured include, but are not limited to, child-sized tables and chairs, rocking chairs, and cribs. It was determined based on observation that the television that was sitting on top of the white cubby shelf was not secured and posed as a potential tipping hazard in the bottom level classroom of the home. It was further determined that five out of five four tier storage shelves were not secured in the children's hand washing area and accessible to children on the right and left sides of the garage posing as a potential tipping hazard.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
The Home will secure any identified equipment and/or furniture to prevent from tipping or falling over on a child. The Home Provider will ensure that all potentially dangerous equipment is maintained secure.

Correction Deadline: 1/9/2026

Recited on 1/2/2026

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
There is no pool on the property

Children's Records

290-2-3-.08 Children's Records **Not Met**

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 one out of five enrolled children were missing a current and updated record.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
The Home Provider will obtain the missing information and maintain the Children's records as required.

Correction Deadline: 1/2/2026

Facility

290-2-3-.11 Physical Plant - Safe Environment(CR) **Not Met**

Finding
290-2-3-.11(2)(f) requires that poisons, medicines, cleaning agents and other hazardous materials be in locked areas or inaccessible to children. It was determined based on observation that the following hazards were accessible to children in the the children's hand washing area that was located in the garage:

- One gallon of Odo Ban in front of the hand washing sink.
- A vacuum cleaner on the left side of the entrance door.
- One quart of Citri Strip paint and varnish stripping gel.
- One quart of Varathane Wood Stain.
- Three containers of wall paint.
- One package of a Dehumidifier Drain Hose.
- Three one gallon cans of Behr paint with primer.
- One quart of Rust-Oleum paint.
- One aerosol can of adhesive remover.
- A putty knife.
- A knife block with four knives.
- Gardening tools
- Two aerosol cans of Loctite Tite Foam.
- One aerosol can of WD-40.
- One aerosol can of Rust-Oleum Gloss Protective Enamel.
- One spray bottle of Rainx Glass Cleaner.
- One spray bottle of Oreck Wood Floor Cleaner.
- A container of High Gloss Finish Sealer.
- Two gallons of Clorox Bleach in an unclocked cabinet under the hand washing sink.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
To ensure the safe storage of hazardous items, the Home Provider will make these items inaccessible to the children.

Correction Deadline: 1/9/2026

Recited on 1/2/2026

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**

Correction Deadline: 3/28/2025

Corrected on 1/2/2026
.13(2)(a) - Previous citation observed to be corrected in that the Consultant observed the outdoor play area accessible to children to be of hazards on this date.

Food Service

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

Finding
290-2-3-.10(3) requires a signed written feeding plan for children less than one (1) year of age be obtained from Parent(s). Instructions from the Parent(s) shall be updated regularly as new foods are added or other dietary changes are made. The feeding plan shall be posted in the main child care area and must include the child's feeding schedule, the amount of formula or breast milk to be given, instructions for the introduction of solid foods, the amount of food to be given and notation of any type(s) of commercially premixed formula which may not be used in an emergency because of food allergies. It was determined based on a review of records that one out of two children less than one (1) year of age did not have a feeding plan posted in the main child care area that included an accurate description of the child's feeding schedule as required.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
The Home will develop and implement a plan to obtain and post the completed feeding plan as part of the enrollment process and to have parents update the plans on a regular basis.

Correction Deadline: 1/2/2026

Health and Hygiene

290-2-3-.11 Children's Health and Hygiene(CR) — **Technical Assistance**

Technical Assistance
290-2-3-.11(1)(j) - The Consultant and Provider discussed ensuring that proper hand washing procedures were implemented as required.

Correction Deadline: 1/2/2026

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

Comment
The provider stated appropriate diapering procedures.

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
The provider and/or the home's employee were observed to maintain a positive learning environment on this date.

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

Comment
The provider does not provide routine transportation.

Staff Records

Records Reviewed: 2 — **Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 1**

Staff # 1 — Not Met

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

Criminal Records Check -.21(1)(a),Copy Of Satisfactory Criminal Records Check -.21(1)(c)

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

Finding
290-2-3-.21(1)(c) requires every Employee 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 if age 17 or older. 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 Employee 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 upon a review of records that Staff #1 did not have a valid and current satisfactory Comprehensive Records Check Determination letter on this date. Staff #1 was observed in the kitchen area of the home with three enrolled children.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
IMMEDIATE CORRECTION - The Home will watch the videos to ensure that every Employee 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 Employee 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 watch the videos to ensure the CRC rules are maintained.

Correction Deadline: 1/2/2026

Finding
290-2-3-.21(1)(m)3. requires that a new Comprehensive Records Check Determination be completed for the Provider and each Employee and Provisional Employee at least once every five years. It was determined based upon a review of records that Staff # 1 had a Comprehensive Records Check Determination that expired on January 7, 2024 and had not completed the finger printing process every five years as required.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
IMMEDIATE CORRECTION - The Home will watch the videos to ensure that each Director, Employee and Provisional Employee has a Comprehensive Records Check Determination on file that has been issued within the past five years. 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 watch the videos to ensure CRC rules are maintained.

Correction Deadline: 1/2/2026

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

Correction Deadline: 3/13/2025

Corrected on 1/2/2026
.07(8) - Previous citation observed to be corrected in that the Consultant observed evidence of successful completion of a biennial training program in cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and a triennial training program in first aid for Staff #3 on this date.

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

Comment
Staff observed to be compliant 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) **Not Met**

Correction Deadline: 2/11/2025

Corrected on 1/2/2026
.07(18) - Previous citation observed to be corrected in that the previous citation was listed under the incorrect rule number.

Finding
290-2-3-.07(18) requires at least one Staff person with a satisfactory Comprehensive Records Check Determination shall supervise Children at all times appropriate to the individual age, needs and capabilities of each child. Such supervision must include, but not be limited to, indoor and outdoor activities, mealtimes, naptime, transportation, field trips, and transitions between activities. "Supervision" means Staff members are providing watchful oversight to the children, volunteers and Students-in-Training. The person(s) supervising in the child care area must be alert, positioned to maximize their ability to hear and see the children at all times, and able to respond promptly to the needs and actions of the children being supervised, as well as the actions of the volunteers and Students-in-Training, and provide timely attention to the children's actions and needs. Staff shall be attentive and participating with all children during mealtimes and shall be seated within an arm's length away from children thirty-six (36) months of age and younger. Plans shall be made to obtain additional Staff help in cases of emergencies. It was determined based on observation that two out of two infants were in the first room on the right side of the second level of the home while the Provider was on a different level of the home with three other children. The infants were observed to be awake and playing on the floor of the room.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
The Home will ensure that either the Provider or at least one Staff person with a satisfactory Comprehensive Records Check Determination supervises the children at all times as required by the rules. The Home will develop or update a plan to obtain additional Staff help in case of an emergency.

Correction Deadline: 1/2/2026