



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: 5/14/2026 **VisitType:** Initial Licensing Study

Arrival: 9:00 AM **Departure:** 2:00 PM

FR-68296

Harris, Brenda

203 Ross Street Montezuma, GA 31063 Macon County
(229) 591-2572

Application Services Unit Lead

Yolanda Harris

Phone: (679) 739-7046

Fax:

yolanda.harris@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.
05/14/2026	Initial Licensing Study	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	4	4	0	0	0
3 & 4 Years	3	2	0	1	0
School Age(5+) Years	0	0	0	0	0
Total Under 13 Years	7	6	0	1	0
Total Under 18 Years	7				
Children Present: 7 Total Children: 7					
Caregivers/Helpers Present: 0 Total Caregivers/Helpers: 0					

Comments

The child care program received a final license on this date. The facility does not carry liability insurance.

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.dec.al.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@dec.al.ga.gov for more information. Free technical assistance is available!



Summary Report

Date: 5/14/2026 **VisitType:** Initial Licensing Study

Arrival: 9:00 AM **Departure:** 2:00 PM

FR-68296

Harris, Brenda

203 Ross Street Montezuma, GA 31063 Macon County
(229) 591-2572

Application Services Unit Lead

Yolanda Harris

Phone: (679) 739-7046

Fax:

yolanda.harris@dec.al.ga.gov

Mailing Address

Same

The following information is associated with a Initial Licensing Study:

Activities and Equipment

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

Not Met

Correction Deadline: 3/19/2026

Corrected on 5/14/2026

The previous citation was observed corrected on this date. The Consultant observed a variety of outside toys to be available to the children in care.

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 walls in the child care environment had exposed, visible chipping paint.

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: 5/22/2026

Comment

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

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

Met

Correction Deadline: 3/29/2026

Corrected on 5/14/2026

The previous citation observed corrected on this date. The Consultant observed six cots with sheets and a covering on the cots on this date.

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

Met

Comment

Home does not provide swimming activities. No pool observed on site on this date.

Children's Records

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

Not Met

Correction Deadline: 3/19/2026

Corrected on 5/14/2026

The previous citation was observed corrected on this date. Emergency contact, allergy listed and parent information for missing files were observed to be completed on this date.

Correction Deadline: 3/19/2026

Corrected on 5/14/2026

The previous citations was observed corrected on this date. The Consultant observed that all children files observed had current immunization on file.

Finding

290-2-3-.08(8)(b) requires that the Family Child Care Learning Home have policies and procedures which shall include written procedures for the following:

1. Behavior management and discipline techniques; actions used by the Home, to include the program's practices regarding the expulsion and suspension of children enrolled for care;
 2. Handling emergency medical care, including where the Children will be taken for emergency medical care;
 3. Administering medication and recording noticeable adverse reactions to medication;
 4. Notifying Parents in writing of their Child's illness, injury, and exposure to a notifiable communicable disease or any cases or suspected cases of viruses or illnesses (COVID-19, etc.) identified during a public health emergency, within twenty-four (24) hours after the Home becomes aware of the illness or the next working day;
 5. Noticeable adverse reaction to medication(s);
 6. Exclusion of sick children;
 7. Exclusion and readmission of children with communicable diseases, as defined on the most current version of the communicable diseases chart, as found on the Department's website, or with cases or suspected cases of viruses or illnesses (COVID-19, etc.) identified during a public health emergency;
 8. Protection of children in the event of severe weather, fire, and physical plant problems, such as power failure, that affect climate control, loss of water, or structural damages;
 9. The transportation of Children to and from school or Home, if provided, to include the procedure to be followed if no one is home to receive the transported Child;
 10. Identification of others providing care. The Provider must inform the Parents of Children in care of the names of any caregiver and their responsibilities, and the names of the persons who would be called upon in an emergency;
 11. Parents' ability to visit the Family Child Care Learning Home unannounced and at any time that their Child is in care;
 12. Any information requested by the Parent concerning the operation of the Family Child Care Learning Home or the care of the Child, including but not limited to a description of any special procedures to be followed in caring for the Child, such as any special services which the Home agrees to provide to a Child with special needs. The Parent(s) will be provided daily communication (verbal/written) regarding the care of the Child, especially with infants, toddlers and nonverbal Children. Additionally, the Provider must bring special problems or significant developments to the Parent's attention as soon as they arise;
 13. Notification of the existence of a firearm in the Family Child Care Learning Home;
 14. Notification of any changes in the regular composition of the household. The Provider must notify the Parent(s) of anyone regularly on the premises, including but not limited to spouse, friend(s), relative(s), or significant other(s);
 15. Notification of the existence of any pets or other animals residing in the Home or on the property of the Family Child Care Learning Home; and
 16. Notification of infant sleep position practices. The Provider must notify Parent(s) of Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) risk reduction practices, sleep positioning policies, and arrangements for placing all infants on their backs for sleep.
17. A description of the practices followed by the Home to prevent shaken baby syndrome and abusive head trauma in children up to five years of age that includes the following information: how to recognize, respond to, and report the signs and symptoms of shaken baby syndrome and abusive head trauma; strategies to assist staff members in understanding how to care for infants and how to cope with a crying, fussing, or distraught child; strategies to ensure staff members understand the brain development of children up to five years of age; and a list of prohibited behaviors when dealing with children.
- It was determined based on a review of records that the provider did not have a copy of the policy and procedures for review.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Home Provider will add the missing documentation to the written policies and procedures and will update policies and procedures as changes occur in the operation of the Home.

Correction Deadline: 5/18/2026

Recited on 5/14/2026

Correction Deadline: 3/19/2026

Corrected on 5/14/2026

The previous citation was observed corrected on this date. The Consultant observed that the sign in and out sheet to be completed and up to date.

290-2-3-.08 Parental Authorization(CR)

Met

Correction Deadline: 3/19/2026

Corrected on 5/14/2026

The previous citation was observed corrected on this date. The Consultant observed that all of the enrolled children emergency medical care agreement forms were complete and on file on this date.

Facility

290-2-3-.13 Physical Plant - Safe Environment

Not Met

Finding

290-2-3-.13(1)(g) requires that measures be used to prevent the presence of rodents, flies, roaches and other vermin on the premises, Windows and doors used for ventilation shall be screened. It was determined based on observation that in the bathroom of the home, the window available for ventilation does not have a screen.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Home will use effective pest control methods, check the premises regularly and follow up immediately if any problems are noted. The Home will only leave screened windows and doors for ventilation and will not leave unscreened windows and doors open.

Correction Deadline: 5/24/2026

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

Met

Correction Deadline: 3/31/2026

Corrected on 5/14/2026

The previous citation was observed corrected on this date. The Consultant observed that the emergence drills were completed and up to date as required.

Correction Deadline: 3/19/2026

Corrected on 5/14/2026

The previous citation was observed corrected on this date. The Consultant observed three 1-A 10 B.C fire extinguishers in the child care area.

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

Met

Comment

The Home appeared clean and free from hazards.

Correction Deadline: 3/19/2026

Corrected on 5/14/2026

The previous citation was observed to be corrected on this date. The Consultant observed that the heaters were not visible in the environment on this date.

Correction Deadline: 3/19/2026

Corrected on 5/14/2026

The previous citation was observed corrected on this date. The Consultant observed that the extension cord was not visible, freezer cord was covered and all outlet covers were covered on this date.

290-2-3-.13 Playgrounds(CR)

Met

Correction Deadline: 3/19/2026

Corrected on 5/14/2026

The previous citation was observed to be corrected on this date. The Consultant observed a four feet barrier with a gate to prevent the children from leaving the playground area.

Comment

There is no pool on the property. No pool observed on site on this date.

Food Service

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

Met

Correction Deadline: 3/19/2026

Corrected on 5/14/2026

The previous citation was observed corrected on this date. The Consultant observed menus available that meets the requirements with no choking hazards.

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. Hand washing and sanitizing requirements for diapering were discussed with the Provider on this date.

Comment

Staff were observed to remind children to wash hands.

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

Met

Correction Deadline: 3/19/2026

Corrected on 5/14/2026

The previous citation was observed corrected on this date. The Consultant observed the diapering pad to be nonpourous.

Comment

Staff stated proper knowledge of diapering procedures.

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

Met

Comment

Discussed proper medication documentation and procedures.

Comment

Per the provider no medication is currently dispensed

Licensure

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

Met

Comment

Application requirements reviewed with the Provider on this date.

Comment

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

Safety and Discipline

290-2-3-.11 Animals

Met

Correction Deadline: 3/19/2026

Corrected on 5/14/2026

The previous citation was observed corrected on this date. The Consultant observed that the environment did not have a cat present.

Comment

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

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

Met

Comment

Age-appropriate discussion and/or redirection observed.

290-2-3-.11 First Aid Kit	Met
----------------------------------	------------

Comment

Please replace/add missing/expired item(s) in first aid kit(s). Goggles, ointment cream and triangle bandages.

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

Comment

The provider does not provide routine transportation.

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 First Aid & CPR(CR)	Met
--	------------

Comment

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

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	Defer
-----------------------------------	--------------

Defer

Evaluation of the previous citation was deferred on this date to the next regulatory visit. The Consultant discussed with the provider to ensure 2026 trainings are completed including language and literacy and other areas of learning.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Home will obtain the required annual training for Staff and will keep certificates, cards, or other proof of training on file or within the Georgia Professional Development System (GaPDS). The Home will submit proof of training to the Department, if requested.

Correction Deadline: 3/19/2026

Correction Deadline: 4/18/2026

Corrected on 5/14/2026

The previous citation was observed corrected on this date. The Consultant observed 2026 completed health and safety topics including language and literacy.

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.

Comment

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