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: 4/8/2025 **VisitType:** Licensing Study **Arrival:** 12:15 PM **Departure:** 3:00 PM

FR-22876
Hicks, Tawanna S
203 Tucker Road Macon, GA 31210 Bibb County
(478) 475-1736 tawannahicks@cox.net

Child Care Services Manager
Candace Gilbert
Phone: (866) 371-4935
Fax: (866) 371-7713
candace.gilbert@decal.ga.gov
Joint with: Jennifer Waters

Mailing Address
Same

Quality Rated: No

Compliance Zone Designation		
04/08/2025	Licensing Study	Good Standing
12/17/2024	Monitoring Visit	Good Standing
12/13/2023	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	5	5	0	0	0
3 & 4 Years	1	1	0	0	0
School Age(5+) Years	0	0	0	0	0
Total Under 13 Years	6	6	0	0	0
Total Under 18 Years	6				

Children Present: 6
Total Children: 6
Caregivers/Helpers Present: 2
Total Caregivers/Helpers: 2

Comments
A licensing study visit was conducted on this date. Visit was edited after completion (without providers signature) to add provider input.

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:

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 CAPS/ QR Provisional Status, allowing for scholarships while working toward an initial star rating. Provisional Status eligibility will be determined at the time of CAPS enrollment as part of the CAPS application process.

Contact the Quality Rated help desk a1 855-800-7747 or qualityrated@decal.ga.gov **for more information. Free techincal 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

(Findings Report)

Date: 4/8/2025 **VisitType:** Licensing Study **Arrival:** 12:15 PM **Departure:** 3:00 PM

FR-22876
Hicks, Tawanna S
203 Tucker Road Macon, GA 31210 Bibb County
(478) 475-1736 tawannahicks@cox.net

Child Care Services Manager
Candace Gilbert
Phone: (866) 371-4935
Fax: (866) 371-7713
candace.gilbert@decal.ga.gov
Joint with: Jennifer Waters

Mailing Address
Same

The following information is associated with a Licensing Study:

Activities and Equipment

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

Finding
290-2-3-.12(3) requires furniture and equipment to be kept clean and in a safe usable condition. It was determined based upon consultant observation that the pink bookshelf in the front room and the diaper changing table (being used as toy storage) were unsteady and unstable.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
The Home will repair or replace the two pieces of equipment to make them more steady and stable.

Correction Deadline: 4/8/2025

290-2-3-.19 Infant-Sleeping Safety Requirements(CR) **Not Met**

Comment
Discussed SIDS and infant sleeping position.

Finding
290-2-3-.19(1)(a)2 requires that a mattress shall be provided for each crib and other equipment approved for infant sleep and shall be firm, tight-fitting, at least two inches (2") thick and covered with waterproof, washable material. Before a change of occupant, each mattress shall be cleaned with a disinfectant. It was determined based upon consultant observation that there were rips and tears in two of the crib mattresses.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
The Home Provider will remove mattresses that do not meet requirements and ensure that infant sleep mattresses are waterproof, washable material , and in good repair.

Correction Deadline: 4/8/2025

Technical Assistance
290-2-3-.19(1)(b) - Consultant discussed with provider that two-year-old children that have the ability to climb out of cribs should be transitioned to mats.

Correction Deadline: 4/18/2025

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

Comment
There is no pool on the property

Children's Records

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

Comment
Records were observed to be complete and well organized. Immunization records complete.

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

Comment
Parent authorizations obtained/completed.

Facility

290-2-3-.08 Physical Plant - Safe Environment **Met**

Comment
290-2-3-.08(15) - Provider is on city water.

Correction Deadline: 4/8/2025

290-2-3-.13 Physical Plant - Safe Environment **Technical Assistance**

Technical Assistance
290-2-3-.13(1)(g) - Consultant discussed with provider keeping home clean and free of insects from the outside. Consultant observed one outside insect in the front room near the ceiling.

Correction Deadline: 4/18/2025

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

Comment
Home observed complete emergency drills

Comment
Consultant discussed with provider limiting access to children in the "office area"

Comment
Please be mindful to keep items that pose a hazard inaccessible to children. Consultant discussed with provider relocating cleaning products located in a high shelf in the bathroom in another area due to step stool being in bathroom.

Comment
290-2-3-.11(2)(g) - Provider stated no firearms are in the home.

Correction Deadline: 4/8/2025

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. Consultant did not test smoke detectors on this date but observed smoke detectors in each room and all had green indicator lights.

290-2-3-.13 Physical Plant-Structural/Mechanical(CR) **Not Met**

Finding
290-2-3-.13(1) requires that the Home be clean and free from hazards. It was determined based upon consultant's observation
* The walls in the front room and back room had peeling and cracked paint in several areas
* The sink in the bathroom had cracked and peeling paint.
* Comet (cleaning powder) and cleaning tools (mop & toilet brush) were located in the bathtub within reach of children.
* Access to the kitchen was open and made additional hazards accessible to children (adult purse, cleaning supplies, kitchen implements)

POI (Plan of Improvement)
To ensure the cleanliness and safety of the environment, the Home Provider will make hazardous items inaccessible to the children.

Correction Deadline: 4/8/2025

290-2-3-.13 Playgrounds(CR) **Not Met**

Comment
Consultant discussed with provider checking playground after rain to ensure no standing water is left in or on playground equipment.

Comment
Trees located on the site or that encroach onto the site from adjacent properties may have structural issues that present an elevated level of risk. Consider having these trees inspected by a certified arborist to determine their structural integrity and associated levels of risk.

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 upon consultant's observation and measurement that there was:
* Loose bricks and large rocks throughout the playground.
* Peeling paint on the outside of the door leading from the playground to the inside
* Tree roots that were not marked or highlighted and presented a tripping hazard
* Exposed wire and nail on the front right of the playground on the home. (where the fencing met the house)
* Thorny plants coming through the back fence of the playground.
* Peeling paint on the blue metal swing .
* Open S hooks on all swinging equipment (both sets of swings)
*Mushrooms located in the resilient surface by the strap/belt swings
No children were present on the playground during the visit.

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: 4/18/2025

Finding
290-2-3-.13(2)(c) requires that climbing and swinging equipment that are not portable have a resilient surface beneath the equipment and the fall zone from such equipment, which is adequately maintained by the Home to assure continuing resiliency. It was determined based upon consultant's observation and measurement:
* There was no resilient surface under or in the fall zones of the merry-go-round.
* There was no resilient surface underneath bucket seat swings that did not have safety straps.
*Resilient surface under strap swings did not have adequate fall zones in the front and back of the swings.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
The Home will ensure that there is an adequate resilient surface under and in the fall zone of playground equipment. The Home will inspect equipment and resilient surfacing material regularly and repair or replenish as needed.

Correction Deadline: 4/18/2025

Comment
Discussed maintenance of resilient surface. Consultant was unable to accurately measure depth of resilient surface because it was compacted and wet from morning rainy weather.

Technical Assistance
290-2-3-.13(2)(d) - Consultant discussed with provider back double fence and the 3 inch gap that was being created due to the pressure of piled leaves behind the fence causing the fence to bow. Recommended relieving the pressure from the gate so that the gap would not be as large.

Correction Deadline: 4/8/2025

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 on consultant observation and measurement that the:
* Back double gate and left side gate were 3 feet 10 inches tall.
*side fence and fence facing the front yard of the home was 3 feet 10 inches tall.
* Fencing surrounding the HVAC unit had a 5.5 inch gap.
* Bolts on the left side fence had more than 2 threads

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.

Correction Deadline: 4/8/2025

Comment
Home does not provide swimming activities.

Comment
There is no pool on the property

Food Service

290-2-3-.10 Kitchen Operations — **Not Met**

Finding
290-2-3-.10(17) requires that garbage be stored in trash containers with lids and emptied and cleaned as needed. Areas around outdoor containers shall be kept clean. It was determined based upon consultant observation that the trash can in the kitchen did not have the lid in place and there was food waste present.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
The Home will provide trash containers with lids and will train staff to keep lids on containers. The Home will develop and follow a plan to empty and clean trash containers as needed, will provide the cleaning materials, and will monitor. It was determined [ ].

Correction Deadline: 4/8/2025

Health and Hygiene

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

Comment
Staff were observed to remind children to wash hands.

290-2-3-.11 Diapering Areas & Practices(CR) — **Not Met**

Finding
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. It was determined based upon consultant observation that the diaper changing pads had a perforated design on them making them porous. Provider had an individual diapering changing pad with a sheet covering for each child present. Diapering changing pads were stored on the floor and stored in such a way that they were touching each other.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
To ensure the control of disease transmission, the Home Provider will change diapers in the child's crib or a nonporous surface.

Correction Deadline: 4/8/2025

Comment
Staff state proper knowledge of diapering procedures.

290-2-3-.11 Medications(CR) — **Met**

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 Animals **Met**

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

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

Comment
Provider stated that they use time out appropriately for discipline.

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

Comment
Complete first aid kit observed in the Family Child Care Learning Home

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 **Met**

Comment
Evidence observed that the provider was certified in First Aid and CPR.

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 **Met**

Comment
Annual training requirement and documentation observed. Reminder please ensure that provider and helper all take diverse training each year.

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
Consultant discussed with provider ensuring that they are seated and within arms reach of the children who are 36 months or younger while eating.