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: 9/9/2025 **VisitType:** Licensing Study **Arrival:** 9:10 AM **Departure:** 11:00 AM

FR-000015031
Lawrence, Bertha B
2067 CLOVERDALE DRIVE, S.E. Atlanta, GA 30316 DeKalb County
(404) 455-1593

Regional Consultant
Jessica Johnson
Phone: (770) 357-5090
Fax:
jessica.johnson@decal.ga.gov

Mailing Address
Same

Quality Rated: ★ ★

Compliance Zone Designation		
09/09/2025	Licensing Study	Good Standing
08/25/2025	Attempted	Good Standing
11/20/2024	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.

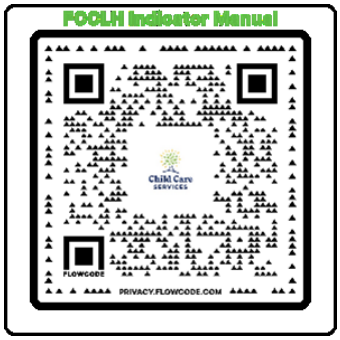
Ratio Capacity

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	1	1	0	0	0
3 & 4 Years	1	1	0	0	0
School Age(5+) Years	1	2	0	0	0
Total Under 13 Years	3	4	0	0	0
Total Under 18 Years	3				

Children Present: 3
Caregivers/Helpers Present: 3
Total Children: 4
Total Caregivers/Helpers: 0

Comments
On this date, Jessica Johnson (JJ), Consultant, reviewed the visit report with Provider Bertha Lawrence. JJ discussed and left a copy of the updated Child Care Weather watch Chart with the program today. Weather does not permit outdoor play when there is active precipitation or when weather advisories are in effect. Consult the Child Care Weather Watch Chart resource for further guidance, considering specific weather conditions.

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.decal.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!

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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-.09 Activities **Technical Assistance**

Technical Assistance
290-2-3-.09(1) - Please ensure that current current lesson plans are posted.
Correction Deadline: 9/9/2025

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

Comment
Toys and equipment observed to be clean and safe from hazardous conditions.
Comment
Equipment and furniture observed to be properly secured, as applicable.

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

Comment
Currently the provider is not caring for infants. (This rule was not evaluated on this date)
Comment
Discussed SIDS and infant sleeping position.

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

Comment
There is no pool on the property

Children's Records

Records Reviewed: 4 **Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 4**

Child # 1 Not Met
"Missing/Incomplete Components"
Release Person Information - (.08)(10)

Child # 2 Not Met
"Missing/Incomplete Components"
Immunization Form - (.08)(2)

Child # 3 Not Met

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

Immunization Form - (.08)(2),Proof of No Liability Insurance Form

Child # 4 Not Met

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

Proof of No Liability Insurance Form,Immunization Form - (.08)(2)

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

Technical Assistance
290-2-3-.08(11) - Please ensure that no liability forms are completed for Child # 3 and Child #4.

Correction Deadline: 9/9/2025

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 a review of records that two of four immunization records were expired on this date.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
The Home Provider will ensure that an immunization record/signed affidavit is on file for each enrolled Child.

Correction Deadline: 10/9/2025

Recited on 9/9/2025

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

Technical Assistance
290-2-3-.08(10) - Please ensure to update the authorized release persons for Child # 1.

Correction Deadline: 9/9/2025

Facility

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

Technical Assistance
290-2-3-.11(2)(c) - Please ensure to complete the emergency fire drill documentation monthly.

Correction Deadline: 10/9/2025

Technical Assistance
290-2-3-.11(2)(f) - Please ensure that hazardous materials are stored inaccessible to children in care.

Correction Deadline: 9/9/2025

Finding
290-2-3-.11(2)(h) requires at least one UL Approved smoke detector to be on each floor of the Home and such detectors to be maintained in working order. At least one 2-A:10-B:C fire extinguisher shall be kept in the child care area to be located no more than thirty feet from the kitchen. The extinguisher shall be maintained in working order and shall be inaccessible to the children. It was determined based on observation that the smoke detector was not working on this date.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
The home provider will ensure that a working smoke detector is on each floor and a working fire extinguisher is available in the child care area as required, and is maintained inaccessible to children.

Correction Deadline: 9/10/2025

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

Technical Assistance
290-2-3-.13(1) - Please ensure to repair the rust on the vent in the second learning space room on the left.

Correction Deadline: 9/9/2025

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

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 on observation that the following hazards were observed outdoor:

- Gardening tools were observed throughout the outdoor play area accessible to children in care.
- A dolly, rusted chairs, a lawn mower, and a ladder were observed accessible to children in care.

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: 9/12/2025

Technical Assistance
290-2-3-.13(2)(c) - Discussed removing the swing set from the outdoor play area. Per the Provider the swing set was not in use and the swing was inaccessible.

Correction Deadline: 9/19/2025

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 observation that the fence measured 3 feet and 11 inches on the right side of the fence and measured 2 feet on the left side of the fence when 4 feet were required. It was further determined that there was a 7 inch gap that posed a potential entrapment hazard at the bottom of the fence entrance gate.

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. The Home will install or repair a fence around swimming pools that makes them inaccessible to children.

Correction Deadline: 10/9/2025

Food Service

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

Comment
Please ensure that the current menu is accessible. CACFP Meal Pattern Requirements: 3 Components for breakfast: Grains, Vegetables, Fruits or both, Milk 5 Components for lunch – Grains, Meat/Meat alternates, Fruits, Vegetable, and Milk OR Grains, Meat/Meat alternates, 2 different types of vegetables, and Milk 2 of 5 Components for snack Provided Updated CACFP Infant Meal pattern and Child/Adult Meal pattern flyers. The Crediting Handbook for the CACFP can be located on DECAL and USDA's website: DECAL http://decal.ga.gov/CACFP/Handbook.aspx USDA http://www.fns.usda.gov/cacfp/cacfp-handbooks

Health and Hygiene

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

Comment
Proper hand washing of children and staff were discussed with the provider on this date.

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

Comment
There are no diapered children currently enrolled in the program.

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 **Not Evaluated**

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

290-2-3-.11 Discipline(CR) **Technical Assistance**

Technical Assistance
290-2-3-.11(3)(a) - Age-appropriate discussion and/or redirection observed. Please be mindful of voice tone in redirecting children.

Correction Deadline: 9/9/2025

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) **Not Evaluated**

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) **Not Met**

Correction Deadline: 12/20/2024

Corrected on 9/9/2025
.07(8) - The citation was transferred to .07(8)(a) on this date.

Technical Assistance
290-2-3-.07(8)(a) - Discussed that effective July 1, 2025, new staff are required to obtain pediatric First Aid and pediatric CPR training within 45 days of employment. It was further discussed that Homes must have at least one person with current pediatric First Aid and pediatric CPR training present during field trips, transportation of children, and on the Home's premises whenever any Child is present.

Correction Deadline: 10/9/2025

Finding
290-2-3-.07(8)(a) requires the Home to maintain for the Provider and any Provisional Employee or Employee with direct care responsibilities current evidence of successful completion of a biennial training program in pediatric cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and a triennial training program in pediatric first aid which have been offered by certified or licensed health care professionals or trainers. Such training must be completed prior to initial licensure for the Provider and within 9045 days from date of hire for Provisional Employees and Employees. Current and valid evidence of the successful completion of such training shall be maintained on the Home's premises. It was determined based on a review of records that Staff # 3 hired on January 1, 2000, did not have a valid and current first aid and CPR certification on this date.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
The Home will obtain the required pediatric CPR and first aid training and will keep certificates, cards, or other proof of training on file. The Home will submit proof of training to the Department, if requested. The Home will ensure that there is always a Staff person on the Home's premises whenever any Child is present.

Correction Deadline: 10/9/2025

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 **Technical Assistance**

Technical Assistance
290-2-3-.07(10) - Discussed that all Employees, including volunteers, independent contractors, students-in-training, etc. should have a completed initial program orientation form on file.

Correction Deadline: 9/14/2025

Technical Assistance
290-2-3-.07(9)(b)1 - Discussed that effective July 1, 2025, all staff are required to obtain at least two hours in evidence based, developmentally appropriate language and literacy practices and at least two hours in on-going child development and health and safety related topics as part of their 10 hours of annual training.

Correction Deadline: 10/9/2025

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**

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 the Staff person walked inside the house leaving two children in the outdoor playground with the Consultant for approximately two minutes on this date.

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: 9/9/2025