



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: 10/8/2025 **VisitType:** Licensing Study

Arrival: 10:00 AM **Departure:** 11:40 AM

FR-000012129

Harper, Cynthia D

215 BIRCHWALK COURT Riverdale, GA 30274 Clayton County
(404) 438-7503

Regional Consultant

Nadia Bernard

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Mailing Address

215 BIRCHWALK COURT
RIVERDALE, GA 30274

Quality Rated: ★ ★

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.
10/08/2025	Licensing Study	Good Standing	
06/16/2025	Monitoring Visit	Good Standing	
11/08/2024	Licensing Study	Good Standing	

Ratio Capacity					
Age Ranges	Children Present	Child For Pay	CAPS	Not for Pay	Provider Children
Infant (0-11 mos)	1	1	0	0	0
1 & 2 Years	2	2	0	0	0
3 & 4 Years	0	0	0	0	0
School Age(5+) Years	0	2	0	0	0
Total Under 13 Years	3	5	0	0	0
Total Under 18 Years	3				
Children Present: 3 Total Children: 5 Caregivers/Helpers Present: 2 Total Caregivers/Helpers: 1					

Comments

July 1, 2025 rule changes were discussed with the provider.

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 user id 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-.12 Equipment and Supplies(CR)

Met

Comment

A variety of equipment and toys were observed.

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

There is no pool on the property

Children's Records

Records Reviewed: 5

Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 2

Child # 1

Not Met

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

Name Missing-.08(13),Date of Birth Missing-.08(13),Phone Numbers-.08(13),Parents Address-.08(13)

Child # 2

Not Met

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

Name Missing-.08(13),Date of Birth Missing-.08(13),Phone Numbers-.08(13),Parents Address-.08(13)

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 two out five children enrolled were missing their enrollment record.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Home Provider will obtain the missing information and maintain the Children's records as required.

Correction Deadline: 10/8/2025

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 that two children that were present did not have evidence of their notarized statement of family relationships by the Parent(s).

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Home Provider will obtain and maintain documentation.

Correction Deadline: 10/18/2025

Technical Assistance

290-2-3-.08(8) - Discussed updating the Home's policies and procedures to include the program's practices regarding the expulsion and suspension of children enrolled for care within the description of behavior management and discipline actions used by the Home.

Also discussed to ensure 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.

Additional information can be found in the FCCLH Indicator Manual found on DECAL's website at:

<https://www.dec.state.ga.us/CCS/Regulations.aspx> or through the Center on Shaken Baby Syndrome found at: <https://dontshake.org/>.

Correction Deadline: 10/8/2025

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

Parent authorizations obtained/completed.

Facility

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

290-2-3-.11(2)(c) requires that documentation of drills required by these rules shall be maintained in the Home. The Home shall conduct drills for fire, tornado, and other emergency situations. The fire drills will be conducted monthly and tornado and other emergency situation drills will be conducted every six months. The Home shall maintain documentation of the dates and times of these drills for two years. It was determined based on a review of records that home did not have evidence of fire drills and other emergency situation drills for the current year of 2025.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Provider will develop and implement a plan and schedule for conducting the required drills, completing the documentation, keeping the documentation on file for two years.

Correction Deadline: 10/31/2025

290-2-3-.13 Physical Plant-Structural/Mechanical(CR)**Technical Assistance****Correction Deadline: 6/16/2025****Corrected on 10/8/2025**

.13(1) - The Consultant observed the citation to be corrected on this date. The consultant observed the cabinet to be locked on this date.

Technical Assistance

290-2-3-.13(1)(e) - The Consultant discussed with the provider to ensure all electrical outlets within reach of children shall be plugged or covered.

Correction Deadline: 10/8/2025**290-2-3-.13 Playgrounds(CR)****Met****Comment**

The outside area appeared clean and well maintained.

Comment

There is no pool on the property

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

290-2-3-.10(5) - The Consultant discussed with the provider to ensure feeding chairs or similar equipment designed for feeding children be provided for the use of each child being fed who is capable of sitting up but who is unable to sit unassisted at a table. The chair or similar equipment must be cleaned with a disinfectant after each use. Such chair or similar equipment shall have a broad base to prevent tipping; a surface that the child cannot raise; a strap or other device which prevents the child from sliding out of the chair; and a feeding surface free of cracks.

Correction Deadline: 10/8/2025**Finding**

290-2-3-.10(6) requires the Home to provide a menu listing all meals and snacks to be served during the current week. Substitutions shall be recorded on the posted menu. Menus shall be retained at the Home for six (6) months. It was determined based on observation that the provider did not have a current week's menu posted.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Home will list all of the current week's meals and snacks and all substitutions on the menu and keep past menus on file for six months and will implement a system to monitor this.

Correction Deadline: 10/8/2025**Health and Hygiene****290-2-3-.11 Children's Health and Hygiene(CR)****Met****Comment**

Proper diapering procedures observed.

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. The Consultant observed one provider and three children on this date.

Safety and Discipline**290-2-3-.11 Animals****Met****Comment**

Animals maintained clean and appropriately caged.

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

Pleasant interactions observed between the provider and children in care.

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

Please replace/add missing/expired item(s) in first aid kit(s).

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**

Consultant requested to view all Criminal Record checks for employees hired after last visit. Provider stated that there have been no new hires since last visit

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

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

290-2-3-.07 Independent Contractors(CR)**Met****Comment**

The facility does not currently have any independent contractors employed.

290-2-3-.07 Other Staff Direct Contact with Children(CR)**Met****Comment**

The facility does not currently have any additional staff employed.

290-2-3-.07 Provider Qualifications**Technical Assistance****Technical Assistance**

290-2-3-.07(6)(a - n) - : Discussed that all Employees, including volunteers, independent contractors, students-in-training, etc. should have a completed initial program orientation form on file.

Correction Deadline: 10/9/2025

290-2-3-.07 Provisional Employees**Met****Comment**

Observed compliance with the local zoning authorities, fire safety agencies and local building authorities on this date.

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

Staff observed to be compliant with applicable laws and regulations.

Defer

290-2-3-.07(9)-Evaluation of the previous citation was deferred on this date to the next regulatory visit. The provider was within their completion deadline of December 31, 2025.

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. The Home will submit proof of training to the Department, if requested.

Correction Deadline: 12/31/2025

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: 11/7/2025

290-2-3-.07 Students-in-Training(CR)**Met****Comment**

The facility does not currently have any students-in-training employed.

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

The facility does not currently have any volunteers employed.

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.