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: 6/4/2025 **VisitType:** Monitoring Visit **Arrival:** 11:35 AM **Departure:** 2:15 PM

FR-9900108246
Portugal, Maria D
730 WINDSOR RD Savannah, GA 31419 Chatham County
(912) 224-0480 ppg0703@aol.com

Regional Consultant
Rebecca Owsley
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rebecca.owsley@decal.ga.gov

Mailing Address
Same

Quality Rated: ★ ★

Compliance Zone Designation		
06/04/2025	Monitoring Visit	Good Standing
12/10/2024	Licensing Study	Good Standing
08/24/2023	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)	2	2	0	0	0
1 & 2 Years	3	3	0	0	0
3 & 4 Years	0	1	0	0	0
School Age(5+) Years	1	3	0	0	0
Total Under 13 Years	6	9	0	0	0
Total Under 18 Years	6				

Children Present: 6
Total Children: 9
Caregivers/Helpers Present: 2
Total Caregivers/Helpers: 2

Comments
When the Consultant arrived, Staff #1 was present. The Provider had gone out and returned to the Home about 15 minutes after the Consultant's arrival and the Consultant conducted the Exit Conference with the Provider. The Consultant also provided a copy of an Infant Feeding Plan to the Provider to her email address.

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 at 855-800-7747 or qualityrated@decal.ga.gov for more information. Free technical assistance is available!

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(Findings Report)

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The following information is associated with a Monitoring Visit:

Activities and Equipment

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

Comment
A variety of equipment and toys were observed.

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

Finding
290-2-3-.19(2) requires that a Family Child Care Learning Home shall provide a safe sleep environment in accordance with American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) and American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) recommendations as listed in these rules for all infants and one-year-old children when placed for sleep in a safety approved crib or in any other type of equipment approved for infant sleep. Staff shall place an infant to sleep on the infant's back unless the Parent has provided a physician's written statement authorizing another sleep position for that particular infant that includes how the infant shall be placed to sleep and a time frame that the instructions are to be followed. When an infant can easily turn over from back to front and back again, Staff shall continue to put the infant to sleep initially on the infant's back, but allow the infant to roll over into his or her preferred positions and not re-position the infant. Sleepers, sleep sacks and wearable blankets that fit according to the commercial manufacturer's guidelines and will not slide up around the infant's face may be used when necessary for the comfort of the sleeping infant, however swaddling shall not be used unless the Home has been provided a physician's written statement authorizing its use for a particular infant that includes instructions and a time frame for swaddling the infant. Staff shall not place objects or allow objects to be placed in or on the crib with an infant such as but not limited to toys, pillows, quilts, comforters, bumper pads, sheepskins, stuffed toys, or other soft items and shall not attach objects or allow objects to be attached to a crib with a sleeping infant such as but not limited to crib gyms, toys, mirrors and mobiles. It was determined based on observation that one 1-year-old child was asleep with a bottle in a pack-n-play when the Consultant arrived. Later during the visit, the Consultant observed Staff had laid another 1-year-old child down in a pack-n-play for nap with a bottle and the Consultant informed both Staff members that it was not safe for the child to sleep with a bottle and she was then removed from the pack-n-play before she could fall asleep with the bottle.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
The Home Provider will ensure that safe sleep requirements for infants are followed as required.

Correction Deadline: 6/4/2025

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

Comment
The Provider stated the Home does not provide swimming activities.

Records Reviewed: 9 **Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 8**

Child # 2 Not Met

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

Name Missing - (.08)(1),Date of Birth Missing -(.08)(1),Parents Names Missing -(.08)(1),Mom Home # Missing -(.08)(1),Mom Work # Missing -(.08)(1),Dad Home # Missing -(.08)(1),Dad Work # Missing -(.08)(1),Physician & Emergency Contact Information - (.08)(1),Immunization Form - (.08)(2),Emergency Medical Authorization - (.08)(3),Allergy/Medical Information - (.08)(4),Release Person Information - (.08)(10),Proof of No Liability Insurance Form

Child # 3 Not Met

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

Immunization Form - (.08)(2),Infant Feeding Plan - (.10)(4),Allergy/Medical Information - (.08)(4),Proof of No Liability Insurance Form

Child # 4 Not Met

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

Emergency Medical Authorization - (.08)(3)

Child # 5 Not Met

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

Proof of No Liability Insurance Form

Child # 6 Not Met

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

Emergency Medical Authorization - (.08)(3),Allergy/Medical Information - (.08)(4),Proof of No Liability Insurance Form

Child # 7 Not Met

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

Infant Feeding Plan - (.10)(4),Proof of No Liability Insurance Form

Child # 8 Not Met

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

Immunization Form - (.08)(2),Emergency Medical Authorization - (.08)(3)

Child # 9 Not Met

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

Physician & Emergency Contact Information - (.08)(1),Immunization Form - (.08)(2),Emergency Medical Authorization - (.08)(3),Allergy/Medical Information - (.08)(4),Proof of No Liability Insurance Form

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 Child #2 did not a record on file to include 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.

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

Correction Deadline: 6/11/2025

Recited on 6/4/2025

Finding
290-2-3-.08(11) requires that if the Home is not covered by liability insurance sufficient to protect its clients, the Home must notify the Parent of each Child under the care of the program in writing. Each Parent must acknowledge receipt of such notice, and a copy of the acknowledgement shall be kept in the Child's file. It was determined based on a review of records that Child #2, #3, #5, #6, #7,and #9 did not have notice of No Liability Insurance included in their files.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
The Home Provider will obtain and maintain documentation.

Correction Deadline: 6/11/2025

Recited on 6/4/2025

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 Child #2, #3, #8, and #9 did not have evidence of current immunizations or a signed affidavit on file.

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

Correction Deadline: 6/11/2025

Recited on 6/4/2025

Finding
290-2-3-.08(4) requires the Home to maintain a file for each Child that includes known allergies, physical problems, mental health disorders, mental retardation or developmental disabilities which would limit the Child's participation in the program. It was determined based on a review of records that Child #2, #3 #6, and #9 did not have files that included known allergies, physical problems, mental health disorders, mental retardation or developmental disabilities.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
The Home Provider will secure and maintain the missing Child's health information.

Correction Deadline: 6/11/2025

Recited on 6/4/2025

Correction Deadline: 12/10/2024

Corrected on 6/4/2025
.08(9) - This citation was corrected on this date. The Consultant observed parent(s)/guardian(s) had documented arrival and departure times on the sign-in sheets at the Home.

290-2-3-.08 Parental Authorization(CR) **Not Met**

Finding
290-2-3-.08(3)requires the Home to obtain Parental authorization at the time of a Child's enrollment for emergency medical care when the Parent is not available. It was determined based on a review of records that Child #2, #4, #6, #8, and #9 did not have Parental authorization for emergency medical care on file.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
The Home Provider will have authorization for emergency medical care completed by the Parent for Children enrolled.

Correction Deadline: 6/11/2025

Recited on 6/4/2025

Facility

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

Comment
No hazards observed accessible to children on this date.

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

Comment
The Home appears clean and free from hazards.

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

Comment
The outside area appears clean and well maintained.

Health and Hygiene

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

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**

Correction Deadline: 12/10/2024

Corrected on 6/4/2025
.04(1)(d) - This citation was corrected on this date. The consultant observed there were not more than six children for pay present for care. When the Consultant arrived, two infants, two 1-year-old children, and one 6-year-old child were present for pay on this date. One 1-year-old child arrived later for care.

Safety and Discipline

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

Comment
Pleasant interactions observed between the provider and children in care.

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

Comment
The Provider stated the Home 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 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**

Correction Deadline: 12/20/2024

Corrected on 6/4/2025
.07(15) - This citation was corrected on this date. The number of children not related to the Provider in the Family Child Care Learning Home did not exceed six children on this date. When the Consultant arrived, two infants, two 1-year-old children, and one 6-year-old child were present for pay on this date. One1-year-old child arrived later for care.

290-2-3-.07 Supervision(CR) **Met**

Correction Deadline: 6/4/2025

Corrected on 6/4/2025
.07(17) - The previous citation was observed corrected on this date. When the Consultant arrived one child was sleeping in the right bedroom in the hallway with the door open as required.